

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Edi Patrick
De Williams
Steve Thomas
Marvin Mars
John Abrahams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Falk
Harmony Galford
Trey Dunia

STAFF PRESENT

Barbara Graves
Maureen Donaghue
Sarah Moore
Gino Giannavola
Holly White-Wolfe

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Michael Spielman, DAAC
Virginia, Laura, Blanca, and Carlos; Padres Unidos
Vince Harper, CAP Padres Unidos
Helen Graves, Family Education Center

I. Public Comment

Vince Harper, director of the Community Action Partnership (CAP), and the staff of CAP's Padres Unidos program, presented an overview of the program.

CAP was formerly known as Sonoma County People for Economic Opportunity. They have always worked with youth and have always had concerns about where their clients went after they completed the programs. They wanted to extend the programs to include parents and help address Spanish-language needs. The first step in this direction occurred in 2002, when the SRPD introduced them to the Parent Project training, which also brought CAP and DAAC together and connected them with middle schools, resulting in the Padres Unidos program. Then, the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act provided another opportunity to extend the Parent Project efforts. CAP spent considerable time and effort in the planning process, to evaluate the needs, the stakeholders, and the desired outcomes. They held focus groups, and they discussed the issues with gatekeepers throughout the system. They examined recruitment and retention issues. They added program details such as providing childcare for parents who had smaller children, or providing food for parents coming to the classes directly after work. They built a continuous improvement process into the program. They feel this thorough planning process was vital to their success overall.

They continue to use the Parent Project curriculum as the core of their program, and are very excited to have the opportunity to provide these tools to a community that needs them. The program consists of 16 sessions of structured material designed to help parents deal with destructive adolescent behavior. They have combined this curriculum with family and youth activities through a family advocate staff member, who can also follow up with the families after they complete the program. They have an alumni group that provides continuing support and offers events such as BBQs. This alumni group also helps Padres Unidos foster community involvement and support, which they consider an important aspect of the program.

The program originally started with 10 sessions, but they quickly realized that the additional sessions were needed to help the parents build the support networks that would be so important after the program itself ended. The Safe and Drug Free Schools grant allowed for this extension of the program. The 10 sessions are combined with an intake process, class session evaluations, an end-of-program questionnaire, and a follow-up 3-6 months after the program ends. Consistently, parents who participate in the program find that their domestic situations get worse before they improve, but that they do improve significantly.

Preliminary outcomes show increased parental confidence and family cohesion, among other benefits. They have a very high retention rate in the program, and in their most recent session, have noticed that fathers make up nearly half of the class for the first time since the program began. They rely on word of mouth and referrals from agencies like CPS and the schools, and the word is growing. They already have a list started for the class that begins in September 2006.

Virginia, a graduate of the Padres Unidos program, spoke about her positive experience. She expressed her gratitude to the program for helping her deal positively and effectively with her oldest daughter, and she said that she recommends the program to everyone who may be experiencing similar issues with their adolescent children. She mentioned that she even recommended the program to her mother, who is still trying to communicate better with her grown sons, and stated that the program works for parent-child relationships at any stage.

The board asked whether or not AOD screenings are conducted, and all parents are screened at the intake session. If at any time during the program they are found to be at risk, they are referred to DAAC for assessment. The kids are not screened unless circumstances indicate that it might be needed, since the focus of the program is really on enabling the parents to deal with their kids, rather than the program doing that work. The program staff estimate that perhaps 30% of the parents they work with have potential AOD issues, but that these issues often don't come up in the initial screening process. It is only as the parents begin to open up during the course of the program that it becomes more apparent.

Barbara Graves expressed how pleased Prevention and Planning is to be able to partially support this program. They especially appreciate the quality improvement and retention aspects of the program, and are looking for additional funding to expand the program further.

II. Review of Minutes

March, April, and May meeting minutes approved as written.

III. Subcommittee Reports

The board elected to postpone these reports until the July meeting of the board, due to time restrictions.

