

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2009

5 – 7 p.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia  
Don Cobb  
Marvin Mars  
Kevin McConnell  
Edi Patrick

## MEMBERS ABSENT

John Abrahams

## STAFF PRESENT

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

## PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Cheryle Stanley, WRS  
Tanya Sarcos, SRTP  
Elizabeth Ward, SRTP  
Jenna McAdam, Athena House  
Dana Alvarez, CHD

Called to order at 5:05 pm, by Trey Dunia

Don Cobb was welcomed as a new member to the Advisory Board. Don is representing district one.

## **I. Public Comment**

- ◆ None

## **II. Action Items**

- ◆ **Minutes:** March minutes reviewed, corrections were noted:
  1. Item number 2 on page two, the total bed count at DAAC Turning Point is 99.
  2. In the Round Table section, the comments on the jail should be attributed to John Abrahams, not Kevin McConnell.The March minutes were approved with the above corrections.
- ◆ **Budget Recommendations for FY2009-2010:** We have been directed to include the entire 15% reductions in our 09/10 budget. The board has formally approved the first 5% in reductions to be effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - ◆ Eliminate the 4-6 hour hold program at Orenda
  - ◆ Reduce the Detox program from 30 beds to 15 beds

The second 5% in proposed reductions, for a total of 10% in reductions, includes:

- ◆ Transfer 20 residential beds from Orenda to community based treatment agencies.
- ◆ Transfer the Outpatient Program from Orenda to community based treatment agencies.
- ◆ Transfer 5 residential transition beds from Orenda to community based treatment agencies.

- ◇ Move AODS Administration and TASC offices to Orenda, with the possibility of moving the SACPA offices into the space vacated by TASC

The above transfers of services will eliminate 10.76 FTE (full time equivalent) positions.

The third 5% in proposed reductions, for a total of 15% in reductions, includes:

- ◇ Reduce the Starting Point program, eliminating 3.0 FTEs. Note: the Sheriff's office will continue to fund the 1.6 FTEs that they are currently funding for this program through the Inmate Trust Fund. The program would be reduced to 20-25 people, males only.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors approved 2009/2010 Compensation changes for Management/Unrepresented/Confidential employees:

- ◇ No 2009/2010 COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) increase
- ◇ Suspend the MBA (Management Benefit Allowance) used for staff development for two years
- ◇ MTO (Mandatory Time Off) - 5 days between Christmas and New Years.
- ◇ Golden handshake – early retirement incentives for eligible employees in the job classes affected by layoffs

Negotiations are underway with SEIU and ESC unions – if the unions do not sign off on these concessions, the county will revisit the management concessions.

This Tuesday, the CAO updated the Board of Supervisors on the reduced status of property tax revenues for the county. It is estimated that the deficit may be \$15 to \$16 million instead of \$11 million.

Reductions that bring about layoffs with the transfer of Orenda services to CBOs will be subject to a 90-day meet and confer rule. Bridge funding may be necessary to cover the expenses for affected classes until the layoff implementation date is in effect.

Final budget hearings are scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a statewide special election on May 19<sup>th</sup> with 6 budget related propositions – polling shows that all are but one may fail. If this happens, it may be that SACPA funding could be eliminated.

The budget package submitted to the Board of Supervisors is likely to contain language stating that the reductions are consistent with the recommendations made by the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems.

The unions may be organizing to have people speak at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting. Gino has spoken to some of the proposed speakers and explained that it is a transfer of services, not a closing of Orenda. The meeting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Interested parties can obtain the board agenda and the backup documentation for agenda items by going to the board website: <http://www.sonoma-county.org/board/agenda.htm#agendatop>. Click on the agenda link and scroll down to see agenda items of interest.

The department is appealing the cuts beyond the initial 5% already approved by the board. If the full 15% of reductions are required and approved by the board, the implementation date is likely to be August 15<sup>th</sup>.

◆ **Narcotic Treatment Program annual license renewal:** The division is required to sign off on the annual renewal of NTP licenses. The advisory board typically receives program updates from the providers before the renewals are approved.

