

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2004: 5 - 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Abrahams, Chair  
Marvin Mars  
Harmony Galford  
Tammy Cotter  
Bill Redder  
Deborah Williams  
Trey Dunia

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Steve Thomas  
Michael Falk

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Gino Giannavola  
Claudia Brennan  
Maureen Donaghue  
Sarah Moore

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Jenna McAdam, Athena House  
Janet Kukulinsky, Action Network Gualala  
Sandra Scotchler, Choices for Change  
Michael Tonjum, Choices for Change, Lifeworks

*Advisory Board Meeting called to order: 5:10 p.m.*

### **I. Public Comment**

No public comment. Introductions were made.

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

May 19, 2004 minutes were approved with corrections.

### **III. Welcome New Advisory Board Member**

Members welcomed Trey Dunia, representative from the fifth district, to the Board.

### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Policy Development/Advocacy Subcommittee**

The conference on Land Use Approaches to the Prevention of Community Alcohol Problems is scheduled for November 17, 2004, at the Doubletree in Rohnert Park. The conference will last most of the day and will include lunch. The subcommittee is focusing on inviting people who may be able to use their contacts to increase interest from others.

#### **Community Education**

This subcommittee has not met since the last Advisory Board Meeting.

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

This morning was the quarterly public meeting of the SACPA Steering Committee Meeting. The agenda included cross county jurisdiction issues and the allocation methodology, the 03/04 budget update, FY 04/05 SACPA budget, and state level talk about unspent SACPA funds being redistributed to counties who have spent out their allocations.

Further discussion included statistics showing that drug felonies, jail population, and time spent in jail have all decreased significantly since the beginning of SACPA. A random client sample from DAAC SACPA clients indicates only a 15-25% recidivism rate, as opposed to the 70-75% rate found without treatment. The impact of SACPA on these numbers was underestimated because of the wording of the law, which stated that Prop. 36 is only for first time offenders. What was not taken into account was that it refers to the first offense after July 1, 2001. Many clients who were first time offenders after the inception of SACPA had previous records of drug related arrests. The County is currently doing a recidivism study on all 300 plus clients who have completed the SACPA program from its inception to better understand the impact SACPA is having on the legal systems, especially the jail.

The 04/05 Contracts have been signed by the Board of Supervisors, except for the contract with A Step Up, which has been held up due to service accessibility issues. In the past, clients could only access this dual diagnosis program through the Mental Health Division of the Sonoma County Health Department. Due to funding cuts, A Step Up found that they had beds available. They became certified through ADP in order to contract with Alcohol and Other Drug Services Division, but some concerns have been raised about the variations of mental illness that are appropriate for their services. The Mental Health Division has a specific diagnosis that they feel is appropriate for this program, and Alcohol and Other Drug Services may have clients who are mentally ill, but who don't fit that specific definition. Until an agreement can be reached, the contract is in pending status.

John Abrahams voiced his concern about dual diagnosis services being withheld from AOD clients. There is an increasing need for these services, and he feels strongly that the Advisory Board should take action in favor of AOD access to dual diagnosis services if no resolution is forthcoming before the next Advisory Board Meeting. The action item was added to the July agenda.

## **VI. Prevention Division**

The SIG Grant was finally released, and they are working on a proposal. The due date has been extended to the end of July. Their focus is on binge drinking for the 12 - 25 age group. They are proposing partnerships with other organizations in order to maximize the impact. They feel they are going to be very competitive.

They were successful in another proposal, and were granted nearly \$1 million to focus on social marketing around HIV issues.

They are experiencing some staff shifting due to funding cuts and changes.

## **VII. AODS Division Report**

Dave Abramson, the program manager for Orenda Residential and Detox services, has resigned to accept a position as AOD Administrator for Napa County. Claudia Brennan is the interim program manager while the County conducts a recruitment for the position.

The Board of Supervisors approved 04/05 contracts on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The state budget has not yet been approved by the legislature but the Governor has stated his intent to have one in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **VIII. Roundtable**

**DAAC:** Susan Hertel, the DAAC Outpatient director, has resigned to accept a position as director of Community Action Project in Napa. DAAC is nearly full and the garden is doing well.

**John Abrahams:** The date has been set for Recovery Happens/Faces of Recovery. It will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>. United Way is not contributing to the event this year, so other funding sources are being sought. John also reminded everyone that the Board traditionally takes August off every year, so this should be kept in mind when planning agenda items.

**Athena House:** They have recently had some behavioral problems with clients, and have put everyone on restriction. The clients have been doing work around the facility in lieu of free time. Jenna reports that they have been very productive, and many of them are actually enjoying the work.

**Bill Redder:** He noted that he has not been receiving Advisory Board information by e-mail, and wanted to confirm that he is on the e-mail distribution list. Sarah will verify this.

**Harmony Galford:** Harmony gave out a sheet of information regarding the Young and Sober AA meeting time and location, for distribution to clients and other interested parties. She also provided a new contact number for herself.

**Action Network:** Janet Kukalinsky described the Action Network's Redwood Coast Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. The Action Network is a bi-county program that focuses on the coastal area of northern Sonoma County and southern Mendocino County. The new Substance Abuse Coalition had their first meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, which had about 20 people attend. They were thrilled with the response, because so many various organizations with interest in substance abuse prevention attended. The Sheriff's office from both counties sent representatives, both Pomo tribes, youth, parents, the Hispanic community, and Sonoma County Prevention staff all attended. AOD problems have been determined to be the number one problem in their community.

**Tammy Cotter:** Healthy Kids Surveys have, in the past, "couched" negative results in a positive way. A new model may be developed to focus more on the truth regarding what we are handling well versus what we could do better with. Tammy is excited at this prospect. She also reported that, as a follow up to questions about methamphetamines and youth from her presentation last month, she examined some statistics from DAAC. She found that out of 1052 of DAAC's adolescent clients, about 7% percent had methamphetamines as a primary drug of choice. The

Board recommended that the presentation include that information, since that is still a higher rate than the inhalants that are mentioned in the presentation, and kids grow up to be methamphetamine users but not inhalant users. It would be nice to track this transition better than is currently done.

**De Williams:** De requested a current list of Board Members, since there are several new members. She also attended a PSAAT meeting and enjoyed it very much. It seemed to focus on social marketing, assessment tools for OB docs, and One2One mentoring.

**Gino Giannavola:** There was an article in the SF Chronicle about Narcanon, the drug awareness classes given by The Church of Scientology in California public schools. Sarah will distribute it with the minutes of this meeting.

**Claudia Brennan:** Orenda Residential/Detox is getting a new roof and new floors at the same time this summer. It promises to be a busy, challenging time for the program.

**Choices for Change:** Sandra Scotchler described the Choices for Change program and welcomed referrals from providers. 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. Michael Spielman invited Sandra to present the program to his Outpatient program. Sandra will follow up with him about that opportunity. For more information, Sandra welcomes calls at 568-2300, ext. 12.

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