

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2009

5 – 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia
Don Cobb
John Lloyd
John Abrahams
Kevin McConnell
Edi Patrick

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marvin Mars

STAFF PRESENT

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

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Jenna McAdam, Athena House

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

I. Public Comment

- ◆ None

II. Action Items

- ◆ **Minutes:** May minutes approved.

III. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

- ◆ The SACPA Steering Committee met yesterday. ADP is proceeding under the existing state budget. Sonoma County was one of ten counties that submitted a SACPA plan and application by the due date. In the CADPAAC May quarterly meeting, the state announced that counties with plans in would get funding, if any funds become available. Our plan will go to the board of supervisors for approval in July.

The Senate conference committee voted to keep the SACPA/OTP budget line open, with \$18 million for OTP. They are considering funding the \$90 million SACPA budget from Federal funds. Federal sources under consideration include Asset Forfeiture dollars or the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds. Both funding sources usually fund criminal justice programs.

Judge Simonds has recently taken over the 1210 court calendar. The SACPA program has ceased referrals to treatment. The Steering Committee discussed yesterday scenarios for funding, including partial funding and no funding from the state.

At the National Drug Court convention in June, there was a full day of discussion on Proposition 36. The consensus was to keep the infrastructure if SACPA is partially funded, so that it could be built up again when budgets allow.

The Steering Committee recommends that we keep some of the services – such as a staff member to do assessments and a probation officer. The Court may have to tighten eligibility criteria. The development of a fee-based program similar to PC1000 is under discussion. This type of program would require direct communication between the treatment provider and the court.

The Board of Supervisor's current policy is no county general funds to pay for the SACPA program. If the state budget reduces or eliminates SACPA funding, there is no retroactivity. Services and staffing between the beginning of the fiscal year and the budget implementation could become a county liability. The SACPA program costs about \$125,000 to \$130,000 a month.

We will lay out the funding scenarios and options to the Board of Supervisor on July 14th to receive some direction. Our other option would be to stop SACPA services in total, which would have implications for criminal justice – the jail, the DA, the PD, the courts and probation.

The effects of the SACPA cuts to criminal justice programs are both direct and indirect. Clients who are on the waitlist for a long time may re-offend and eventually end up with jail time.

The Governor's budget proposal includes release of 35,000 to 40,000 low risk offenders from prison, possibly impacting county jails. The Governor's proposal also includes changing "wobblers" (certain offences that can be either felonies or misdemeanors) to misdemeanors. This would change the number of offenders sent to County jail as opposed to prison.

The Steering Committee created scenarios for budget possibilities:

1. If there is no funding for the SACPA program:
 - We may use the carryover of \$60,000 - \$75,000 to fund the program for two to three weeks into July.
 - All clients currently receiving treatment may be transitioned out of treatment by July 15th.

2. If there is partial funding for SACPA (estimated to be \$800,000 for Sonoma County), the county may:
 - Reduce services in the assessment center to 1 Probation Officer and 1 Treatment assessment counselor
 - Shave funding everywhere, but maximize the treatment funding.

We may lay out the recommendations for the reduction proposals to the Advisory Board for review prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting.

IV. Prevention Division Report

- ◆ **Meth Task Force:** There is nothing new to report about the coordinated care piece of the Meth plan.
- ◆ Kelly Elder and Maureen Donaghue have submitted an application to SAMHSA for a one-year allocation of \$190,000 funding for Senior Substance Abuse Prevention. The application refers to "Aging Adults" instead of seniors, and included statistics based on current trends. The funding would be used for:
 1. A Community awareness campaign
 2. Development of an Aging Adults Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
 3. A training and technical support to
 - a) Improve family and caregiver recognition of potential substance abuse problems in the aging adult, and
 - b) To promote routine substance abuse screening in primary care settings

The application was submitted in mid-May. SAMHSA has misplaced the application, but the application was successfully resubmitted and the process is not competitive – the appropriation has been made, but the paperwork needs to be submitted to document the distribution of funds. Kelly Elder is in contact with SAMHSA. The project must begin before 9/30 - the start of the next Federal fiscal year.

V. AODS Division Report

- ◆ The department has issued a budget impact press release that will be in the paper. Copies were distributed to Advisory Board members.
- ◆ The Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to restore Starting Point funding to the 09/10 budget. The approved budget is configured based on union approval for mandatory time off (MTO). If the unions do not vote in MTO, there will be a \$3 million to \$4 million budget deficit, which could result in the Board reopening the budget.

The Board of Supervisors could reopen the budget under a few other scenarios:

State reductions that deeply affect the county budget, such as-

- a. Prop. 1A implementation – The state "borrows" property tax revenues from the counties
- b. Reclassification of "wobblers" to misdemeanor counts could result in the need for reopening a jail module.

Generally, changes would be taken care of through technical adjustments to the budget. The size of these potential changes could cause the budget to be reopened.

- ◆ The Los Angeles Times printed an article outlining the salaries of the top three executives of the Tarzana Treatment Center. The Chief Executive Officer and his two superiors all make over \$400,000 per year working for an organization with an operating budget of about \$45 million per year. The three also own the building that houses the business, and receive rents totaling \$2.7 million per year.

