

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2006: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Trey Dunia
Marvin Mars
John Abrahams
Edi Patrick
De Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Maureen Donaghue
Jackie Pratt
Holly White-Wolfe

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Jenna McAdam, Athena House
Annie McGowen, potential board member
Michael Spielman, DAAC
Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Dana Alvarez, CHDC Outpatient
Ruth Lincoln, DHS Administration

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Action Items

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy

Members: John Abrahams

No current action.

Community Education

Members: Trey Dunia, De Williams, and Marvin Mars

The workshop on “Alcohol and Other Drugs Their Use and Misuse Among Older Adults in Sonoma County” went very well. It featured Patrick Aboe, Ed.D, from the American Society on Aging. They had a full house, perhaps because CEUs were offered, and the presenter was knowledgeable. The subcommittee would like to have another workshop that focuses more on providing services to seniors struggling with alcohol-related problems. This workshop provided a good overview of the problem, but there wasn’t adequate time to assess our community resources or to come up with strategies for addressing the issue. Ideally, the next workshop would be able to accommodate more attendees. One idea is to get Patrick Aboe to return for a second workshop.

Another potential idea, as a logical next step to keeping the first workshop participants engaged, is to conduct a focus group. The focus group could identify services, determine service gaps, and develop recommendations for a 2nd workshop.

The education committee plans to meet again soon to further discuss next steps. Prevention & Planning staff will help the committee connect with trainers and reserve meeting locations.

IV. SAPT Planning Presentation

Holly White-Wolfe, from Prevention & Planning, gave a presentation regarding the planning process for the SAPT funds. She has previously given the same presentation to the Prevention Partnership.

Prevention & Planning has traditionally focused a majority of effort on strengthening individual skills and knowledge. They are expanding their focus to look at a range of prevention strategies that address both community and individual level problems.

Prevention & Planning is using the newly mandated Strategic Planning Framework to guide their strategy selection process. This framework involves a five-step process to 1) assess the scope of AOD related problems, 2) mobilize stakeholders, 3) prioritize problems and select strategies, 4) implement a prevention plan, and 5) evaluate results.

Prevention & Planning has begun the assessment phase and is relying on the expertise of Diane Reed and Michael Sparks to guide the assessment process. They are currently assessing system gaps, needs, and strengths, and gathering primary data. They anticipate finishing the data collection in June or so, and will then look at setting priorities. The planning committee is meeting quarterly on Thursdays, and board members are welcome to participate.

One piece of data that they looked at was arrest records for Sonoma County. For the time period they examined, 45% of arrests were alcohol or drug related, and 58% of those were alcohol related specifically.

Discussion began regarding a Frontline program and recent studies that looked at various factors in methamphetamine availability. The studies indicated a direct correlation between the rising purity of methamphetamine and the rising number of people in treatment. Methamphetamine is the only drug that appears to have this statistical relationship.

Board members were interested in whether or not there have been studies about effective treatment for methamphetamine addiction, as opposed to addiction to other substances. UCLA statistics were cited, indicating that while methamphetamine users should be in treatment for a longer period of time, traditional treatment methods work just as well for methamphetamine users as for users of other substances. There is no best practices or science on methamphetamine-specific treatment, but SAMHSA is evaluating the Matrix program in certain areas of the country and state. As methamphetamine grows in popularity in the middle of the country and in the east, there are some myths and a learning curve about methamphetamine. There are some who believe that methamphetamine addiction is untreatable. Research and years of experience treating methamphetamine users on the west coast has proven this to be untrue.

Legislation regarding methamphetamine was recently enacted when it was enacted as part of the Patriot Act. The intention is to secure future funding for prevention and law enforcement activities related to methamphetamine. The legislation also makes it a federal law that ephedrine products like Sudafed must be sold from behind the counter.

V. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

Today was the public meeting of the Steering Committee, although no one from the public attended. The committee discussed their success at keeping the referrals in the target range of 40 to 45 per month. This has been the result of new policies and procedures put in place as a result of the necessary program reductions.

The SACPA Plan is due to the state on May 1, 2006. The earlier it is submitted, the more likely the funds will get released to the county soon after the state budget passes.

Sonoma County has received its preliminary allocation, which is based 50% on population, 40% on caseload, and 10% on arrests. This amounts to a minimal loss of \$855 for 06/07.

Approval for residential SACPA providers to collect client fees in FY 05/06 has been granted.

