

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2004: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Abrahams, Chair
Steve Thomas
Harmony Galford
Deborah Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tammy Cotter
Marvin Mars
Michael Falk

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Maureen Donaghue
Barbara Graves
Claudia Brennan
Sarah Moore

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Jeanine Walter, SRJC Student

Advisory Board Meeting called to order: 5:11 p.m.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Welcome New Advisory Board Member

The AOD Advisory Board welcomes Harmony Galford, new Board member from the 5th district. Her three-year appointment to the Board was confirmed on February 24, 2004. Maureen Donaghue extended an invitation to Harmony to come see the Prevention and Planning Division and their various programs. They will arrange a time to do this.

III. Review of Minutes

February 18, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Community Education

No new action or meetings have taken place since the February 2004 AOD Advisory Board meeting. Board members and staff will arrange a time to meet to discuss details of potential public education/speaking efforts.

Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

The Policy Development Committee (Steve Thomas and John Abrahams) has not met since the last meeting. They will arrange a time to meet and report at the next AOD Advisory Board meeting.

V. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

The new SACPA allocation method that will go into effect on July 1, 2004 if the regulations pass, increases Sonoma County's allocation by \$43,000. There are several ideas about how to use this additional allocation.

SACPA currently has a 25-person waiting list for residential beds. The dual diagnosis program *A Step Up* is going through the ADP certification process. If they receive their certification, SACPA may contract with them for one or two dual diagnosis clients. They have increased *Henry Ohlhoff House* by 4 beds until June 30th. The additional allocation amount may be used to retain these beds after July 1, 2004.

A current problem for both SACPA and TASC is the acute overcrowding in the jail. This has led to a shortage of beds throughout system. In addition, sanctions are reduced for some clients who would benefit from them because there is no room in jail. The jail oversight committee is meeting to discuss the problem, because it is estimated that it would take 7 to 10 years and \$200,000,000 to build a new jail, so other options need to be explored to address the immediate situation.

The 04/05 SACPA Plan goes to the Board of Supervisors on April 27th. It is due in Sacramento on May 1st. As a result of the need to thoroughly understand and accurately present the data coming from SACPA, the 02/03 SACPA Annual Report will be delayed until after that the 04/05 Plan is presented to the Board.

Some counties are finding that dedicated bed capacity may be a problem with ADP SACPA auditors. Some counties are getting audit exceptions as much as \$300,000 for what is termed "idle capacity" (days during which the beds were paid for but not occupied). It is not expected to be a problem for Sonoma County because our utilization is so high. Supportive statements from providers might be requested if auditors question the need for dedicated capacity.

There are advantages to both dedicated and utilization bed day rates. Dedicated beds allow the County to increase and maintain capacity throughout the system. Providers who contract for dedicated beds have the financial stability to accurately plan staffing patterns and track costs. However, utilization means that providers can shop for the best bed-day rates, and that the County does not have to pay for bed days not utilized.

Sonoma County will continue with mostly dedicated beds, but try to have at least one utilization bed per contract so that if one bed is empty, the funding can be preserved.

Cheryle Stanley of *Women's Recovery Services* and Michael Spielman of *Drug Abuse Alternatives Center* stated on behalf of dedicated bed capacity that providers do not control the referrals but are expected to have beds available when needed, so they shouldn't be penalized for

periods of lower referrals. They also supported the argument that there is a cost of doing business when operating a residential facility that continues when the beds are not occupied. It is not reasonable to require full occupancy (100%) over an entire year. Providers also concluded that expansion of services (building capacity) would not be feasible from their perspective without dedicated beds in the contract and knowing there would be payment regardless of occupancy. It was agreed that adjustments could be made the following year but audit findings and payback for unused dedicated capacity after the fact would penalize unfairly and curtail expansion efforts. Providers acknowledged that without dedicated beds the agency would market the beds to others and not hold any beds for the county contract. This would be problematic when referrals were available and not the beds. The providers supported dedicated capacity contracts.

VI. Prevention Division

The Prevention Division is trying to put some resources into an educational workshop to educate city officials and planners on land use and permits issues, especially in Rohnert Park and Cotati. This may eventually be a joint effort between the AOD Board and Prevention and Planning. Board members expressed interest in participating, in particular the Policy Development/Advocacy subcommittee.

Despite continuing public opposition, the Petaluma City Council approved the mental health transitional housing *Buckelew* project.

Prevention and Planning has nominated Steve Thomas for a Public Health Champion Award for his many contributions to the community. The awards ceremony will take place on April 7th at Public Health on 5th Street. Congratulations were given to Steve for his recent retirement from the Santa Rosa Police Departments.

VII. AODS Division Report

At the February AOD Board meeting, Gino Giannavola presented a list of potential cuts that AODS might be subject to if they were not able to meet baseline costs. AODS has managed to meet baseline without these cuts. The savings found are all one-time fixes, so next year may find AODS in a similar position of having to make cuts to make baseline.

The Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:00 p.m. on March 23rd is the Board Policy Workshop. The CAO will explain the budget situation. The Board will be giving direction to the CAO regarding priorities and planning. Some of the issues to be discussed will be State-mandated programs for which the funding is questionable. This meeting is open to the public.

VIII. Roundtable

DAAC: Arrowood is full with 99 people, and they will soon have 30 people in re-entry. Neighborhood relations seem to be fine. They recently got 24 cubic yards of mulch and planted some roses, so the grounds are looking very nice.

ATP will be moving to Sonoma High School, which will probably improve utilization. They will start the process to get Medi-Cal certified.

They hope to open the Clean and Sober School in Petaluma (really in RP) in September or October.

Michael responded to a question from the Board about the availability of community beds at DAAC. There is currently one bed available, but no one has come forward to use it. Two of the three funding sources for community beds are going away next year.

United Way will no longer be funding DAAC as part of their new focus on after school programs, parenting, and seniors. They seem to be moving away from crisis funding and towards more preventative programs.

Women's Recovery Services: They are doing well with the clients they have, but are maintaining at eight empty beds.

Orenda Center: They are excited to finally have a new sign out front that lists both the correct address and name of the facility.

The First Five Grant was awarded to AODS, and it's going well. It is small and focused enough to get right to the point.

Board Members: Harmony expressed that she was glad to be an official Board member. She has been coming to the meetings and been impressed with the commitment of the Board on these issues.

De Williams is moving soon and will try to get re-appointed to the Board by her new district Supervisor.

Meeting adjourned: 6:13 p.m.