- ◆ **Santa Rosa Treatment Program (SRTP),** Tanya Sarcos, Executive Assistant Director - SRTP assists opiate addicted individuals, whether they are using pain medications or illicit opiates. The clients have access to psychosocial treatment, methadone replacement therapy and Buprenorphine treatment. The program has been in existence for 2½ decades. SRTP is regulated, moreover, is CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accredited. Elizabeth Ward is instrumental in achieving the accredited status. She is involved in monitoring the program, staff training, and completing the documentation required by CARF.

SRTP has increased their community outreach due to the economy. The morale of the staff is good – the work is very rewarding, especially when clients taper down, complete, and lead stable lives. Even the clients who relapse have commented that they have learned something with every treatment series, and that they always feel welcome.

There is a growing number of youth addicted to pain medications. They are generally over 18 (in the 20 to 25 year old range). The current number one opiate used is Oxycontin.

The program is licensed to treat 450 individuals. The client list as of today is 252 individuals. The demographics are mixed – race, ethnicity, economic background.

The cost of the program is \$425 per month for maintenance and \$300 for 21-day detox. There is a 6-month detox program available. The funding sources are private pay and Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal does not cover the longer-term detox costs. All of the programs are outpatient, including the detox program. Medi-Cal pays for 55% to 60% of the SRTP services provided to clients. Private pay covers about 45% of the SRTP services. There is also a contract for SACPA clients with the County of Sonoma.

- ◆ **Redwood Empire Addictions Program (REAP),** Michael Spielman, Executive Director – Lynn Campanario created a report for the Advisory Board. REAP has many similarities to the SRTP program. REAP has 250 treatment slots, currently with about 150 active clients. The program funding is about 57% Medi-Cal, 38% Private Pay and 5% SACPA.

61% of the REAP clients do not inject their drug of choice, they use Oxycontin or other opiates. The client base is mostly Caucasian. A board member commented on the race percentages shown in the brochure, Michael responded that the percentages are somewhat reflective of the county demographics. SRTP commented that the majority of their clients are also Caucasian.

REAP has improved client services through the NIATx process. The client intake had been a 3.75-hour process, and it has been reduced to a 2.75-hour process.

The DAAC residential program, Turning Point, has begun accepting clients that are on methadone maintenance treatment. Industry-wide, there are still many prejudices about drug use during treatment.

Michael referred to the Trend data listed on page 3 of the report created by Lynn. It shows a 400% increase in the number of 18-19 year olds admitted in the last year. This is due to a group of three teenagers coming in at the same time. Michael also noted that the trend is currently moving away from heroin use and into other opiates.

The last page of the report details client stories. One woman started in the REAP program in 1990 and over the course of time became a nurse, got married, and has finish tapering off methadone. The taper period varies for clients, it could be six months or one year, the outcomes are best when individually monitored.

The Race/Ethnicity of REAP clients was discussed.

A motion was made, and approved, for the Advisory Board to recommend recertification for SRTP. A further motion was made, and approved, for the Advisory Board to recommend recertification for REAP.

- ◆ **SACPA FY 09-10 Plan:** The SACPA Steering Committee will meet next week. AODS is moving on preparation of the 09/10 SACPA plan. We expect to receive the allocations this week. We have 30 days to get the plan submitted to the state once the allocations are issued. The plan is a simplified version in which we will outline the differences between services in 08/09 and in 09/10.

When OTP funding was created, it was targeted for enhanced services – Sonoma County chose to do intakes in the courtroom. Prior to the change, there was an intake appointment no show rate of 50%, since the change the intake appointment no-show rate has dropped to about 5%. The Court is changing courtrooms – SACPA will be assigned to courtroom 11, which cannot accommodate an intake room. We have been offered the use of courtroom 12, which is to be vacant, to do intakes. If the schedule changes, or courtroom 12 is filled, we will have to resume doing intakes at our assessment center, which would endanger our OTP funding. Last Wednesday, John

Abrahams brought up courtroom security at the Criminal Justice Council - Courtroom 11 has no secure corridor to bring inmates in from custody. The judges will discuss the issues and inform us of any changes.

