

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2008 5 – 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia
Kevin McConnell
John Abrahams
Edi Patrick
Marvin Mars

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Marchesiello

STAFF PRESENT

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

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Dana Alvarez, CHD
Benita McLarin, DHS
Brooke Tyrwhitt

Called to order at 5:12 pm, by Trey Dunia

I. Public Comment

None

II. Action Items

- June and July minutes approved.
- The Advisory Board approved a motion to take an official position of support for Proposition 5 on the November ballot. Kevin McConnell will draft a statement of support.
- **Planning for NORA public forum:** A copy of a tri-fold brochure with event details was distributed to board members. The presenters are Diana Gomez, Sonoma County Asst. District Attorney and Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, one of the authors of the initiative. Margaret will speak first with a summary and discussion of the benefits of the proposition. Diana will follow with concerns from the law enforcement perspective. The first five minutes will be used for introductions and overview by Trey and Gino.
 - Trey will start the evening with a welcome and introductions speech
 - Gino will follow with a quick overview of NORA
 - Kevin McConnell will be the mediator/facilitator – a list of questions and issues that have been brought up about NORA will be given to Kevin so that he can delve deeper into issues, if necessary.
 - Is UA testing covered in the proposition?
 - Is county match required?
 - Where will parolees with technical violations be sent?
 - What is the impact on county budgets?
 - How does NORA affect existing programs?

- Each speaker will be given 20-minutes to speak, followed by a 10-minute rebuttal. The last hour will be set aside for a question and answer session that is open to the public.
- The board will meet at 6pm to set up and test the audio equipment. The presenters will sit at the dais; Kevin will sit at the presentation desk.
- Gino will contact the presenters to determine if they have any need for audio or visual equipment.
- An internal script for the evening will be developed and distributed to board members.
- Angela reviewed the media contacts made to date, as well as the distribution list for fliers.

A review of NORA was given – Treatment is based on assessments and can be anything from education to two years in treatment. There are no minimum requirements in the proposition – that will be developed by the counties and the oversight commission. AODS does not currently have the personnel to administer the programs in NORA. The proposition allows six months to plan and increase staffing. Services to clients will begin in July 2009, if the proposition is approved.

III. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

- **Statistics:** The SACPA waitlist has declined from 65 to 47 clients. It was determined that the maximum monthly referrals to SACPA was 30-35 per month to keep from being inundated. In August, the referrals were down to 26. If referrals continue to decline for the next couple of months we may eliminate the waitlist.

- **SACPA Plan Amendment:** The amendment to shift OTP funding for mental health services was submitted to the state.

- **Parolee/SACPA vs. BASN:** Traditionally, parole would use SACPA as the funding of last resort. CDCR's current criteria is – if an inmate has all SACPA eligible charges they go to SACPA and if their charges disqualify them from SACPA, they go to BASN.

- CDCR closed twenty-six programs in the Central Valley, including contractors with services to parolees. Sonoma County is feeling the impact of the closing of these programs.

- **Indian Health:** Last year, Indian Health did not spend out their contract, and funds were shifted to other providers. They wish to avoid that this year. Currently, the AODS system has only two Native Americans in treatment. Indian Health noted that the proportion of Native Americans in jail is higher than the proportion in the community – how can we shift those people into the SACPA program? The SACPA Steering Committee discussed the situation and came up with the following:

- All inmates eligible for SACPA are arraigned in 1210 Court. The charges against the inmate predicate to which court they are sent. It is likely that Native Americans assigned to other courts are ineligible for SACPA.

- The Indian Health outreach worker that works in the jail will be trained on the intricacies of the SACPA program.
- Indian Health can contact Michael Perry of the Public Defender's office with questions about specific clients.
- **NORA initiative:** Proposition 5 contains language that gives clients a hearing when a violation occurs. Subpoenas will be sent to providers- who are constrained from giving client information by 42CFR, a potential conflict. The court would have to hold a special hearing to obtain a valid court order before the provider could testify in court. This could result in increased hearings for the court system.
 - If NORA passes, the oversight committee will begin to be formed in January, and must be on board by July 1, 2009. In a recent statewide conference call, recommendations were put forth for the committee:
 - Go light on regulations and heavy on guidelines to allow counties to make their own decisions to meet local needs.
 - The Governor and legislature are urged to make appointments to the committee as soon as possible.
 - Allow use of funding for incentives and rewards through a line item requirement.
 - Allow funding for innovative programs such as DUI Court.
 - Base the allocation methodology on standard allocation methods instead of the existing SACPA allocation methods.
 - Recent polling shows 60% approval rating for NORA when the pollsters talk about the full impact of NORA. When pollsters stress the youth treatment component, the approval ratings jump to 85%.
 - Law Enforcement is the biggest arena of opposition to NORA. One of their claims is that NORA changes Drug Court. The proposition does expand Drug Court and allow for more funding of Drug Court.
- **Budget:** The legislature has passed a budget – the governor has threatened veto. The legislature countered with the possibility of override – the governor responded that he would veto every bill that contains funding if an override is done. The budget is a combination of three or four previously submitted budgets – this budget contains a 10% reduction to SACPA and OTP as well as 10% reduction in Drug Medi-Cal rates.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- **Community Education:** The education committee is in limbo at this time. The next meeting of the Senior Subcommittee is postponed. Donna Newman-Fields will make arrangements for the next meeting.
 - The subcommittee has fulfilled their obligation, and has received no further direction from the Advisory Board. The situation is different now than when the committee was formed - budget cuts created the circumstance of no available resources to staff a committee.

