

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2009

5 – 7 p.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia  
Don Cobb  
John Abrahams  
Kevin McConnell  
Edi Patrick

## MEMBERS ABSENT

Marvin Mars  
John Lloyd

## STAFF PRESENT

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

## PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Marlus Stewart, DAAC  
John Cranston

Called to order at 5:08 pm, by Trey Dunia

### **I. Introductions**

### **II. Public Comment**

- ◆ None

### **III. Action Items**

- ◆ **Minutes:** June minutes approved with a change showing that Don Cobb was present on June 17th.

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

- ◆ Our SACPA budget is running out of funds, probably at the end of this week. The Board of Supervisors is aware that we are waiting for a state budget, and in the meantime are providing services. There have been no referrals to treatment, and the court is aware of the situation. The waitlist is growing.

There has been a change in our program – Debbie Pope retired last week. We have a new person in charge of the program, Stephen Rios. Stephen has a mental health background. SACPA is a complex program and there may be a steep learning curve. DAAC and CHD are assisting with the workload, and a TASC counselor is currently doing assessments.

We met with Judge Nadler recently, and were asked if the court should continue to dedicate a single court to 1210. There is a need for additional criminal justice courts. Judge Nadler agreed to keep 1210 court a single court if the state budget has funding for SACPA. Follow up meetings are scheduled.

The Senate trailer bill language is still in the budget, and is supported by both the governor and the legislature. \$50 million of Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds will be sent through ADP to fund OTP or "OTP Like" programs. This funding will allow us to keep the structure in place. The legislature has indicated they would like to reach a compromise on the budget by Friday.

\$18 million of OTP state general funds was left in the state budget as of last Thursday. Between the two sources, there could be \$68 million in funding for SACPA in 09/10, about 50% of the 08/09 funding level. The \$18 million is not guaranteed, the funding could be set at \$50 million. The program may reduce 1 probation officer and 1 intake worker or counselor in order to maximize the amount of funding available for treatment.

Questions were asked about the assessment process – the answers are below:  
*In the law, the assessment is a critical process – offenders must be assessed for appropriate treatment. The Assessor determines the severity of addiction, which modality, and which treatment provider using the ASAM placement tool.*

*Professional counselors are used to do the assessment – it takes about an hour. The counselors assess for the available modalities and providers, a limited selection. Sometimes the selected provider is full and the counselor must determine if the offender is placed elsewhere, or put on the waitlist.*

The new manager mainly works in Drug Court and DUI Court and just oversees the SACPA program. The Steering Committee will be discussing contingencies in the meeting scheduled for next week.

A questions was asked about the \$50 million – how much would Sonoma County receive? The methodology of the state allocation is unknown at this time. Based on the old SACPA formula, we would receive \$700,000 to \$800,000. The legislature has turned the methodology for the allocation formula to ADP with input from the counties.

At the last meeting, it was noted that many counties had not submitted their SACPA plan. Sonoma County was one of ten counties who submitted plans before the deadline. As of last Thursday, there were still about 20 counties with no plan submitted to the state. The state is still accepting plans. When the allocation formula is determined and the state budget is adopted, the funds will be released to counties will plans on file.

## V. Prevention Division Report

- ◆ **Meth Task Force:** There is a Meth Task Force meeting scheduled for tomorrow. A big chunk of the work is being done by AODS – we will see if Cathleen Wolford or Katie Greaves can make a presentation to the Advisory Board in September.
- ◆ Prevention staff members have been in communication with SAMHSA about their application for "Aging Adults Substance Abuse Prevention" (AASAP) funding. The

funding has been allocated, but cannot be released to us until the application is accepted. The project had a start date of 7/1/09, but was put on hold until approval. The project must begin before 9/30/09 - the start of the next Federal fiscal year.

- ◆ A column in SF Gate written by Jon Carroll outlines the difference between the president's needle exchange policies and his pronouncements. The Federal Government is not actively supporting, nor are they actively thwarting the programs. Sonoma County has an active needle exchange program that includes HIV prevention counseling, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, along with drug treatment referral.

Many stakeholders in our community have expressed an interest in the needle exchange program expanding to include outreach to the fringe populations that do not come in to centralized collection sites.

