

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2004: 5 - 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steve Thomas, Chair  
Trey Dunia  
John Abrahams  
Deborah Williams  
Marvin Mars  
Harmony Galford  
Edi Patrick

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Falk

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Gino Giannavola  
Ellen Bauer  
Sarah Moore  
Barbara Graves  
Holly White-Wolfe

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services  
Michael Spielman, Drug Abuse Alternatives Center

### **I. Public Comment**

The board welcomes new member Edi Patrick, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Edi worked for CPS for many years, and wanted to contribute to the community in another way.

John Abrahams was presented with a thank-you plaque for his years of service as Chair of the board. Heartfelt appreciation was expressed for his generous and knowledgeable contributions.

### **II. Review of Minutes**

January minutes approved as written.

### **III. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee**

*Members:* John Abrahams and Steve Thomas  
No current action.

#### **Community Education Subcommittee**

*Members:* Trey Dunia, De Williams, and Harmony Galford

They recently met and decided they would like to meet with a staff person from Prevention & Planning. They generally meet on the second Monday of the month at noon, and will hold their next meeting at the new Prevention & Planning facility on Aviation Blvd. In particular, they would like to further explore the idea that Medicare will pay for AOD screening for older adults.

### **IV. Goals and Objectives Discussion**

Discussion centered on the current subcommittees, their goals and objectives, and whether or not additional subcommittees were needed. The current subcommittees remain, with an additional

subcommittee for board member recruitment. Some overarching goals were outlined for each subcommittee.

Policy Development/Advocacy:

Continue to address land-use issues, possibly by presenting to the Planning Commission, and look into three or four additional policies to address.

Community Education:

Investigate how this group might effectively address social hosting issues. Develop an ad-hoc subcommittee to address the needs of the senior population, with the assistance of Marvin Mars.

Recruitment:

Develop a new board member orientation, and look into forming a connection with Leadership Santa Rosa to recruit new members.

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

Two new bills are currently being proposed to address issues related to SACPA. One would remove language about funding ending on June 30, 2006 from the original proposition. Another would allocate some of the current \$120 million for law enforcement purposes and move toward the Drug Court model. Additional bills related to how SACPA will move forward may also be proposed in the next few months. ADP has their first budget hearing on March 10<sup>th</sup>, and will be speaking primarily about SACPA. The emergency regulations regarding the SACPA allocation methodology have been made permanent. AODS expects to present the 2-year SACPA report to the Board of Supervisors on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will then share it with the Advisory Board.

## **VI. Prevention Division**

Holly White-Wolfe has joined the Prevention Division staff as an Information Specialist, and she will be attending future Advisory Board meetings and assisting with Advisory Board objectives.

Supervisor Reilly has opined that an increasing violent crime rate in juveniles may have a direct correlation with decreasing funding in youth prevention programs. Representatives from the Prevention and Planning Division are participating on a committee, created by the CAO's office, to develop data for the BOS on the possible correlation between rates of youth violence and funding levels for youth prevention programming.

They have received an additional \$26,000 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. It is possible that funding from Prop. O may be available for this project through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Their SIG grant activities kick off tomorrow night. 20 to 25 representatives from South County communities will spend the next month doing a needs assessment. John Abrahams will attend, and there may be additional opportunities in the future for Advisory Board members to be of assistance.

## **VII. AODS Division Report**

Funding is expected to remain the same as last year, so AODS is meeting with all contract providers in order to discuss what level of services can be provided with level funding. Several providers have also submitted formal requests for additional funding to be considered. Board members would like to see a presentation similar to last year, where Gino was able to explain the

potential cuts and the decision making process. Gino will provide this information at the March meeting.

The Office of Administrative Law did not approve the Counselor Certification regulations as presented, so some changes are being suggested and the effective date has been pushed back to April 1, 2005. Breining Institute has also extended their deadline, and many employees currently employed with Sonoma County AODS providers have been able to take advantage of that opportunity. Providers report that the regulations have had a positive impact overall, by increasing the interest and motivation in becoming better qualified. While certification requirements are likely to impact the standard industry wages, this has not yet become a major concern locally.

Recently passed Prop. 63 brings about \$7 million to Sonoma County for Mental Health, and may impact AODS services as well. Gino will continue to keep the Advisory Board apprised of this issue.

Additional legislation to watch is proposed AB 4, which would permanently revoke drivers' licenses after the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> violation. Eventually the Advisory Board may be asked to take a position, and may want to stimulate some community discussion around the issue.

### **VIII. Roundtable**

**DAAC:** Their Perinatal program is in danger of closing due to SonomaWORKS funding cuts. They are working on fundraising, and Michael's daughter has provided an original painting to assist in the fundraising effort. A \$100 donation receives a print of the painting, and a \$250 donation receives the print and an opportunity to win the original. Invitations to the fundraising event will be sent to the board members.

**WRS:** They currently have 8 beds empty. They recently had a very successful birth, during which the mother chose not to use medication.

**Marvin Mars:** HC2 is applying for federal funds to enhance their program for adolescents and families.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 pm