

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2008 5 – 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Abrahams
Trey Dunia
Marvin Mars
Edi Patrick
Dr. Bruce Oppenheim

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Barbara Graves
Kelly Elder
Angela Avery
Cathleen Wolford
Maureen Donaghue
Claudia Brennan

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Lynn Campanario, DAAC
Dana Alvarez, CHD
Julie Muschi, SRJC Student
Jenna McAdam, Athena House

Called to order at 5:10 pm, by Trey Dunia

I. Public Comment

None

II. Action Items

- January minutes approved.
Note: Tom Heckman had indicated he was interested in being a member of the Advisory Board; we are waiting to hear if he is getting a job within the department. If not, we will move his application forward.
- The "Helping Mothers, Saving Babies" report was accepted.

III. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

- The State Senate and Assembly budget committee did not accept the governor's 07/08 reductions. They did a reduction of \$100,000 to Drug Medi-Cal administration and they cut the statewide Meth initiative by \$360,000.
- Met with Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) – the NORA initiative petitions are out on the streets. Polling since the governors' budget was released show support at 71% on the first poll and 77% on the second poll. The Correction Officers Association has taken a neutral position. Other law

enforcement associations feel that this is the son of SACPA. DPA is working hard to garner support.

- Gino passed out a statewide SACPA budget document. He will email a document that shows county by county the completion rate, numbers of no-shows, and retention rates. The budget subcommittee will meet on Friday. They need to determine how to cut \$400,000 from the program for the 08/09 budget.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- Policy Development: As this committee is not currently functioning, it was decided that this would be removed as a standing agenda item.
- Community Education:
 1. Senior Alcohol and Other Drug workgroup secured a workshop sponsor - the Council on Aging. The workshop is scheduled for May 8, 2008 at the Finley Center auditorium between 9am and noon. They have applied for funding for a speaker – they hope to get Patrick Arbore from the Institute on Aging. There will be exhibitor tables for treatment and service providers. CEUs will be given.
 2. Rabon Saip had a Close to Home article published 2-9-08 entitled "Drugs, alcohol and seniors". This article and others published in county newsletters were handed out to members.
 3. Dr. Mary Maddux-Gonzales has indicated that she may have a lead on a presenter for Public Health Grand Rounds. Maureen will follow up on this.
 4. The subcommittee is hoping for resources for production of brochures. Maureen will have more information next week.

V. Prevention Division Update

- Methamphetamine Task Force:
 1. Edi Patrick did two interviews with stakeholders, along with Cora Guy, who conducted many interviews. Edi found:
 - For veterans, alcohol is the big issue, not methamphetamine.
 - Social workers at Sutter see the ravages of Meth on a daily basis. The meetings are educational and worthwhile.
 2. The Task Force has completed the data collection – 10 focus groups and 35 key informants have been interviewed. Key points from the information gathered included:
 - According to the Meth profile and law enforcement, Meth production has shifted to super labs south of the border with Santa Rosa as a major distribution hub.
 - Single person cooking is still big in our county – almost every person interviewed described these efforts.
 - Parents play a critical role in Meth use. Children of users are a very high-risk population. They do not have what it takes to stay out of the syndrome.
 - Only the threat of prison keeps some Meth addicts clean. *

- Participants were very appreciative of treatment, but to prevent relapse, aftercare was critical.
- Some small businesses provide Meth for employees.

*Drug Court research says that the threat of prison or jail is not a deterrent. In the Drug Court system, incentives bring a higher positive response than sanctions bring.

3. John Abrahams attended the Butte County meeting:

- The two communities are using very different approaches – Butte County is using a lot more media, we do more assessment and strategic planning.
 - Not much information was shared by the State about the statewide Meth media campaign. It is hoped that local efforts could build on the state’s campaign and use some of the state’s products (media, etc).
 - The state has produced media for use in major markets – San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, and Sacramento.
- Board of Supervisors report was made at the end of January regarding the status of the needle exchange program. The pharmacy pilot needle sales program has only two of six original pharmacies participating. The pharmacies have been reluctant to take on the storage and waste issue, citing cost and problems with discarded needles, along with debris problems in the parking lot. Prevention and Planning is working with Sonoma County Waste Management to simplify needle collection. State law making it a crime to dispose of needles in household trash will go into effect on 9-1-08.
 - Prevention and Planning is preparing to apply for a Drug Free Community Grant: \$125,000 per year to build and sustain collaborative effort within our community. They will pick two substance abuse issues. The grant requires a 125% match. Details will be in the March meeting minutes.

