

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Edi Patrick  
John Abrahams  
Deborah Williams  
Marvin Mars

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Falk  
Harmony Galford  
Steve Thomas, Chair  
Trey Dunia

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Barbara Graves  
Ellen Bauer  
Sarah Moore  
Maureen Donaghue

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services  
Monica Haimowitz, DAAC  
Jenna McAdam, Athena House  
Dan Froli, Golden Gate Seniors

### **I. Public Comment**

No public comments.

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

No quorum: review of March minutes held until May meeting.

### **III. Golden Gate for Seniors**

Dan Froli of Golden Gate for Seniors spoke about the program. It was founded in 1978, as a result of a senior population that only had access to detoxification services, but not a real AOD system of care. After detoxing, these clients would return to situations without a support network. Most AOD programs preferred not to treat clients 50 years old or older, primarily because it was recognized that their needs were different and the recovery rate was lower overall.

The Golden Gate program is an average of 6 months long, and fees are charged. The average client is in their late 60's, and alcohol is the primary drug of choice for about 80%. Most clients are homeless, making one of the biggest problems determining where to send clients who have completed treatment, so that they do not return to the same unsupportive environment from which they arrived. The program has developed contacts in senior housing throughout the area, but continues to be challenged by this problem.

Some of the differences in dealing with a senior population as opposed to a mixed population include a later onset of the problem than the average, and a different attitude about addiction and treatment from a senior population than might be encountered in a mixed population.

While alcohol is the primary drug of choice in this population, other substances have been becoming more prevalent over the years, as new generations enter their senior years. Many

seniors may need more handholding with regard to prescription drug use in recovery, although local providers are noticing this need in their mixed population programs as well.

Don agreed that age-specific groups would probably be a good idea for addressing the needs of this population. There is concern among Sonoma County providers about how seniors might be encouraged to seek treatment for addiction problems, and Don stated that an intervention of some type is the most likely way to communicate this concern to a senior who many need treatment. One possibility mentioned was to offer education to staff at the Senior Center, and to reach out to families through local media about this problem.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

##### Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

They have not met since the March meeting of the Advisory Board.

##### Community Education Subcommittee

They have not met since the last Advisory Board meeting, but have a meeting scheduled for Friday, 4/29 at 1:00 pm.

They may be interested in performing a needs assessment, or a senior focus workshop, as a way to determine if a program along the lines of Golden Gate may be needed in Sonoma County.

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

There are currently 3 Senate bills and 1 Assembly bill in the works regarding how Prop 36 might be continued after the funding sunset date of June 30, 2006. The SACPA Steering Committee discussed the various bills, as well as the SACPA plan for FY 05/06. The plan will be a consent item before the Board of Supervisors on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The three-year SACPA status report will go to the Board on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Also discussed at the Steering Committee meeting was the possibility for client fees to be collected by providers instead of case management. Providers have expressed an interest in this, and it may become an option for FY 05/06.

#### **VI. SASCA Program**

Board members heard concerns from several Sonoma County AOD providers regarding their contracts with the SASCA program, which is funded through the Department of Corrections OSAP office and case managed through Center Point, Inc. Center Point is a treatment provider as well as a referring agency for the SASCA program and Sonoma County providers have questions regarding the lower referral rates to other providers since Center Point was awarded the case management contract. Michael Spielman of DAAC, Jenna McAdam of Athena House, and Cheryle Stanley of WRS have written a letter to OSAP, requesting a meeting to discuss the situation.

The Advisory Board expressed support of Sonoma County providers in their request for additional information about this situation. AODS staff will follow up with Steve Thomas regarding a letter of support on behalf of the Board.

## **VII. Prevention Division**

Congratulations were extended to John Abrahams, who was awarded the Public Health Champion Award on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Recent statistical data indicates that, since the passage of Prop 10 (California Children And Families Commission Initiative) in 1998, smoking rates have dropped 32% in males and 25% in females. These results serve to help strengthen the commitment to policy work and public education. Many local providers have been very supportive of this campaign, and have contributed to the lower rates of smokers.

Prevention is currently looking at ways to strengthen the relationship between Prevention and AOD treatment services, particularly with regard to HIV screening and education, which will now be offered at the incarceration physical screening. This is another way to access a population that continues to be high-risk for HIV infection.

The Youth Activist Convention is occurring on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Chops in Santa Rosa. Four Sonoma County mayors are expected to attend, among many other stakeholders.

The SIG Grant plan is due to the State on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Workgroups in three south-county communities are collaborating on the necessary data. The next step will be to work on developing and firming up priorities and strategies.

## **VIII. AODS Division Report**

The DUI program fee increase was approved at yesterday's Board of Supervisor's meeting. However, even with the new increase, our program costs are well below the California State average.

The Counselor Certification Regulations were approved, and were effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. AODS is excited to see the professional bar for staffing being raised, and becoming more standardized across the State. The regulations also provide the opportunity to dialogue with union organizations, and these dialogues will begin soon.

Sonoma County Mental Health has submitted their Prop 63 plan, and expects to hear this week if it has been approved. An orientation is going to be held in mid-May, and interested parties are encouraged to attend, or call 565-4850 if interested in participating in the implementation process.

Mental Health is also applying for a \$400,000 SAMHSA grant, which would help increase the coordination between substance abuse issues to mental health issues.

AB4, the DUI bill which would permanently revoke the drivers licenses of multiple DUI offenders, passed through the Assembly Public Safety Committee by 4 to 3. The Advisory Board will continue to watch the progress of this bill, and would like to have it as an action item on the June agenda, in the event that the Advisory Board decides to state a position on the bill.

## **IX. Roundtable**

**DAAC:** The Perinatal Program fundraiser is complete, and with Connie Coddling's generous offer to match the \$25,000 they have raised, they will be able to keep the program open through the end of the year.

**WRS:** They currently have 7 infants onsite and 2 more are expected in the next couple of weeks. It is a joyful but hectic atmosphere there.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:05 pm