

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2004: 5 - 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Abrahams, Chair  
Steve Thomas  
Harmony Galford  
Deborah Williams  
Tammy Cotter  
Marvin Mars

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bill Redder  
Michael Falk

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Gino Giannavola  
Barbara Graves  
Claudia Brennan  
Sarah Moore

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Susan Hertel, DAAC  
Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services  
David Moye, SRJC Student  
Jenna McAdam, Athena House  
Mary Dee Bowers, Action Network Gualala  
Dale Byrne, Community Support Network

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

### **I. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

March 17, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **III. Subcommittee Reports**

#### Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

Policy Development/Advocacy met and discussed the conference on Land Use Approaches to the Prevention of Community Alcohol Problems, hopefully to take place in September or October of 2004.

This conference is primarily intended to bring people together to talk about land use issues and facilitate conversations within the communities regarding how to use the resources and information available. In addition, the subcommittee and the Board would like to be able to stay involved in any efforts to address these issues that may be started at the conference. Prevention and Planning is currently researching the possibility of funding the conference and additional land use educational efforts through grants.

The subcommittee is hoping to seek out sponsors for the conference, specifically among local trauma centers or hospitals. This type of sponsorship would tie in the issues related to trauma care and alcohol problems.

The Board agreed to extend their official support of this conference. Interested Board members not already participating in the subcommittee are welcome to participate.

#### Community Education

No new action or meetings have taken place since the March 2004 AOD Advisory Board meeting. There is a tentative meeting scheduled for April 29, 2004.

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

The 04/05 SACPA Plan goes to the Board of Supervisors next Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Gino will distribute copies of the Plan to the Advisory Board Members when it is complete.

Most of the 04/05 Plan is the same as last year. Changes from 03/04 to 04/05 include the loss of some outpatient slots but added some residential beds. One of the new beds will be for dual diagnosis clients.

All counties are now required to have multi-year plans. Sonoma County's multi-year plan intends to zero out the entire allocation as of June 30, 2006. A 40-day phase-out care period after that would be funded by about \$200,000 SACPA hopes to carry over from client fees and MAA (Medi-Cal Administrative Activities) dollars.

Of note is the fact that caseloads appear to be decreasing by about 3% per year. This reduction trend is expected to level off at some point in the near future.

The 04/05 Plan also addresses some potential changes in SACPA case management structure, and allows for amendments in case those changes are realized. Due to the number of homicide trials Sonoma County is going to be engaged in for the next few months, the courts may have to reconfigure the way they do business to accommodate them. One possibility is that Sonoma County would no longer have a dedicated Court for Drug Court and 1210 Court. Drug Court would only be one day a week, and 1210 would be disbursed between all the courts. This would be a staffing problem, as the current SACPA staff would not be able to cover all 8 courts. Case management would have to be significantly restructured.

Even though AODS is trying to plan for this possible outcome it is believed that the caseload increase on each judge would be too great if this were to take place. An alternative approach might be to move the 1210 Court to a different courtroom with a different judge. This would impact SACPA's timeliness with information, because the current courtroom is wired with computers that allow everyone to stay current.

The only sure thing is that Drug Court and 1210 Court will be impacted in some way. There is some worry that as a result of how the courtroom shortage is addressed, SACPA case management effectiveness will decrease significantly. This would translate into a reduction of

caseloads, which would also result in a reduction of Sonoma County's SACPA allocation in subsequent years.

The increase in pending homicide trials has raised the basic question of whether or not this is an aberration or if Sonoma County has made a shift to a more urban crime pattern. There is currently not enough information to determine which is the case. Because defense counsel for the indigent is paid for directly by the County and this many cases will be a significant drain on County funds, the question will be investigated further.

The Board discussed the different populations of TASC, SACPA and Drug Court. Drug Court clients often have other charges involved that make them ineligible for SACPA or TASC. Current State funding requires Drug Court clients to have felony charges. Clients with misdemeanors are eligible for SACPA. The specific emphasis for the TASC program is to remove the clients from jail and move them into treatment. TASC has more residential services available than Drug Court does.

