

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2008

5 – 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia
Marvin Mars
Kevin McConnell
Edi Patrick
John Abrahams

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Tanya Sarcos, SRTP
Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Jenna McAdams, CHD

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

I. Public Comment

- None

II. Action Items

- October minutes approved.

III. NORA public forum

- This item was incorrectly added to the agenda. No comments were given.

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

- **Steering Committee:** Representatives from Sonoma County Indian Health Program (SCIHP) spoke with the committee in an attempt to better utilize SACPA funds for Native Americans. The ratio of Native Americans in jail is higher than the ratio of Native Americans within the population of the county. SCIHP has taken in three referrals lately and only two others all year. Most Native Americans have other charges excluding them from the SACPA program – eligibility is the biggest issue.
- **Budget:** The Governor's proposal to balance the budget is DOA during the special legislative session. The Republicans want budget cuts only. SACPA is safe this year, the money was transferred into the trust fund in October, and the state cannot pull it back. OTP is vulnerable since the money is disbursed based on invoicing. All programs were instructed to spend OTP funds first.

The state is proposing to pull all general fund dollars from AOD use, including Drug Medical (DMC). In exchange, a piece of the alcohol tax will be allocated for AOD funding. No one knows what will happen if the alcohol tax does not pass. The department of finance says that SACPA should be a county funded program.

The newest proposal is a .25¢ per gallon gas tax. The governor sent this out as a trial balloon since the legislature does not seem favorable to passing a sales tax or alcohol tax.

- **Statistics:** The SACPA waitlist has declined from 39 to 16 clients this week. The court referrals in September were 21, and 30 in October.
- **NORA:** NORA did not pass. All of the polling was done prior to the economic meltdown. The prison guard union, which started out neutral, adopted an oppose position two weeks before the election and gave \$2 million to the "No on 5" campaign. This funding was used for most of the "No on 5" commercials featuring Jerry Brown and Dianne Feinstein seen in the last two weeks before the election. There will be a meeting of NORA proponents on December 3rd – where do they go from here? Gino will not be able to attend, but there will be CADPAAC representatives in attendance.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- **Community Education:** The senior committee met with Gino and Barbara – DHS will not be able to lend clerical support, but may be able to assist in grant writing. The next meeting will be on December 8th – to seek clarity about the mission and pathway for the committee. The committee will construct a mission statement and business plan.

VI. Prevention Division Update

- **Meth Task Force:** The Meth Task Force met last week. Four subcommittees have been formed – they are looking at the work plans to create a priority list for implementation of activities. They have not yet heard about additional funding from the California Endowment.
- **Grant:** Prevention and Planning has received a grant from the Drug Free Commission (DFC) of \$125,000 per year for five years to coalesce AOD prevention efforts in the community. They will meet on December 5th to discuss creation of an umbrella for prevention activities such as the Meth Task Force, Community Coalitions, and Project Success.
- **Needle Exchange:** The program is partially funded by a state grant – they expect a 10% cut. The grant pays for ancillary services, but not needles. Prevention is applying for a grant from Tides Foundation, which can be used to purchase needles. The program gives out 3,000 to 4,000 needles per week.

Per Michael Spielman, DAAC is in the process of getting a van loaned by Prevention. They plan to start needle distribution in Guerneville instead of Mote Rio. They also distribute in Santa Rosa. They hope to expand to Petaluma, but it may be difficult in the current economic situation. The needle exchange is done by volunteers. The Hep-C and HIV testing is done by paid staff. Last year 50 people came from the needle exchange program into other programs.

VII. AODS Division Update

- **SonomaWorks:** The MOU with Human Services needs to be revised because the state did not provide complete funding. The program must be cut by \$55,000 – this is the second cut this year.

- **OTP Funds for Mental Health Use:** We are working to facilitate CMSP eligibility for inmates upon release from jail. In early December there will be training given to TASC staff on completing the CMSP application. Most of the pieces are in place with Human Services. As soon as TASC staff are given a release date, they will forward the CMSP application to Human Services. Human Services will process the application based on the release date. Upon release, the client is eligible for CMSP. The medical provider in the jail will supply information about treatment and medications, and in some cases provide a prescription. The program should be up and running by mid December.

