

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2004: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Thomas, Chair
Trey Dunia
John Abrahams
Deborah Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marvin Mars
Michael Falk
Harmony Galford
Bill Redder

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Ellen Bauer
Sarah Moore
Barbara Graves

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Barbara Leifert, Drug Abuse Alternatives Center
Jenna McAdam, Athena House
Anjelica Aviña, Latino Commission

I. Public Comment

Bill Redder announced his resignation from the Advisory Board. He expressed his enjoyment of the time he spent serving on the Advisory Board. He will be missed.

Harmony Galford will be unable to attend Advisory Board meetings due to a schedule conflict with her educational goals, but is expected to resume attendance for the June meeting. She will continue to participate on the Community Education Subcommittee in the meantime.

II. Review of Minutes

October and November minutes approved as written.

III. Election of Officers Action Item

The nominating committee submitted the following slate for the election:

Chair: Steve Thomas
Vice-Chair: Trey Dunia

De Williams made a motion to accept the slate, and John Abrahams seconded the motion.

Action: The slate was accepted as submitted. Steve Thomas and Trey Dunia were elected to serve for a period of two years in their respective positions.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

A debriefing meeting was held for the Land Use Conference. The feedback indicated that the community would like a similar event to be held again, and participants would like the conference to be a full day event. The response was very positive. Several areas were also evaluated for follow-up, including Rohnert Park and Sonoma, both of which indicated that the committee might be able to assist them with some of their current land use concerns or projects.

Community Education Subcommittee

The Community Education subcommittee is planning to schedule a lunch meeting to discuss the potential for educating the community around “social hosting.” They would like to continue to receive coordination support from Prevention and Planning staff. Prevention and Planning agreed to provide that support as soon as they are able to fill a recently vacated Information Specialist position.

Harmony Galford is interested in making herself available to talk to educators about how to recognize drug and alcohol problems with students, and how to handle these situations. Prevention and Planning recommended that she contact Lynn Garric, of SCOE, to explore this possibility.

V. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

Judge Boyd has taken over 1210 court from Judge Hardcastle. There is also a possibility that the court will be moved away from courtroom 14, which would not be ideal.

They are trying to develop a system by which SACPA clients could benefit from TASC services, without reducing the SACPA caseload. The SACPA allocation is partially based on caseloads, so moving clients off of SACPA caseloads in order to use services available through TASC could have a significant negative impact on the SACPA program.

The SACPA FY 05-06 plan is due to ADP on May 1, 2005. They are still requiring a multi-year plan despite the fact that SACPA funding will sunset 6/30/06. The plan must address the transition period if funding is not continued.

There are also some statewide discrepancies that need to be addressed, such as whether or not CADDs should be opened for DEJEP clients referred from SACPA. We count it in CADDs, but others do not. Some standardization is being developed.

VI. Prevention Division

They have applied for an additional \$20,000 to use in determining how to expand the 16-week parent education class that is part of Safe and Drug Free Schools. The program is well received and has a very high completion rate. The goal of the program is to help empower parents in the Latino community, and other communities are interested as well. The program director, Vince Harper, would like to present information about the program to the Advisory Board.

The Prevention and Planning Division is moving next week. Their new address is 475 Aviation Blvd., Suite 210.

They are moving forward with their SIG grant, mobilizing and building community relationships and contracts that are necessary in order to reach their goals regarding education and prevention of binge drinking. They have a contract with Petaluma City Schools around this issue.

VII. AODS Division Report

The new counselor certification regulations have been approved. They require that anyone with client treatment contact must be certified. The state has approved 10 certifying organizations, but Sonoma County has elected to only accept certificates from 6 of those organizations. This is a meet-and-confer issue for the county and unions, and may have fiscal impacts, possible due to higher salaries for certified employees. Providers indicate that the new regulations are having a positive impact on their employees, who are enthusiastic about the educational opportunity and motivated to become certified. The fiscal impact will be carefully monitored, but the expectation is that the benefits of certification will far outweigh the drawbacks.

The state budget remains level for FY 05/06, but baseline expenses have increased. This discrepancy may result in some cuts in services. In addition, three different providers have made formal requests for increased funding.

A new database system called WITS is being evaluated, which would allow AODS to comply with the new CalOMS requirements. However, a recent quote on the database was well outside of our price range, so options are being discussed.

VIII. Roundtable

Latino Commission: Anjelica Avina of the Latino Commission introduced herself and indicated that she would be attending Advisory Board meetings on a regular basis.

WRS: They have a few beds empty, but are otherwise doing well.

Steve Thomas: Requested that a discussion regarding the overall direction and goals of the Advisory Board be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

After discussion, members of the Advisory Board agreed to continue meeting at the Rotunda meeting room for the remainder of the year.

Meeting adjourned: 6:33 pm