- ◆ The Prevention AOD team has grown due to budget moves. Jay will be working on enforcement education and promotion of compliance with local laws related alcohol and tobacco sales. Gabrielle Trubach and Julie Sabaag-Maskey will be working on the Aging Adults team

## **VI. AODS Division Report**

- ◆ The board approved the AODS contracts yesterday. Typically, the contracts are a consent item heard in June. Because of the controversy over the transfer of services, we were told it would be on the regular calendar, and it was delayed until mid July. Gino and Rita made a presentation to the board, and indicated that we are moving forward on the transfer to CBOs – the plan was laid out, we received the authority to proceed. The transfer proposals were due today at 3pm. A review committee with four scorers is meeting tomorrow.

The timeline for the transfer is tight. The layoffs at Orenda will happen on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and we want the contracted services to start August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Orenda residential program stopped taking referrals last month. The last client will complete their treatment at the end of this month. The Orenda residential rooms will be converted to offices and AODS programs will move in – the lease notice has been given.

The CBOs will need to start gearing up for services as soon as the contracts are awarded. The contracts will have 10.5 months of funding (the first 1.5 months was used as bridge funding to keep services going until the transfer). The referral list is being kept – Orenda staff is still doing screenings – the clients are placed on a waitlist and told to attend AA or NA meetings in the interim. They will be referred once a contract is in place.

The transfer is a replication of services at Orenda. We met with the prospective bidders two times, and posted a complete question and answer document. The program is to be freestanding and not integrated into the existing programs. The

same curriculum is to be used – everything was given to all prospective CBOs. The residential program length is to be 31 days. The program must be freestanding to allow us to track these services and report to the Board of Supervisors.

The contract(s) could be awarded to multiple bidders, or one CBO. The estimate number of clients for Outpatient is 250 and about 250 for Residential. The contract amounts will be approximately \$350,000 for Residential and \$153,000 for Outpatient.

Advisory Board members can review the proposals after the review committee completes their scoring and the decision has been made.

The AODS Division has made a good faith effort to respond to the concerns laid out by the Board of Supervisors. The transfer will be a replication of services in each modality.

The scoring sheets will be completed tomorrow. Gino and Rita will make the final decision based on the recommendations from the review committee. The decision does not have to go to the board for approval. The CBOs will be notified of the decision sometime next week.

- ◆ Starting Point and TASC counselor reductions of 2.9 FTEs (full time equivalent positions) are on the FY 09/10 budget add-back list. The add-back list is separated into two parts: items that will be added back, and items that only will be added back if the unions approve mandatory time off (MTO). Our add-backs are subject to MTO approval. It does not appear that all of the unions are in favor of MTO, at this time the county must proceed with the budget decisions. Layoff letters will go out next Friday.

Gino will be meeting with the Sheriff's Dept. on Monday. Starting Point was staffed with 4 FTEs, and will be reduced to 1.6 FTEs. The Starting Point female program will be eliminated. The male program will be reduced down to about 20 participants.

If the unions approve MTO between now and August 14<sup>th</sup>, the add-backs would happen and the layoffs would be reversed.

## VI. Roundtable Discussion

**Trey Dunia:** Consistent with the bylaws of the Sonoma County Advisory Board, there will be no meeting in August and we will reconvene in September.

**Marlus Stewart:** Turning Point 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion celebration is in September – a flyer was distributed. DAAC's annual garden party is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> – a postcard was distributed.

The Adolescent program is expanding – DAAC is looking for new sites in Rohnert Park and West County. The current programs in Sonoma, Petaluma and North

County will be expanding. The source of funds for the expansion is Federal funds earmarked for adolescent services.

**Kelly Elder:** The state budget impact on the HIV program includes stopped work orders for HIV education and prevention programs. The Governor's proposed budget eliminates funding for Education & Prevention, Testing, and Early Intervention and Surveillance among other things. It is hoped that the budget that passes will maintain some level of funding for these services.

The HIV program is moving forward with a new testing strategy. The program is down to two staff members.

**Gino:** The State IOU situation now includes Drug Medi-Cal. The State has stopped accepting claims from the counties. Sonoma County is still paying on claims, but cannot submit for reimbursement from the state. We have requested that providers hold their claims until there is a budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2009  
Orenda Center conference room #1 - 1430 Neotomas Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405