

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Edi Patrick
Harmony Galford
John Abrahams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Falk
Steve Thomas
Trey Dunia
De Williams
Marvin Mars

STAFF PRESENT

Barbara Graves
Maureen Donaghue
Sarah Moore
Gino Giannavola
Ellen Bauer

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Cheryle Stanley, Women's Recovery Services
Michael Spielman, DAAC
Jenna McAdam, Athena House

I. Public Comment

Drug Abuse Alternatives Center is co-sponsoring a workshop called "Demystifying Addiction," on interventions. Michael Spielman distributed flyers and registration information. The workshop is available on two dates: September 15 and 16.

II. Review of Minutes

No quorum: review of minutes from the June meeting has been held over until the September meeting.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy

No report.

Community Education

Prevention reported that Denny Hutton is the new AOD liaison in place of Holly White-Wolf, and he will be assisting the Community Education Subcommittee as necessary. The Subcommittee met on July 14, and thought they might like to participate somehow in Alcohol Awareness Week in April, and focus their efforts on the senior population.

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

The proposed emergency regulations regarding the Prop 36 allocation methodology did not go through, so many counties are reverting to their previous allocation. This did not impact Sonoma County's allocation.

Duchenev sponsors the only Prop 36 legislation moving forward. Funding is likely to be dependent upon the budget process, which will result in a variety of logistical issues if the

program continues. The SACPA Steering Committee is forming a subcommittee to help prepare for this eventuality.

Practices for out-of-county referrals to SACPA are changing. We will ask for a hearing in the referring county to determine the county of residence, and will transfer the entire case as appropriate.

Providers have been granted the ability to charge fees from SACPA clients if they can provide a justification regarding supplementing the county dollars, not turning away clients based on inability to pay, and complying with the BOS approved SACPA plan fee criteria. SACPA assessment staff will not assess or collect client fees for any client referral to a provider with an approved fee process.

VI. Prevention Division

Prevention had hoped to present the Pharmacy Needles Sales Board Item to the Board on August 2nd, but it needs some more detail and may not go before the Board until August 14th.

If the Board decides to provide a letter of support in favor of this Board Item, it should be directed to Barbara Graves.

Michael Spielman would be interested to know if the needle exchange rate typically goes down in communities where pharmacy access is implemented. Barbara Graves agreed to see if information on this situation is available.

They have received 9 applications for the Early Intervention funds, and hope to announce the awards on August 1st. The decisions have been difficult, especially since the proposals submitted were for a total of \$270,000, and the funds available are \$160,000.

They are evaluating the protocol for ABC application community impact review. They hope to be use this information to raise awareness in the community about how to better take advantage of the review process.

VII. AODS Division Report

Supervisor Valerie Brown has requested some information regarding methamphetamine usage in Sonoma County. AODS is compiling this information from the CADDs data.

AODS is working with the County Human Resources Department to review job classifications in response to the counselor certification regulations, and to determine if this is a meet-and-confer issue with the unions. The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) can begin to audit the counties' compliance with the regulations beginning in October 2005.

There has been some interest from the public and other counties regarding how Sonoma County reduced the number of approved certification organizations from 10 to 6. County Counsel has reviewed the process we used, which consisted of determining the minimum acceptable standards, and then determining which of the 10 organizations met those standards. Providers were asked to develop personnel policies that require the minimum requirements established by the committee instead of stating the organizations that meet the requirements.

VIII. Recruitment

This will be a standard agenda item. One idea presented was to allow the public to sign up on the County website for an automatic email distribution for the Advisory Board agendas and minutes. Sarah will investigate this possibility with ISD. Another idea was that the Advisory Board Membership be listed as a volunteer opportunity in the Press Democrat's "Celebrate Community" section, and at the volunteer center. Both ideas will be followed up on.

IX. Roundtable

Reminder: The Advisory Board does not meet in August. The next meeting will be September 21, 2005.

Athena House

They are doing well, and have an 18-yr-old client in their community bed.

WRS

They have a new parenting educator, who is impressed with how much clients are learning and willing to learn about parenting, and other coping skills.

DAAC

They have been very short-staffed. They are down to 5 counselors, and are finding it very difficult to find residential staff. They are looking at recruitment issues and staffing patterns in an attempt to resolve this ongoing issue.

They had 4 clients help pitch the program to a potential funding agent, which was a very positive experience for all involved.

The censuses at both REAP and SRTP are down at least 10% in the past 2 or 3 months. Neither program is sure what is causing the decline. Drug Court census, on the other hand, is going up.

Harmony Galford

Harmony regrets to announce her resignation from the Advisory Board, effective today (July 20, 2005), due to other commitments. She would like to create a new flyer for the young person's activities. She will work with Sarah to get this done. She is also working with R House and is finishing up her certification requirements.

Gino Giannavola

Gino mentioned that a plaque of appreciation of services was presented to Judge Dale at his retirement party, and it was well received.

Meeting adjourned: 6:44 pm