

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2009

5 – 7 p.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia  
Marvin Mars  
Kevin McConnell  
Edi Patrick  
John Abrahams

## MEMBERS ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola, AODS  
Donna Newman-Fields, Prevention & Planning  
Maureen Donaghue, AODS  
Angela Avery, AODS

## PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Tanya Sarcos, SRTP  
Elizabeth Ward, SRTP  
Cheryle Stanley, WRS  
Dana Alvarez, CHD

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

### **I. Public Comment**

- None

### **II. Action Items**

- January minutes approved
  - The Advisory Board members were notified that the action made at the January meeting has been presented to the CAO as part of the AODS budget package. The board will meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to review department reduction packages.
- Budget Recommendations for FY2009-2010: No further action was taken.

### **III. SACPA (Prop 36) Update**

- **Steering Committee:** The steering committee met yesterday and discussed OTP (Offender Treatment Program) expenditures. The state has sent out a request for relinquishment of unused funds. To date, we are under-spending on OTP contracts by \$11,000 and on probation by \$31,000. The program staff will work to ensure full use of the funding before the end of the fiscal year.
- **Budget:** The Department of Health Services recommended to the CAO that AODS make 5% reductions in the 2009/2010 budget. The CAO initially spoke about 11% to 15% in reductions for our division. All of the reductions discussed at our January meeting are on the table. There are several unknowns that may influence the amount of reductions necessary, including proposals for countywide reductions. Countywide cuts will require negotiations with unions as well as approval from the board of supervisors. The state budget may have impact on departments that receive state and federal pass through dollars.

There is a proposal for realignment funds that seeks to eliminate prison for drunk drivers – offenders would be sent to county jails or treatment programs. Changes to realignment may have impact on the county budget and the amount of reductions necessary.

It appears that the March 3<sup>rd</sup> BOS meeting will focus on the 5% reduction plans. Any further cuts will be addressed during the June final budget hearings. Departments may have the option of bringing forward reductions as regular board items prior to the June budget hearings.

The Governor's budget is approved by the assembly. It contains level funding for all AOD programs, including SACPA and OTP. The senate has not yet approved the budget. The nickel a drink tax is off the table – the wine and beer industry have been vocally protesting. The legislature has shifted to vehicle license fee increases, sales tax increases and gas tax increases to balance the budget.

#### **IV. Prevention Division Update**

- The California Endowment has given a grant of \$198,000 for Phase II of the Methamphetamine Prevention Plan. This grant will allow forward motion on the piece of the plan targeting children of substance abusers, as well as implementing systems integration between the Department of Health Services, Human Services and Probation. The grant funds a 10 hour per week position in AOD. The other Phase II plan pieces, such as high-risk transitioning youths, will be under Prevention & Planning oversight.
- The Rand Corporation has published a Methamphetamine report on the costs of Meth use. The numbers are hard to pin down, but the report does call out a nationwide annual cost of \$16.2 billion. Copies of the report are available online at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG829.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG829.pdf). A link to the report will be added to the AODS website on the methamphetamine page.

#### **V. AODS Division Update**

- The federal stimulus package includes \$6 billion in funding for criminal justice programs, including Drug Court.
- The DHS Medicine and Government Affairs committee facilitated with DHS a proposal for funding for older adults and AOD services. The Board of Supervisors has granted approval for pursuit of the funding for AODS on-demand services for seniors. The work completed by the Advisory Board Community Education subcommittee on seniors and substance abuse was part of the BOS agenda package. The proposal was for \$1 million, there is a good chance that we can get \$200,000 in funding through the congressional process. We will hear within the next few months on the status of the funding. Funding for Peri-natal and Health Centers were also included in the proposal.

## VI. Roundtable Discussion

**Cheryle Stanley:** WRS has no bed days left for this year. They had front loaded the contract this year to avoid under-spending. The program will have to turn away clients through the end of the fiscal year. Cheryle also noted that in the First 5 report, WRS clients all had 100% negative drug screenings.

**Michael Spielman:** DAAC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration went well, about 150 attended. One of the original signors of the articles of incorporation back in 1969 attended – he is in his 90s. ADP Director Renee Zito came, and the next day visited the women in Perinatal. The Perinatal program has hit their target of 38 women and 25 children. The waiting list fluctuates, but at one time, they had 11 on the waiting list.

Also attending the anniversary celebration was a graduate from Drug Court (10 to 11 years ago), a former perinatal client from about 10 years ago, and Efren Carrillo. The event went very well.

Funding is tight – DAAC has a couple of direct state contracts from which they are receiving IOUs instead of funding. Michael is trying negotiations with the bank to see if they will honor the IOUs as cash. The county is helping DAAC work with the cash flow issue. Ford Street Foundation has closed a 55 bed residential and detox facility in Ukiah.

**Marvin Mars:** The senior group is having a committee meeting on February 27.

**John Abrahams:** A new drug czar has been appointed – the former chief of police in Seattle. Seattle is known for their progressive programs for street addiction.

**Trey Dunia:** The Citizens' Academy has been cancelled due to budget issues.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Next Meeting: March 18th, 2009  
Prevention & Planning conference room - 490 Mendocino Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403