

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Falk
Harmony Galford

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Ellen Bauer
Sarah Moore
Maureen Donaghue

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Michael Spielman, Drug Abuse Alternatives Center
Jenna McAdam, Athena House
Karen Bernard, CSN – A Step Up
Dale Byrne, CSN

I. Public Comment

No public comments.

II. Review of Minutes

February minutes approved as written.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

The subcommittee met with Barbara and Gino to discuss potential issues to pursue. Ideas discussed included:

- A recent downtrend in awareness about AOD issues
- Supporting the passage of Chesbro's parity bill, which aims to increase access to treatment through medical insurance
- Fund-raising opportunities for both AOD and Prevention programs.

Community Education Subcommittee

They have not met since the last Advisory Board meeting, but did note that an article in the Press Democrat caught their attention. The article spoke to attempts to cut down on the production of methamphetamine by limiting the sale of pseudoephedrine. Steve Thomas will investigate whether or not this is a problem locally.

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

The SACPA Plan for 05/06 is due to the Board of Supervisors on May 1, 2005, but the allocation has not yet been released. The delay is due in part to some conflict regarding the redistribution of funds guidelines in the allocation methodology.

Each year of the Sonoma County plan has seen a decreasing carryover amount from the previous year. It is likely that the lack of carryover dollars will translate into a decrease in services, even if funding for Prop. 36 does not sunset in 2006 as originally intended. There are currently at least 3 bills being proposed regarding how Prop. 36 might be continued beyond the sunset date.

The SACPA status report, covering the first two years of the program, is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors on April 5. Highlights in the report include information regarding reduced recidivism and jail bed use since the inception of SACPA.

V. Prevention Division

The Prevention Division is hoping to use the recently received \$26,000 grant to offer planning grants to agencies that are interested in helping to expand and sustain the 16-week parent education class that is part of Safe and Drug Free Schools project. Prevention is creating a presentation on the program, and will present it to the Advisory Board when it becomes available.

John Abrahams has been representing the Advisory Board on the SIG grant's Community Partnership committee. Smaller workgroups have been developed to look at issues specific to each community. April 7th is the next scheduled meeting of the Community Partnership.

On April 5th, John Abrahams will be presented with a Public Health Champion Award. The reception will be held at 5th street at 10:00 am, and Advisory Board members are welcome to attend.

The Youth Activist Convergence is taking place on April 23rd at Chops, with 17 non-profit agencies expected to attend. Speakers include a Real World alumnus and a Columbine survivor. Holly White-Wolfe will email additional information to Advisory Board members.

VI. AODS Division Report

AODS expects to meet their budget baseline, with two staff reductions. The positions are currently vacant.

Contract providers were surveyed to determine if they could continue to provide the same level of service for the same rates in the next contract year, and most stated that they would need to reduce services if funding remained level. A 4% rate increase has been procured for contract providers, to come from County general funds. Two providers have requested an additional increase through the add-back list and appeals budget process. No new services are being added to the AODS system of care in 05/06.

The AODS SonomaWORKS program was originally facing a \$20,000 cut for next year. After receiving an increased SonomaWORKS allocation, Mental Health agreed to shift \$20,000 to the AODS SonomaWORKS program in order to offset the expected cuts.

Advisory Board members are interested in knowing more about Proposition 63, the Mental Health Initiative, which may impact the AODS system of care. Gino Giannavola will distribute the information as soon as it becomes available.

VII. Roundtable

Trey Dunia: The DUI bill has been sent to committee, so it should soon be more apparent who supports this bill and who opposes. He is interested to see how this particular issue evolves.

DAAC: Susan Schwartz wrote a Sunday column about the Perinatal program, and Connie Coddling wrote a letter in support of the program. Connie Coddling is also going to match all funds raised, up to \$25,000. Fundraising is going very well, and they expect to be able to keep the program open.

CSN: They are working on putting together a lecture series focused on AOD and Mental Health issues.

WRS: Their most recent new mother has decided to give her new baby up for adoption, which is bittersweet for all involved.

John Abrahams: There are currently 3 medical marijuana clubs operating in Santa Rosa, and their neighbors are very unhappy with the traffic created by these clubs.

Athena House: They are possibly looking at having to close their 3rd house. They have noticed that SASCA referrals appear to be sent primarily to Center Point, who manages the SASCA case management contract. WRS, CSN, and DAAC have all noticed this trend. These providers will discuss independently in more detail. The Advisory Board would like to hear more about this problem at the next meeting, and possibly write a letter to the SASCA program administrator at CDC. This will be an action item on the next agenda.

Marvin Mars: HC2 is applying for federal funds to enhance their program for adolescents and families. A particular population that concerns them is teenage mothers who do not return to school. They would like to find ways to meet the needs of this group.

In addition, Marvin would like to see a program in Sonoma County that is similar to the Golden Gate for Seniors program in San Francisco. He distributed a programmatic and fiscal overview of the program, and proposed to invite a previous program director to present at the next Advisory Board meeting. Prevention and AODS staff will work together to determine if there are any statistics about an elderly population with AOD issues in Sonoma County, and the Advisory Board extended an invitation to a Golden Gate for Seniors program director to attend the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 pm