

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2008 5 – 7 p.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## MEMBERS ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola, AODS  
Kelly Elder, Prevention & Planning  
Maureen Donaghue, AODS  
Angela Avery, AODS

## PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, WRS  
Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Elizabeth Ward, SRTP  
Tanya Sarcos, SRTP  
Kevin McConnell – prospective  
board member

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

### **I. Public Comment**

None

### **II. Action Items**

February minutes approved. March minutes, correct members absent to show Edi Patrick and John Abrahams. March minutes with corrections approved.

### **III. Presentation:**

**Santa Rosa Treatment Program** - CARF accredited through 2010. The program provides steps creating a better way of life to benefit the client and their family. The program has instituted an advisory committee made up of 12 clients. The committee was instrumental in creating a Methadone Anonymous weekly meeting – every Wednesday at noon. The meeting attendance has doubled since last week. SRTP has an average of 250 clients on a monthly basis.

**Redwood Empire Addiction Program** – This DAAC program has approximately 160 clients at any given time. In 2007, they had 103 unduplicated Detox clients and 218 unduplicated Maintenance clients. All narcotic treatment programs cross check for client enrollment with facilities within a 50-mile radius to avoid clients doubling-up on medicine dispensed. Some clients are enrolled in more than one track with DAAC, i.e. Perinatal and REAP. For a heroin addicted pregnant woman, the controlled treatment with methadone is better for the mother and baby than the difficulties associated with heroin usage. It is complicated to pin down the average time

in NTP, some clients are on methadone for 20 years, and some clients decide to taper off much sooner. The clients take methadone every day, clients who prove reliability can come in once a week or month to pick up doses to take home. Strict adherence to the maintenance schedule is required; testing is done to make sure the client has taken the doses. Most illegal methadone is primarily coming from doctors who over medicate for pain treatment.

Gino indicated that both narcotic treatment programs are due for license renewal through ADP. The advisory board recommended that the licensing sign off is done, citing community need.

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

The SACPA Steering committee met today.

- The NORA (Non-violent Offender Rehabilitation Act) petition was collected 4-10-08; they achieved 474,000 signatures – it is now going through the validation process. Drug Policy Alliance thinks that NORA will make the November ballot. The proposition, if passed, would provide \$465 million per year outside of the state budget process. There are three phases, similar to PC1000 diversion, SACPA and Drug Court.
- The steering committee will become the NORA planning committee if the proposition passes. There will be a six-month planning process. Representatives from the District Attorney, Public Defender, Court and Probation will review and discuss each component.
- There is no organized opposition to NORA to date. The Correctional Officers Association has adopted a neutral position at this time. At the CADCP conference there was a lot of opposition from Drug Court professionals.
- Once the proposition is on the ballot, the SACPA steering committee will go to the board for support. The Advisory Board will have the NORA proposition as an action item so that they can lend support, if approved.

#### **V. SACPA Budget**

We just received a notice from the state that we will be re-allocated \$69,000 in OTP funds to be spent by 6/30/08. We will submit a Board Agenda item to reallocate funds between SACPA and OTP. We will gear up to spend the OTP funds before the deadline; we hope to move 45 people off the wait list and into services.

- 08/09 State Budget – the Assembly rejected all of the administration's cuts to SACPA and OTP. The Senate met Monday and rejected SACPA and OTP cuts. The Governor can still blue pencil the rejections.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> budget we have \$500,000 in cuts to make. If the Governor's budget passes, we will have an additional \$400,000 in cuts.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports**

- Community Education: The committee met last week. They have 35 people registered for the workshop for older adults. This morning Marvin spoke at a Section on Aging meeting. The group was receptive and had good questions.
- They have four exhibitors signed up for the "Older Adults and Substance Misuse" workshop. They need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Call Donna Newman-Fields (707) 565-6617.
  - The speaker, Patrick Arbore, is excellent. Marvin has left a message for Ruth Lincoln and Mike Kerns to encourage their attendance.
- Marvin contacted Sandra Otter at the Buck Center in an attempt to get funding. He did not have any luck. They will contact the Buck Center and report to the board.
- Copies of a NY Times article were made available for review. It suggests discrete tracks within treatment facilities for older adults. The baby boom generation was the first to use so many drugs recreationally, creating a cultural divide.

## **VII. Prevention Division Update**

Prevention is working on Project Success, a student assistant program (SAP) for early intervention with youth at risk for substance use. The County's primary role is coordination of the Cotati-Rohnert Park School District effort and facilitation of collaboration between CRPSD and the two other districts that are currently operating Project SUCCESS (Petaluma and West County). The County also hopes to help support student assistant programs throughout the county. They are also looking at the application of the model to the early identification of mental health issues. This is not a treatment program; the students receive assessment, education and referrals. DAAC is the coordinator for the Cotati/Rohnert Park school district effort.