SACPA Probation is having a difficult time with reductions, because about 1/3 of their cases are felonies, which require higher supervision.

SACPA funding went to the Budget Policy Workshop, where the Board approved the use of the governor's budget SACPA dollars and the use of the bridge funding. They have requested a cost benefit analysis between SACPA and jail before determining whether or not to restore SACPA funding. The first meeting is tomorrow. Providers will be notified as soon as possible if the decision impacts their contracts for next year.

The Senate Budget Committee heard the ADP budget, including SACPA, yesterday. ADP requested additional funds, since there is evidence that the original \$120 million will not be sufficient to meet the need. It seems likely that the request for \$120 million will get out of committee.

On April 1, UCLA will provide the legislature with a 5-year cost benefit analysis of the SACPA program. It is anticipated that the results of this analysis will have a significant impact on decisions made by the governor and the legislature.

VI. Support for SB 1288

CADPAAC put together a white paper on the lack of treatment services for ATP in California. Senator Gil Cedillo authored SB 1288 in response. SB 1288 addresses some of the problems with youth drug treatment in Minor Consent DMC. AODS would like the Advisory Board to support this legislation. While there is little hope that the bill will pass this year, the intention is to keep discussion going. A continuing discussion increases the chance that it may pass in the future.

The Board made a motion to support SB 1288. The motion was approved.

VI. Prevention Division

No report beyond the SAPT planning process presentation.

VII. AODS Division Report

AODS is beginning a Dependency Drug Court pilot program. About \$25,000 has been diverted for this use. The original intention was to do only DMC services, but it appears that most of those who would be served by this court would not be eligible. The court will occur 1 day a week until June 30th. The first date in court will be April 17th. The pilot should serve about 20 women.

Men can be served as well if they qualify, but experience has been that the eligible population is mostly women.

Participation is voluntary, and comes with sanctions. The Dependency Drug Court team includes an AOD specialist, a CPS worker, and dependency court staff. Clients will be tracked much the same way they are in Drug Court.

The division has put in a Dependency Drug Court Program Improvement request for FY 06/07. The hope is that having a small program already in place will make Sonoma County more attractive for grant funding to expand and continue the program.

The emphasis of the Program Improvement request was that money is needed to serve clients who are not from either the criminal justice system or on Drug Medi-Cal.

VIII. Interim Expense & Reimbursement Policy

As was reported at the last Advisory Board meeting, AB 1234 is legislation that mandates that advisory bodies be entitled to have their expenses paid, and be required to attend ethics training. The state is expected to develop the curriculum by December 31st. Members who travel or attend events as a representative of the Advisory Board are entitled to mileage and expenses. The travel or attendance is to be approved by the Advisory Board prior to attending or making a claim.

The Advisory Board by-laws already provide for this reimbursement. Standardized reimbursement request forms are being developed and will be made available. A temporary form is available upon request until then.

IX. Recruitment

A recruitment flyer, which was developed some time ago by the Advisory Board, was distributed for review. It may need to be updated. Contact information of some type should be added. The flyer will be finalized at the April meeting of the Board, and should be posted on the website.

Advisory Board members would like to have cards made up. Jackie will order general business cards, which Board members can fill in as desired.

There was some discussion regarding whether or not it is appropriate to recruit for the Board from faith-based organizations. It was determined that generally, the organizations a person belongs to do not preclude them from becoming a member of the Board. If a person is interested and feels they could benefit both the Board and the community, they should submit an application.

The application review process, depending on its origin, involves a review by the division directors from AODS and Prevention & Planning. The applications are then sent to the appropriate Board of Supervisors representative. The representative asks for a recommendation, and may interview the candidate personally.

The Board made a motion to submit a letter to Valerie Brown regarding the status of Annie McGowen's application for Board membership. The motion was approved. They will send the letter.

X. Roundtable

There was some discussion regarding the food offered at the Advisory Board meetings. The menu has been the same for some time, and some members have expressed an interest in making a change. An alternate menu was distributed. The Board will consider the idea and make a determination at the next meeting.

DAAC

DAAC, Department of Health Services and the California Endowment will sponsor an all day conference on September 12th at the Mary Furth Center in Windsor. Experts from UCLA will give a presentation on methamphetamine. Advisory Board members are invited to volunteer their assistance on that day, or to attend the conference. Flyers were distributed.

On the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM, Turning Point will be providing a community tour of their facility. It is called the "Turning Lives Around Tour." Flyers were distributed.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 pm