VIII. Roundtable Discussion

Trey Dunia: Trey has applied for the Citizen's Academy of the Sheriff's Department. The program runs on Wednesday nights for 16 weeks. Trey sees three options for covering his absence:

1. Elect another chairperson
2. Have another board member run the meetings in Trey's absence
3. Change the meeting date

Kevin McConnell has volunteered to be an interim chair in Trey's absence.

The big issue is achieving a quorum. The board needs to recruit new members.

Cheryle Stanley, WRS: Everything is normal at WRS. They admitted a woman with a 2 year old. Both had only the clothes on their backs. A few days ago, they admitted a woman direct from the hospital with her brand new baby, again with no clothes. It is challenging to make them comfortable in this situation.

Jenna McAdam, Athena House: All of the beds are full. Clients are coming direct from jail – they show up at treatment wearing the clothing they wore when arrested. The program is busy, but doing well. There is a subtle change in culture – no one wants to leave, even though they are somewhat shielded from the current economic news.

The Older Adult module is up and running. They have six clients – some older, some with special needs. They are very happy. The module is located at the 1416 Slater property in 3 units. The clients receive special attention. The average age is 45. It was a good move to segregate the older adults- it has improved the whole program. There is less conflict in general.

Gino Giannavola: Mike Kennedy is the new Division Director for Mental Health. He starts on December 9th. The department did a nationwide search – the top three included two employed in county DHS and one from another county's health department.

Michael Spielman, DAAC: DAAC moved in to the new Perinatal and Drug Court office on November 10th. The offices are great, and they are happy to have a waiting room. There is a big meeting room and a nice space for kids. If funding becomes available, they will expand the Perinatal program to make it available for 17 more women and their kids. The outside play area is to be fenced. The 20/30 club will assist with the play area set up.

Turning Point has 20 empty beds. They are looking for ways to fill them, but funding is difficult to find. The state is not sending as many SASCA clients; the number has gone

down from 30 to about 22. A second community bed will be funded, giving 5 total beds for people not involved in criminal justice issues. These beds are filled constantly.

Michael is disappointed about the election outcome on NORA.

Maureen Donaghue: The Continuum of Care – Homeless Services received a small grant from the Sister of Orange. The grant will be used to raise the standards of care for the homeless. They plan to develop a system and try to achieve commonality of data systems. A clinician from Sonoma Valley spoke about her research that mentally ill homeless are victims of fetal alcohol syndrome.

The shelters are starting to see foreclosure families, most with substance abuse issues.

Gino Giannavola: Gino spoke with Paul Payne of the Press Democrat. He is doing a story on the current economic downturn and asked about AOD implications. Gino told him that typically, in these economic circumstances, substance abuse goes up. Frequently, we do not see the people in treatment until later. Paul had Gino check the DUI statistics – in the first 11 months of 2007, they had 2003 clients. In the first 11 months of 2008, they had over 2500 clients. Stats can be tricky – other factors such as an increase in law enforcement numbers, or a change in the law, can skew the figures. Gino gave Paul the appropriate disclaimers when he gave the statistics information.

Tanya Sarcos, SRTP: The SRTP lobby seems fuller. Tanya's job is branding – putting out PR that there is another Methadone clinic in Santa Rosa. She has placed ads on the radio and in the cinemas. There is some business increase as a result. Tanya gives ongoing counselor trainings.

Michael Spielman, DAAC: DAAC has more under-18 clients. Five have come in the last week. The youths are not allowed to be on maintenance, only Detox. DAAC is working to combine Detox and DMC Outpatient.

Tanya Sarcos, SRTP: SRTP took in two new youth clients last week. Last summer they saw an increase in youth – there was a whole group of kids from one school placed in treatment. The kids are mostly taking pills, not heroin. The 18-23 age group uses a lot of OxyContin. There is an illegal market for prescription drugs.

Kevin McConnell: Thanks to Michael Spielman and DAAC for a great breakfast. The event was well done and nicely presented.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Meeting: January 21st, 2009
Prevention & Planning conference room - 490 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403