The article has raised questions about executive compensation for non-profit organizations.

The compensation does not appear to be typical for non-profit organizations. According to Michael Spielman, interested parties can check the compensation rates for the top three executives at non-profit agencies by going to Guidestar.com.

- ◆ This Friday we have the first meeting to discuss with treatment providers the transfer of services from the Orenda Center. The transfer will be a replication of the services currently provided in residential and outpatient, including sliding fee scale and program dynamics. We will issue a Request for qualifications (RFQ) to all licensed and/or certified treatment programs in the county.

The timeline for the transfer is tight. The treatment providers will have 10 to 15 days to respond with their letter of qualifications. A report with recommendations may go to the Board of Supervisors on August 4th, and services are to begin on August 15th. There is a waitlist system in place to facilitate the transfer of services.

We need at least one Advisory Board member and one Prevention employee to participate in the RFQ review committee. We may also invite one treatment provider who does not intend to submit a letter of qualification. The estimated date for the committee to meet and make a recommendation is July 16th. Don Cobb and Kelly Elder have agreed to participate. Trey Dunia and John Lloyd may be available, if needed.

VI. Roundtable Discussion

Edi Patrick: Welcomed John Lloyd to the Advisory Board, saying do not hesitate to ask questions – we will answer them.

Kelly Elder: The Sonoma County Prevention Partnership, the coalition supported by the local Drug Free Communities Grant, has identified three key policy issues that will be the focus of their joint work: 1) County Conditional Use Permit, 2) Preventing efforts to lower the drinking age, and 3) alcohol tax legislation

There is discussion among the federal legislature about implementing an alcohol tax, and possibly a tax on sodas. A State senate bill proposal (SB558) would allocate the tax revenues to fill gaps in the State general fund, and the proposed assembly bill (AB1019) would allocate a considerable portion of the revenues toward providing prevention and treatment services. Both are two-year bills and though they have been pulled though they remain active and can be reintroduced.

The Prevention Partnership is planning to organize small groups to educate legislators on the potential impact of this type of taxation. If you are interested in participating, contact Donna Newman-Fields at 565-6617.

Public Health and DHS are reviewing the Federal stimulus plan and understand the dollars will focus on chronic disease. It will be important to continue to advance the idea of addiction as a chronic disease as we began to plan for health care reform. Stimulus funding for prevention is expected to begin to rollout as early as August, but possibly not until October.

Kevin McConnell: Does the county staff a license recovery clinic?

Answer - There is no such program through AODS, but it may be something offered through legal aide.

Dana Alvarez: I appreciate that the Steering Committee, the Advisory Board and AODS have given treatment their highest priority – thank you. I like to tell this to the clients. It is good to be here and hear the board decisions.

There are no SACPA referrals; it is hard on the clients. Some are getting their third violation while on the waitlist and are gone before they can start treatment. Several started the waitlist with two violations.

CHD is still working on their Drug Medi-Cal application. The application is submitted to the state, everything is looking good. The state will not be doing site visits in July, delaying the certification. Everything else is going well.

John Abrahams: I will look into the issue with two violations prior to the start of treatment.

Michael Spielman: We are having the same issues as CHD with SACPA clients.

Last month we tried to put a budget together. The staff came up with remarkable ideas such as reducing FTEs until we know if funding is available. Right now DAAC funding is \$600,000 less than 08/09. Two thirds of the cuts will affect personnel. Michael is working to find another source of funding.

This is a most difficult budget year. On July 28th, the state will be out of money. DAAC receives \$50,000 per month in direct state funding. Services given in June would be due for payment in September, and may not be paid.

Good news includes:

1. DAAC received a grant of \$120,000 to re-roof Professional Drive.
2. Sonoma County Community Housing is working to buy foreclosed homes to turn over to non-profits for Sober Living Environments (SLEs).

Michael appreciates the team mentality that the county has with the community. Thank you to the Advisory Board for your efforts.

Michael also thanked Edi Patrick for her presentation to the Board of Supervisors during the County budget hearings.

Cheryle Stanley: These times drive souls in for treatment.

WRS recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of their non-smoking policy. The women are not all in favor of the policy, but seemed appreciative once the story of how WRS become non-smoking was told. There was a big cake - the staff served the clients.

WRS welcomed two new drug, alcohol and smoke free babies this month. One is 2.5 weeks old, and one is 1 week old. The youngest was high risk and was tiny when born. They are still in the hospital, but are due to be released on Monday.

Edi Patrick: Cheryle, you are to be complimented for your "Close to Home" article in the Press Democrat.

John Lloyd: I have been involved in the building trades for 40 years. I have noticed a transition for building trade members over that period from being family focused to being drug or alcohol focused. There is a big need for these programs.

Don Cobb: Thank you, Edi, for the encouragement.

Trey Dunia: Can you give any background on the DUI recently mentioned in the paper?

Answer: This is a personnel matter that cannot be discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2009
Prevention & Planning conference room - 490 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403