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

None of the Prop. 36 legislation currently moving forward have funding attached to them. They now speak to the intent of the legislature to fund the program through the budget process. Funding is only available for FY 05/06. Without legislatively approved funding for FY 06/07, the SACPA program would have to transition in January, 2006, to close the program by 6/30/06. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has directed that no county dollars should be spent on the SACPA program, and without carryover funding from the current SACPA trust fund, county

dollars would need to be spent in order to continue to provide services until the state budget is passed. Additionally, if the funding were not to be included in the budget, the issue of whether or not the program is an entitlement would take center stage, because as an entitlement the program must be funded from somewhere. Other programs might be reduced or cut in order to continue to provide SACPA services.

At the moment, none of the bills are stable enough for the board to take a position.

VI. Pharmacy-Based Needle Sales

In response to the recently passed bill SB 1159, Prevention and Planning has developed a proposal that would coordinate local efforts to participate in pharmacy-based needle sales and develop a system for safe needle disposal. SB 1159 allows for pharmacies to sell up to 10 sterile syringes at a time from registered pharmacies. Under the proposal, pharmacies would register with the Environmental Health Division and agree to comply with all aspects of the new State law. Prevention and Planning's proposal is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on July 26th.

The biggest issue addressed in the proposal is the disposal of the used needles and syringes. At least 5 local pharmacies have expressed interest in participating, should the Board of Supervisors authorize the program. Under the proposed program pharmacies would provide a home sharps container with needle sales, that could then be returned to the pharmacy (or any designated sharps waste receptacle) when full, and then properly disposed of. Pharmacies will also do some counseling about sharps safety, AOD treatment and HIV and hepatitis C prevention, both verbally, at the time of purchase and by making handouts available.

Marvin Mars expressed concern that the proposal did not require that customers turn in their used needles when purchasing new ones. Barbara Graves stated that, in other states where similar legislation has been enacted, the improper disposal of used needles has not been documented to have increased. This proposal will provide sharps containers to many needle users who did not previously have them, which is consistent with their harm-reduction goals.

Action Item: The Board discussed sending a letter of support from the board to the Board of Supervisors, and possibly the presence of a board member at the BOS for the item. The action was passed with one abstention.

VII. Prevention Division

They have released the RFP for early intervention and support services for at-risk youth and their families. There is about \$185,000 available, and they are hoping that some of that will go towards continuing and extending the Padres Unidos program.

The \$5,000 planning grants for the Spanish-language parenting program have been awarded, to SCAYD, Circuit Rider, and SAY respectively.

The SIG grant planning groups have identified some core problems that they feel need to be addressed, including social hosting, alcohol availability at public events, and off sale retail practices and availability.

West County Community Services has received an Office of Public Safety grant to help address some issues in the west county area. They may focus on the same type of issues that the SIG grant has enabled the south county communities to look at, such as social hosting and alcohol availability.

The Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community grant money is at risk in the current budget, and Prevention and Planning is hoping that the community will support the continuation of this funding. The Advisory Board has done so in the past and will continue that support.

Prevention and Planning is helping to present a workshop here in Santa Rosa regarding Prevention for People with Disabilities, in conjunction with the North Bay Regional Center and CPI. The workshop is scheduled for July 12, 2005 from 8:30 to 4:30 pm. For registration and additional information, call Karen Stewartson at CPI, at 916-983-9506. The last day to register is July 5, 2005.

VIII. AODS Division Report

The Press Democrat is writing an article about the Starting Point Program, and have been interviewing stakeholders. The publication date is not yet known.

The AODS contracts were approved yesterday by the Board of Supervisors. There were no cuts, and AODS was able to pass along between 4-10% increases in contracts. The 4% increases were county funded, and the 10% increases resulted in the shifting of funds between programs within agencies.

They were also able to reallocate \$100,000 in order to keep the Casa Teresa program open, as a result of shifting funds within the department. For instance, a new drug-screening program that AODS was piloting for the Drug Court program will not go forward as planned. Casa Teresa will also be expanding by 4 beds that will be open to the community, in response to having had to turn away between 3 to 5 community referrals from public health nursing, CPS, and other sources. This represents the first time in several years that the Board of Supervisors has approved funding for community beds instead of jail beds.