## **V. Prevention Division**

The release of the SIG Grant has been delayed until May. Prevention and Planning are disappointed, but hope to submit a proposal when it is released.

Steve Thomas was awarded the Public Health Champion Award for his many contributions to the community on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The division is concerned about their juvenile health contracts with various local providers. These contracts are funded primarily by County money, and are high on cut list.

A poster was presented that will be posted at the Sonoma State campus. It is the first of a series that will try to address the social norm attitudes about drinking.

Barbara Graves introduced Mary Dee Bowers. She is working with the Health Department in Mendocino County on a coalition to try to address some of the issues around AOD in that county. Her background is not in AOD, and she would like to know more about it. Jenna McAdam offered a tour of the Athena House program. Tammy Cotter agreed to send her a reading list. Mary also expressed interest in becoming involved with planning the Land Use Approaches to the Prevention of Community Alcohol Problems conference.

## **VI. AODS Division Report**

Orenda Detox 4-6 hour holds and the 4 treatment beds that were cut will be reinstated in the next month or so. The hiring freeze has been lifted for this; as soon as there is adequate staffing they will re-open them. For next year, the County is requesting the cities to fund a portion of a position, dependent on how much they use our 4-6 hour hold service. The fee will probably be about \$50, which is considerably less than a booking fee and saves time for the officers. It is not a large fee, but it is necessary to keep the services going.

At the Board of Supervisors' policy workshop, the Board instructed the CAO to work with the jail oversight committee to review options to try to reduce the jail over-population. The committee is helping to create a prioritized list of programs and options that would keep people out of jail or reduce time spent in jail. This might include an increase of beds in the community, among other possible solutions.

One hundred million dollars has been allocated by feds for the Access to Recovery voucher system. If they want to participate, the State has to bid for a portion of this money. California's proposal will earmark the "25 city" cities in California (San Francisco, San Diego, LA, and Sacramento) and treat it like a pilot project. CADPAAC had recommended that the proposal include a stipulation that the money go through the counties, but the feds have indicated that it would not be a competitive bid and California probably wouldn't get any of the money if that were proposed. Counties are hoping that the "pilot project" expands to all communities eventually.

The AOD Administrator is required to sign off on the NTP License renewal for the **REAP** Program and **SRTP** and wanted feedback from the Board. The Board recommended the renewal.

## **VII. Roundtable**

**Womens Recovery Services:** They are getting painting and landscaping done on their facility for free. It is looking very nice. They currently have 8 empty beds.

**De Williams:** De is now a first district representative.

**DAAC:** The **Arrowood** facility is full, as is their outpatient program. **REAP** has their highest numbers ever.

**Harmony Galford:** Harmony announced an AA Young People's Committee in Santa Rosa. Meetings are on Sundays at 6:00 at corner of Stony Point and Giffen. The meetings started with 20-30 people and they continue to grow. They feel they are meeting a need in the community. "Young" in AA means anyone with room to grow, so these are open meetings. Harmony can be reached at 695-0849 if you would like additional information.

**Marvin Mars:** Petaluma is working on youth outreach. He would like to see some kind of program specifically for seniors. Gino responded that Sonoma County had to shut the senior program down because of lack of funding, and there are no discretionary funds to start it up again. Marvin and Gino will discuss this further.

**Tammy Cotter:** HC Squared in Petaluma had a meeting this morning and discussed a Prevention and Planning presentation to take to schools. Apparently the middle schools are seeing mushrooming incidences involving AOD issues. Tammy offered to present it to the Board at the next meeting for their feedback. The Board agreed.

**Athena House:** They are full and very busy.

***Community Support Network:*** The ***FACT*** program is ending because the grant money is ending. This closure will affect about 120 clients. ***A Step Up*** is getting referrals from SACPA and is in the process of becoming certified by ADP. They have their site visit next Tuesday. They are getting many more referrals than they can accommodate.

***Meeting adjourned: 7:04 p.m.***