The SACPA plan for 09/10 will start off with \$140,000 less than the 08/09 plan. We will reduce by 45 outpatient slots and 3 beds. OTP Goals and Enhancements include in-Court intakes, increased supervision and enhanced services.

The SACPA waitlist currently holds 29 clients – the waiting time for individuals is about one month from SACPA intake to the referral to a treatment provider. Referrals to SACPA are rising – we are now getting about 45 referrals per month. SACPA guidelines require a treatment plan within 14 days and treatment within 30 days.

Thirty-five individuals are in custody and waiting for treatment space, out of a waitlist of seventy. Judges have been ordering that inmates remain in custody until a treatment slot opens. In some cases, inmates stay in jail beyond their proscribed sentence while waiting for a treatment slot. In this situation, a family can opt for private pay to get the inmate into treatment sooner.

If the Starting Point program is eliminated this situation will worsen. When the Starting Point program was initiated, the average inmate wait-time for treatment placement was from six to nine months. With our budget scenario, we may return to lengthy wait times.

The Bennett Plan is on the back burner, the Community Corrections Center will be delayed for at least five years, if not longer. The Bennett Group has attempted to establish Early Case Resolution (ECR) court in Sonoma County. The Board of Supervisors approved the plan, with funding for probation, district attorney and public defender time, but no resources for treatment. Twelve of the 70 clients on the waitlist are ECR court clients. Donna Lattin of the Bennett Group requested that we place the 12 ECR clients into Outpatient while they wait for a residential slot to open. We use risk assessment tools to determine placement, and should not place a client in outpatient if they are assessed for residential.

The Advisory Board took no action on the FY 09/10 SACPA plan.

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

- ◆ **Steering Committee:** There is no other information to impart.

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

- ◆ **Meth Task Force:** Methamphetamine Speakers Bureau training is offered on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and will be presented by the Oregon Partnership. Fliers were distributed. The training capacity is 30-40 people. A core group from the Meth Task Force has signed up.

Advisory Board members are welcome to attend. The purpose for providing the training is to present a consistent message tailored to the audience. DAAC may co-sponsor in order to provide CEUs for the training.

The Meth Task Force is working with the United Way to generate a list of potential speaking engagements. There is no minimum speaking commitment.

The Meth Task Force is still meeting and making progress, with the next meeting scheduled for July 16, 2009.

- ◆ **Alcohol Awareness Month:** April is Alcohol Awareness Month. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County is hosting an interactive panel focused on highlighting alcohol related problems and solutions. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a community forum on underage drinking, with a presentation by Jill Mason, who was hit by a drunk driver while riding her bike in Sonoma County on Easter Sunday in 2004.

## V. AODS Division Update

- ◆ **Methamphetamine Systems Integration:** Staff at AOD and Human Services has begun to work on the latest grant from The California Endowment, which will support coordination and systems integration for methamphetamine-involved families across AOD, Human Services and Probation.

Today was the last day for responding to our request for proposals (RFP) for integrated systems. Thus far, we have only had one provider - Children and Family Futures, respond. The RFP is to contract with a consultant to integrate systems across several departments: Child Protective Services, Probation, and AODS.

Children and Family Futures has contracts with the federal government and several states and tribal territories.

- ◆ **Casa Teresa:** Casa Teresa will be closing on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The administration is working to find a new location. CHCADA, a technical assistance provider under contract with ADP, is working with the Latino Commission to create a new program.

- ◆ **Veterans Training:** Sonoma County will sponsor regional trainings based on two models. The goal is to assist returning veterans to deal with mental health and AOD problems.

- ◆ **NIATx regional Learning Collaborative:** UCLA received a grant from The California Endowment to create five regional learning collaboratives in California – Orange, Tehama, Fresno, San Diego and Marin. The Marin kickoff is next Wednesday. NIATx is a series of best practices for process development within a program.