- The committee has made every attempt to find other resources in the community to continue their work, with no success at this time.
- Edi acknowledged that the Senior Committee is a worthwhile endeavor that serves a population otherwise not served. It is a shame that the committee cannot find staff support.
- In order to continue as a committee of the Advisory Board, the subcommittee will need clarification of a new project, along with direction from the board.
- **Project Success:** Trey Dunia accompanied Analy High School's Club 141 on a trip to Sacramento for a leadership workshop. The workshop was great. Club 141 is raising funds to pay for one of the workshop speakers to give a presentation at Analy and El Molino High Schools.

V. **Prevention Division Update**

- **Meth Prevention Plan:** The Methamphetamine Prevention Plan is complete, fulfilling our obligation to the California Endowment. The plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors yesterday, and was accepted. The plan was presented today at the DAAC "Understanding Addiction" conference.
 - The next step is for Prevention to contact the task force members to determine their continued commitment. The task force will be expanded to include new members.
 - The division applied for continuation of funding from the California Endowment. They also applied to the Drug Free Commission for a five-year grant that could fund the Meth Task Force, Environmental Prevention, Project Success, and increased collaboration with stakeholders.

VI. **AODS Division Update**

- **AODS System Analysis:** The Health Department has hired Troy Fox to do an independent analysis of the entire AODS system. The draft will be due by November 1st, with the final report due to the CAO on December 1st. The report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January. The analysis will look at county and provider programs and compare:
 - Cost per day and cost per slot
 - Outcomes

The report must connect to the Bennett Study as well as the County's Strategic Plan. Troy has been given access to contracts, annual reports, site visits, cost reports and other data. He will look at providers for use of best practices as outlined in SAMHSA's TIP and TAP booklets. Troy has a 35-year background in the Alcohol and Drug field as well as the Mental Health field. Troy has done similar analyses for other counties. He will provide the department with an independent view of where we get the most bang for the buck.

VII. **Roundtable Discussion**

WRS: WRS held their bicycle fundraiser over last weekend. 15 riders traveled 300 miles – mostly uphill – to raise funds for the agency.

WRS is filled with clients – everything is good.

Marvin Mars: Marvin hopes the board will continue support for the Senior Committee.

Donna Newman-Fields: Kudos to Michael and the DAAC staff for arranging a great conference!

DAAC: The Understanding Addiction conference was attended by 300 people. There was a lot of information about adolescents, including a correlation between ADD & ADHD and addiction. 20% of kids with DSM diagnosis have ADD. There is a need to treat ADD along with addiction. DAAC is interested in obtaining a computer test that determines ADD.

Michael expressed “thank you’s” to everyone who spoke at the conference.

DAAC feels they are establishing a good connection with Indian Health. They have five Native American clients at Turning Point funded through a different mechanism than SACPA. There is a separate Indian Health group at Turning Point.

Remodeling has started at County Center Building B. DAAC is targeting November 1st to move Perinatal. DAAC recently received a state grant in the amount of \$100,000 to expand Perinatal services.

CHD: CHD is still waiting for Medi-Cal certification. The applications are gathering dust due to the budget crisis.

CHD’s NIATx objective is to increase retention. They have piloted a few changes – the first attempt focused on organizing clients, and was a failure. The second attempt is to provide incentives (Safeway or Costco cards, movie tickets, pjs). The change team will analyze results to determine if there has been improvements. A CHD representative will report on NIATx at the October provider meeting.

The DUI program has a lot of folks coming in. One client is entering the third phase.

Benita McLarin: Gave thanks to the advisory board members for their hard work.

Gino: Bruce Oppenheim has resigned from his post as a board member from the 2nd district.

Trey Dunia: Trey will speak to class at SRJC about NORA and AODS

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2008
Prevention & Planning conference room * 490 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403