

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT

January 21, 2004: 5 – 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Abrahams, Chair
Steve Thomas
Tammy Cotter
Bill Redder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deborah Williams
Michael Falk

STAFF PRESENT

Maureen Donaghue
Barbara Graves
Claudia Brennan
Ellen Bauer

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Harmony Galford, Student, SRJC
Cindy Hyde, SRTP
Michael Spielman, DAAC
Cheryl Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Dana Alvarez, CHDC

Advisory Board Meeting called to order: 5:15 p.m.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Review of Minutes

November 19, 2003 minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Community Education: Ideas put forth by this subcommittee include:

1. Create fact sheets on various AOD issues, such as "Signs and Symptoms of Addiction" or "Principles of Effective AOD Prevention", that AOD Board can handout and/or use when speaking with community members/groups.
2. Train AOD Board for public presentations on various AOD topics.
3. Interface with Policy Development/Advocacy subcommittee to provide community education support on current priority projects.
4. Advocate for increased private treatment funding. Could possibly use existing "Treatment on Demand" policy brief as a community education tool.

Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee: This subcommittee identified 5 potential areas for future policy development/advocacy work (see subcommittee meeting notes attached). After discussion, the Board identified the following 3 priority areas:

1. Support the development/implementation of local alcohol ordinances.
2. Offer seminar for planners, law enforcement, supervisors, city council members, among others, on how conditional use and land use ordinances can be effective strategies to deal with alcohol-related problems.
3. Help communities become "treatment friendly" by encouraging local governments to pass resolutions that support alcohol and other drug treatment, including specific suggestions such as:

- a. Streamline approval process (e.g., land use) for treatment providers
- b. Provide good jobs for people coming out of treatment
- c. Housing
- d. Public transportation

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

John Abrahams provided an update on SACPA statistics. In December 2003, 46 clients went through intake and 41 were assessed. Over 200 clients are actively in treatment (55% in outpatient treatment). Homelessness is down and employment is up. Overall, the program seems to be working well locally.

The SACPA State Advisory Committee continues to work on a change to the county allocation formula for FY04-05. There will be drastic funding shifts between counties in the state, but as of yet, the impact on Sonoma County is unknown.

There is word that the State is concerned about instances where SACPA dollars have paid for dedicated bed capacity, yet beds have gone unfilled. This has not been the case in Sonoma County, but a blanket rule could be issued to disallow this practice.

V. Prevention Division

The Prevention Division will collaborate with 4 other counties (Napa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo) on a grant proposal to the Office of Traffic Safety on youth drinking issues.

The Division is awaiting the release of the State Incentive Grant (SIG) RFP by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. The Division intends to collaborate with SSU to develop a proposal that addresses binge drinking in the SSU community.

The Division will be entering into a contract with the Marin Institute to work in Rohnert Park and SSU on environmental prevention strategies that support healthy choices by students. Included in this work will be education on how land use ordinances and improved alcohol policy enforcement can be effective strategies to deal with alcohol-related problems.

VI. AODS Division Report

Due to the countywide hiring freeze, the Orenda Center has made several reductions in service. The residential treatment program has been reduced from 20 to 16 beds until the staff shortage can be addressed. Additionally, as of January 28, 2004, Orenda Center will be temporarily discontinuing the practice of accepting 4 to 6 hour holds for inebriated individuals referred by local law enforcement agencies.

AODS Division is concerned about budget cuts that will be required once the FY 04/05 County budget is released in mid-March. Existing programs are already run on lean budgets. The AODS Division is considering eliminating discreet programs, rather than

across-the-board reductions. Gino has requested that people contact him with suggestions regarding which programs should be eliminated. The Board decided to review current AODS programs at the February 18th meeting, so that they can provide Gino with informed recommendations. The Board encourages treatment providers with an interest in this topic to attend the February meeting of the AOD Advisory Board.

The AODS Division received partial funding from First5 for their proposal addressing perinatal substance use. They received \$40,000 of the \$100,000 requested, and are revising their scope of work to fit within the reduced budget parameters.

VII. Roundtable

Steve Thomas inquired about last month's report from Adolfo Molina regarding clients showing up at Casa Calmecca requesting residential treatment without a referral from TASC. AODS staff reported that they have addressed this issue with Adolfo.

DAAC: The Clean and Sober School has been relocated to 539 Airway Drive in Santa Rosa. The DAAC administrative office has been relocated to 225 Indian Creek in Santa Rosa, which will save money for the organization. The needle exchange is housed at Professional Drive and takes place on Friday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Last week 5,000 needles were exchanged.

Barbara Graves announced that DHS employees are sponsoring a Health Careers Scholarship to provide financial scholarships to SRJC students who want to pursue a health career. Preference will be given to students who are graduates of the Children's System of Care, Sonoma County Clean and Sober Schools, or the Sonoma County Teen Parent Program.

CHDP is pleased with its progress of its Drug Diversion program. CHDP also announced that there are openings in its outpatient treatment program. This program accepts clients on a sliding scale, so could be a good option for those without insurance coverage for AOD addiction.

Tammy Cotter announced that the new community school in Petaluma will open in September 2004 and will house 2 Clean and Sober classrooms. She is pleased that neighboring businesses have offered to hire students attending the Clean and Sober School.

Women's Recovery Services was pleased to receive several cash donations during the holiday season that enabled them to purchase 2 new stoves.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

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Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting Notes December 12, 2003

Attending: John Abrahams, Steve Thomas, Maureen Donaghue, Barbara Graves,
Ellen Bauer.

The subcommittee identified five (5) potential areas for future policy development/advocacy work.

1. Support the development/implementation of local alcohol ordinances. This could include board members making presentations to City Managers, attending council meetings, letter writing, among other strategies. Examples include: conditional use/deemed approved use ordinances that impose sanctions to address problems associated with off-sale alcohol vendors, restricting public use of alcohol on private property, and alcohol sales permit fees to support police education, monitoring and compliance efforts.
2. Offer seminar for planners, law enforcement, supervisors, city council members, among others, on how conditional use and land use ordinances can be effective strategies to deal with alcohol-related problems. This seminar could include presentations on best practices in state/nation and examples of local efforts (e.g. Santa Rosa, Roseland).
3. Use Sonoma County's newly (almost) adopted Workplace Alcohol Policy as an opportunity to do outreach/information gathering/education with 20 largest local employers to encourage widespread adoption of sound alcohol policies in Sonoma County workplaces. This could include education and technical assistance regarding key components of such policies, including employee assistance programs and adequate treatment coverage.
4. Reconvene a Policy Panel on Youth Access to Alcohol, like that orchestrated by Barbara Graves in 1995 and 1996 as a part of the Teen Alcohol Prevention Project (TAPP). The goal of this previous panel was to focus community attention on the problem of underage access to alcohol and to stimulate action planning by individuals, organizations and governments to address it.
5. Help communities become "treatment friendly" by encouraging local governments to pass resolutions that support alcohol and other drug treatment, including adequate treatment options and transitional housing.