VI. AODS Division Update

- On March 3, at 9:30 (TASC conf room A) David Bennett will be meeting with providers. David will start with an overview of the Bennett Study, including stats and data. He will want to know from providers what they want to see happening in Sonoma County. The Advisory Board is invited to attend; this will be a good opportunity to hear needs and concerns from providers.
- Budget: This is one of the most difficult budgets ever. AODS has a \$700,000 shortfall to reach baseline, and we expect to implement the 10% reduction plan (\$600,000) next year. AODS management has met with Rita; our proposed budget will:
 1. Eliminate the 20 bed Orenda Residential Program
 2. Eliminate the Orenda Outpatient Program
 3. Contract out the DUI Program

We expect several years of budget shortfalls; our plan is an effort to mitigate annual significant program cuts every year. The cuts are made within the principles of the department's Mental Health realignment process and tenant: If community services provide the same or similar quality at less cost, we should contract out the services.

We are trying to make the budget cuts client neutral – we are working with providers to make the same services available in the community.

Detox will remain open, along with the two transition facilities. With Orenda residential closed, the CBOs will need to feed the transition houses. The other programs to remain are Adolescent Treatment Program, Drug Court, Drug Dependency Court, Drug Free Babies, and Starting Point. Some of the programs will move; possibly SACPA to 1250 Coddington, TASC to the Orenda Center and Administration to the Orenda Center.

We will contract out the DUI program to save on administration overhead. A proposal is in development; the contractor must meet state licensing requirements and provide the services at a reduced cost to the clients. There will be a one-year transition period.

These changes will be on the agenda for the March 25th Board of Supervisors meeting. The Advisory Board members are invited to attend. All of these budget and program reduction plans are contingent on the BOS approval. These remain only plans until the BOS gives direction on this matter. We are still hoping that this issue gets on the Budget Policy workshop scheduled for March 18th to get Board direction sooner than later.

VII. Roundtable Discussion

CHD:

1. The program is not currently taking SACPA referrals – they have overspent on the SACPA budget. Approximately 90% of the outpatient clients are referred by SACPA. Though they have several clients completing groups, they are still full.
2. They received their first DUI treatment referral from DUI Court.

Gino Giannavola: DUI Court started last Thursday. A grant through the court provides funds for the program. It is staffed by the Drug Court team and is held after Drug Court. CHD and DAAC are the treatment providers. Participants will have to attend a DUI program concurrently, the time spent in the DUI program can count towards the needed treatment hours. Privatization of DUI will not affect the DUI Court program within the first year – we will write participation in to the contract with the provider.

Dr. Bruce Oppenheim: Bruce expressed concern over the closing of Memorial Hospital's inpatient psychiatric care unit. He expressed interest in having the AODS Advisory Board weigh in on the subject. Gino explained that there are services available in the communities. The AODS Advisory Board will need more information prior to making any decisions. We will try to arrange to have Art Ewart from Mental Health speak at our next meeting.

WRS: The Perinatal program has 6.75 beds and 7 occupants. They had a birth yesterday of a drug, alcohol and smoke-free baby. The Drug Free Babies and the Dependency Drug Court beds are full.

DAAC: Lynn expressed shock at the news from AODS.

They have a few new programs:

1. Alternatives to Detention: a pro-social environment for teen held at the CHOPS teen center. They are targeting mid to high-risk youth.
2. Sonoma Valley – they will begin part-time treatment services as of 4/15/08.
3. Petaluma treatment: Project Success has been a good thing, and has led to treatment availability in Petaluma.
4. HIV and HEP C training: the training will integrate case management for client's needs and provide technical assistance.

Athena House: The house is full. The TASC beds fill up the moment someone graduates. Having a tobacco-free campus is going well. The women who obtain a 1-800-no-butts certificate receive a Starbucks card as an award. The clients are showing a lot of interest in becoming tobacco-free.

Barbara Graves: Barbara expressed empathy for Gino, Maureen and Claudia. They worked hard to build up the programs, and now have to dismantle them. Barbara requested that we all lend support at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2008
1250 Coddington Center Room "F" Santa Rosa, CA 95401