- Project Success is focused primarily on high school and alternative campuses. There is potential for expansion into middle school. The model is well suited for high school – it is geared towards students who might fall through the cracks. Other programs are in place that target younger students.
- There is a lot of conversation surrounding referrals for treatment. After the first year is completed, they might look at getting the schools Drug Medi-Cal certified.
- Edi Patrick sat on a school-based subcommittee for the Meth Task Force geared toward decision-making.
- Sonoma Valley High School may be interested in starting this program.

The Meth Task Force is in the process of analyzing data and engaging fully in strategic planning for Meth prevention.

- According to Edi Patrick, the meetings are well organized and the time is limited. There is good participation. Barbara Graves, Donna Newman-Fields and Cora Guy have done an excellent job.

- A survey done by providers will start next week and run through May 12<sup>th</sup>. Potential clients will be asked 2-3 questions in an effort to collect data on the population segment that is not in treatment. The task force is identifying ways to collect adult prevalence data for adults not in treatment or the criminal justice system.

### **VIII. AODS Division Update**

- 07/08 Budget – the third quarter net has implications on recommendations to the board. In an effort to make up \$200,000 out of the budget by June 2008, we looked at the projected level of services within our system. This year we will cut \$130,000 from under-spent providers, over-spending will not be funded. AODS is looking to cut pennies everywhere they can.
- 08/09 Budget – the budget is still out of balance. The proposal to transfer Orenda services to contractors will be decided through the budget process, including the state budget, effective October 1, 2008. We were instructed to come up with three additional options. The CAO may present the options to the board on June 17<sup>th</sup> for direction on the AODS budget.
  - All of the additional options will negatively impact clients. The original proposal maintained the current level of services for the clients. Both the CAO and the board wish to address this after July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The three additional options are cuts from:
    - only contracts
    - a combination of county and contracts
    - the county only, using audit exception funds.
  - The timing of the budget cuts is bad – union negotiations are under way. Sound bites and fliers are being circulated that do not reflect the county or management’s position. Providers have been advised to watch the budget process and to show up for the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to give public input.
    - Information has been circulated questioning the quality of service with providers. There is no evidence of a disparity in the quality of services between the county and CBOs.

We may ask the advisory board to weigh in, and possibly recommend an option priority to the board.

- Questions were posed about AODS programs and the budget issues. In short, the answers were:
  1. The DUI program is fully fee supported. Guidelines prevent raising fees above 110% of the cost of providing services.
  2. The only way to have any control over the DUI program is to keep it county run. If we contract it out, the county has no authority; the state has oversight.

3. Orenda is not fee supported. The programs do not turn away clients due to inability to pay.
  4. DUI is not a treatment program, it is an educational program. That is why we started DUI Court. DUI Court is staffed by Drug Court professionals. By law, DUI clients cannot do DUI Court in lieu of the DUI program – they must attend the DUI program concurrently with DUI Court.
  5. The NORA proposition would fund Drug Court but not DUI Court or the DUI program. The funds would be given to criminal justice based programs such as SACPA and TASC.
- Advisory Board meeting place: We will need to locate a new meeting room due to expansion of the DUI program. Prevention will be in their new building in August of 2008, we can use their conference room once that move is complete. We will need an interim room for the May, June and July Advisory Board meetings. We will try to schedule them in the DHS Rotunda. Angela will email board members with the meeting location and directions once it has been arranged.

## **IX. Roundtable Discussion**

WRS: A young woman who recently gave birth to a drug, alcohol and tobacco free baby has left treatment and was placed in the WRS transition house.

DAAC: Michael met with a representative from the Engineering Contractors Association. The association will place one client out of Turning Point in a job every month. DAAC will do aftercare and follow-up. DAAC is sponsoring a conference on "Understanding Addiction" – Timmen Cermak will be the speaker. The conference will focus on adolescents and young adults.

SRTP: The facility is very nice. They have a great connection with their clients. Advisory board members are invited to visit. Tanya Sarcos is taking over coordination of staff and clients.

Trey Dunia: Read the article about the drug smuggler in the Press Democrat ([Arrest leads to redemption | Santa Rosa Press Democrat // News for California's North Bay and Redwood Empire](#)).

AODS: Recovery Happens 2008 will be on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will be scaled down from last year. This is a national initiative, we join in statewide and locally. Traditionally we host a gathering at Franklin Park.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2008  
1250 Coddington Center Room "F" Santa Rosa, CA 95401