- ◆ **Juvenile Drug Court:** A meeting with Judge Hardcastle and representatives from the District Attorney, Public Defender and Probation is scheduled for next week. The discussion will focus on a Juvenile Drug Court pilot program. Sonoma County's previous attempt to have a Juvenile Drug Court failed. The program will start small, with 10-12 clients. The funding source will be Drug Medi-Cal Minor Consent.

The impetus for starting the program was the Federal stimulus package. There is funding in the package for enhancement of Drug Courts. By starting the program now, we hope to be eligible for enhancement funds during the next grant cycle. The target launch date is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The court, modeled after adult Drug Court, will meet on Friday mornings.

◆ **UCLA/TRI Pilot:** Sonoma County is one of twelve counties selected for participation in UCLA/TRI's pilot project of a chronic care/managed care model for alcohol and drug treatment. We will select one or two providers to participate. The pilot is a much different approach – instead of completions and failures, the providers will treat relapses as a side step in the path toward recovery. Each county will track a different piece of the model and document the outcomes. Outcomes will be compared between this pilot project and the current paradigm for treatment.

◆ **Byrne Memorial Funds:** Sonoma County is targeted for an increase in of \$280,000 to the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) due to stimulus funding. JAG funds in previous years have been used to fund the Drug Task Force. The Sheriff held a meeting with criminal justice agencies to allocate the funding. The Sheriff, District Attorney and Probation requested funds for various tools and projects. John Abrahams, the County Public Defender, requested two residential treatment beds.

Gino will nominate John Abrahams for a service award through CADPAAC (County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators' Association of California). The Advisory Board supports the recommendation of John Abrahams as a community member serving the treatment community.

## VI. Roundtable Discussion

**Tanya Sarcos:** SRTP has new artwork. The program is still serving clients and things are going well.

**Jenna McAdam:** Athena House has remodeled the bathrooms and the kitchen. It looks spiffy. Smoking is still an issue – Jenna moved two garbage cans to the front of the house to keep people from smoking in the garbage area when they take out the garbage. They are slowly making progress - some clients have quit smoking.

**Michael Spielman:** Turning Point is still smoking, but working towards establishing a no-smoking policy. The movie incentives are still working to keep clients from leaving treatment early.

DAAC is presenting the Understanding Addiction Workshop in September. Tom Freese and Beth Rutkowski of UCLA are scheduled to speak. The workshop will focus on prescription drug misuse and alcohol abuse. Michael thanked the Alcohol and Other Drug Services and Prevention and Planning divisions for sponsoring the workshop.

The Perinatal Day Treatment program was increased in 08/09 to assist 38 women and 25 children. The increase was funded by a one-year grant. Unfortunately, in 09/10, the program will be cut back to 33 women and 20 children. The program currently has 14 clients on the waitlist.

**Dana Alvarez:** CHD outpatient groups are full. A study has shown that 95% of addicts smoke – CHD has begun adding smoking into the treatment plans for clients. Even if it does not result in smoking cessation it will begin a contemplation of change. Some clients are going to the Center for Well Being for smoking cessation classes.

CHD had a couple of outpatient SACPA clients who needed more treatment. Fortunately, two beds opened at Turning Point, and CHD was able to get the clients into residential treatment instead of having to send them back to jail.

**Don Cobb:** I am glad to be here.

**Cheryle Stanley:** WRS will host a fundraiser in September – a bike tour with a bike raffle.

WRS has been non-smoking for ten years as of June. There is now an American Lung Association (ALA) trainer working at WRS. This staff member is a big promoter of smoking cessation, she recognizes the value, and works with clients to overcome the pain and agony of nicotine addiction. Kerry Andrade was instrumental in getting the ALA training for this staff member.

Kerry Andrade is working with Mental Health and AOD Treatment to integrate smoking cessation services into Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health services.

**Gino Giannavola:** The March 2009 issue of ADP's newsletter, Focus, contains an article on the WRS perinatal program.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2009  
Prevention & Planning conference room - 490 Mendocino Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403