AODS has unallocated HIV money available, and is working with Public Health and Prevention and Planning in order to better meet these needs. Ultimately, AOD money and contracts related to HIV services will be transferred to Public Health, in an effort to consolidate and enhance the current system.

Adolescent Treatment Program funding will be used to help keep the Clean and Sober School open. AODS agreed to fund \$25,000 and the Board of Education would match these funds. The Board of Education funding and AODS dollars will guarantee operations in case attendance drops below the 20 students required in order to maintain the program. If AODS funds are found not to be necessary, that money will be released back to AODS to meet other needs in the Adolescent Treatment Program.

The first Recovery Happens planning meeting was held on June 13. John Abrahams and Edi Patrick were able to attend, as did representatives from several providers, and the Prevention and Planning Division. The event media organizer, Gina Cuclis, has already managed to procure sponsorship from the Press Democrat and Kaiser Permanente. Cheryle Stanley, who was the event's fiscal agent last year, reported that \$240 remained from last year's event. A spokesperson

for the event is still needed, and Harmony Galford has been suggested. Sarah Moore will follow up on this possibility. There is plenty of room on the planning committee for anyone else who would like to participate. The meeting schedule is posted below, as requested by the board, and all meetings are scheduled for 9:30-11:00 am at 1221 Farmers Lane, Suite 200, unless otherwise stated:

Date	Subcommittee
June 13	Rally & Picnic
June 27	Rally
July 11	Rally
July 18	Picnic
July 25	Rally
August 1	Picnic
August 8	Rally
August 15	Picnic
August 22	Rally
September 12	Rally & Picnic
September 19	Rally & Picnic

Additional questions about the event should be addressed to Sarah Moore, at 565-6948.

IX. Roundtable

Steve Thomas

Steve hoped to follow up on the issue of recruitment for Advisory Board members. A meeting of the board was held some time ago on this topic, and several ideas were explored at that time. They included a letter to the editor, and advertisement in the newspaper, expansion of the Advisory Board website, and a commitment from existing members to recruit. Notes from that previous meeting will be sent to Advisory Board members, and members each agreed to consider and try to connect with a possible candidate within the next 3-6 months.

There was some discussion regarding a possible screening process for potential new members, but this process was considered unnecessary at this time.

De Williams

De continues to bring crafts into treatment facilities. She has been doing it for about 8 months, and has 3 fairly regular engagements and some extra ones. She really enjoys being able to do this. She was the winner of the original painting offered in the DAAC Perinatal Program fundraiser, and has the painting hanging in her living room. She regularly gets comments on it from visitors. Eventually, she hopes to give it to the mother portrayed in the painting, but she doesn't mind taking care of it in the meantime.

Marvin Mars

HC Squared has moved into their new facility, which is very nice.

WRS

Cheryle expressed appreciation of De's crafts projects, and stated how they value her skills as an activity leader, particularly because she manages to tie in the messages of recovery with the crafts, making it a very effective message.

They finally have one SASCA client, probably in response to the recent letter written by the Advisory Board.

There are nine babies at WRS right now, which is very sweet, but hectic.

Windmere Real Estate Agency is having a community service day and will be coming this Friday to paint WRS's two-story building. WRS is very grateful, since it has been difficult to do in the past.

DAAC

Their SASC clients increased from 3 to 7 after the recent letter by the Advisory Board. Michael Spielman thanked the board for their support on this issue.

Leroy, who has worked at DAAC for 26 out of the last 31 years, is retiring. He is having a retirement party, and all those who have worked with him over the years are welcome to attend. Michael will provide the details on the party when they become available.

They were recently asked to provide some feedback on the CHKS and survey results to a writer from the Press Democrat, Guy Kovner. It was a welcome opportunity, and they will be interested to see the resulting article.

John Abrahams

Judge Robert Dale is retiring on July 1, 2005. He was a founding stakeholder in Drug Court, and has been a supporter of AODS and Prevention issues throughout his career. John suggested that the Advisory Board present him with a plaque for his many contributions at his retirement party, and the Advisory Board agreed with this suggestion.

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 pm