

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2004: 5 – 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Abrahams, Chair  
Steve Thomas  
Harmony Galford  
Tammy Cotter  
Bill Redder

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Deborah Williams  
Michael Falk  
Marvin Mars

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Gino Giannavola  
Barbara Graves  
Maureen Donaghue  
Sarah Moore

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services  
Dale Byrne, Community Support Network  
Trey Dunia, CAB  
Mary Dee Bowers, Action Network Gualala  
Sandra Scotchler, Choices for Change

*Advisory Board Meeting called to order: 5:17 p.m.*

### **I. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

April 21, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

### **III. HC Squared Presentation**

Tammy Cotter presented the HC Squared presentation on Clean and Sober Schools to the Board for their feedback. The eventual audience will be many different organizations, such as school boards and treatment providers.

The Clean and Sober Schools project is a collaborative effort between several organizations, including DAAC. The presentation discussed the origin of the Clean and Sober Schools in South County. Tammy discussed that awareness of AOD problems is increasing in South County, and referrals related to substance abuse (primarily alcohol) have mushroomed. Criteria for assessing the students' need for Clean and Sober School are not stringent. Any use at all is considered abuse for teens, so they don't necessarily have to be addicted to qualify.

They used the Healthy Kids Survey results from 00/01 to determine the need for Clean and Sober Schools. The study did not ask questions about club drugs or methamphetamine.

The permanent school site is off of Industrial Drive in Petaluma. Groundbreaking was in October 2003. The opening is scheduled for Sept 2004. Capacity for the school is 46 students in two classrooms. To start, probably only one classroom will be the Clean and Sober School.

The Board had several suggestions for the presentation. They suggested that "substance abuse" terminology be changed to "alcohol and other drug abuse" in order to make it clear that alcohol is considered a drug. In addition, a slide could perhaps be included that bulleted the negative impacts of alcohol on teens, to help counteract the prevalent attitudes about "social drinking" and teens.

They also suggested that methamphetamine information be included somehow. DAAC agreed to provide some demographics on the prevalence of methamphetamine use in teens, because that information is not available through the Healthy Kids Survey.

The suggestion was also made that terminology (such as "inhalants", "binge drinking" or "court school") be very clearly defined in the presentation.

The Board expressed their appreciation and support for the work being done by HC Squared and Clean and Sober Schools.

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

##### Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee

The conference on Land Use Approaches to the Prevention of Community Alcohol Problems will take place in November 2004. More information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available.

The city ordinance regarding drinking on private property with public access (parking lots, etc.) is probably going to pass. Steve Thomas will send more detailed information on the ordinance to the Board members.

##### Community Education

The committee has decided that they would like to focus on public awareness issues such as treatment capacity, perinatal issues, etc. instead of traditional "educational" issues such as the effects of drugs on the body. They would like to pair people in recovery with educators to help humanize the issues when speaking to the public. Harmony volunteered to be a representative for people in recovery.

They also indicated an interest in assisting with the annual Faces of Recovery event.

Steve Thomas suggested that the board members might like fact sheets for instances when they are asked about treatment and recovery. The information might include basic statistics, treatment availability, or differences of attitudes or awareness from community to community. The subcommittee will come up with 3 or 4 priority topics and Maureen and Sarah will create the fact sheets.

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

The 04/05 SACPA Plan was distributed. It has been approved by the BOS and submitted to the State.

It doesn't appear that 1210 Court will be distributed between various courts. For a week it was held in Dept. 6 with Commissioner Beaman while Judge Hardcastle presided over a trial, but it has since returned to Judge Hardcastle.

## **VI. Prevention Division**

The release of the SIG Grant has been delayed again until June at the very earliest.

The division is facing a 35% reduction in juvenile diversion contracts for next year. There may eventually be additional cuts, but these are not currently known.

## **VII. AODS Division Report**

The May revise of the Governor's Budget does not have any direct impact specifically on AOD services. There is a reduction in the Drug Medi-Cal rate, however, which will impact some reimbursement for some services, specifically narcotic treatment programs. The EPSDT (Episodic and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment) County Match is going from 10% to 20%. This does not impact our county, but in many other counties this money is often used for AOD programs through the Mental Health system. The CalWORKS County allocations have been cut by \$140 million statewide. Sonoma County is not yet sure what the local impact will be. In addition, there are some general fund cuts that may affect the division at a later date.

A schoolteacher in Marin County has contacted AODS and requested the opportunity to speak to the Advisory Board about a campaign to "Stop Narconon". She has presented to the Marin Advisory Board. Narconon is a treatment program tied into the church of scientology. It is not licensed by ADP and does not have verified outcomes. The Board indicated that there is a public comment arena on the agenda and she is welcome to speak briefly during this time.

## **VIII. Roundtable**

**Womens Recovery Services:** They currently have 8 empty beds. An ex-employee of WRS, Patricia Coburn, died this week of lung cancer. Cheryle spoke about the great impact Patricia had promoting sobriety in young women.

**DAAC:** Their use permit for Arrowood is up for review after one year. Michael may ask someone from the Advisory Board to come support the renewal.

They are working on a HUD grant in conjunction with Catholic Charities that will provide 3 beds for homeless non-criminal justice clients.

DAAC is dedicating a library at Turning Point in honor of former board member Gayle Remick, who passed away in 1993.

DAAC is excited about Medi-Cal services becoming available at Cloverdale high school.

**Harmony Galford:** Harmony visited Casa Grande high school through A.A. They spoke to two classes of freshmen, who were very receptive. The Young People's meeting has had 6 meetings so far and it is growing. They may be starting another meeting during the week for those who

can't attend on Sundays. They are organizing a pancake breakfast and Harmony will let the Board know when it is going to take place. Harmony can be reached at 695-0849 if you would like additional information on the Young People's meeting. Michael Spielman will distribute information on these meetings to the Clean and Sober School and the Drug Court Office.

***Citizen Concern:*** A citizen spoke about neighborhood concerns regarding the opening of a small convenience store in the neighborhood next to Elsie Allen high school. The store has a beer and wine license. An objection hearing is scheduled at the State Building before ABC. The citizen requested advice from the Board regarding how to keep them from being permitted to sell alcohol at that site.

It is very difficult to take back a license that has already been granted. Prevention and Planning recommended that the neighbors try to put restrictions on hours of sale. They also recommended that she speak with Michael Mann, the regional director for ABC. He can inform her further regarding what the neighbors can do to make sales to minors more difficult.

***Community Support Network:*** They have been granted their ADP Certification for North House and A Step Up.

***Choices for Change:*** Sandra Scotchler introduced the Choices for Change program. They have been around for 18 years. The program is in an educational format for parents and children to go into age appropriate classes for 10 weeks to learn about communication skills, etc. They also do an 8-week program in schools. Their referrals come from CPS, transition houses, DAAC, and self-referrals. For more information, Sandra welcomes calls at 568-2300, ext. 12.

***Meeting adjourned:*** 6:57 p.m.