

# Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steve Thomas, Chair  
Trey Dunia, Co-Chair  
De Williams  
Edi Patrick  
John Abrahams

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Marvin Mars

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Barbara Graves  
Maureen Donaghue  
Sarah Moore  
Gino Giannavola

## **PROVIDERS & GUESTS**

Michael Spielman, DAAC  
Gary Westby  
Jenna McAdam, Athena House  
Harmony Galford

### **I. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

Minutes from the June and July meetings of the Board approved as written.

### **III. Subcommittee Reports**

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

This subcommittee has not met in the past two months. They expressed interest in the Cinco De Mayo suggestion, but really would like to focus on one issue at a time. It seems to be challenging to have much progress around one issue, much less several.

#### **Community Education**

This subcommittee is looking at making the rounds regarding seniors and alcohol to various providers and facilities in April, which is Alcohol Awareness month. There is some frustration regarding the lack of active progress around any issue that Advisory Board members would like to pursue. Trey has completed quite a bit of research around this issue, and is not sure how to make use of it.

Some of the points that have come up to help focus efforts include determining a target population, educating physicians, holding a conference on senior drinking, and providing information on the Advisory Board website. Another option, which the Board has decided to pursue, is inviting an expert on seniors and alcohol to come present to the Board, and help determine a direction for the subcommittee.

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

Funding for the SACPA program after 05/06 may be included in the governor's budget, but perhaps at less than the current \$120 million per year. According to a CADPAAC survey, only about 1/2 of the counties are planning for the program's funding to sunset. The Sonoma County Steering Committee has formed a subcommittee to begin planning for program reductions. Even if the full \$120 million remains in the budget, Sonoma County will no longer have carry-over from the prior year. A preliminary reduction plan will reduce the plan by about \$500,000 per year, and an additional plan will address the possibility that the funding is not renewed at all in the governor's budget. One of several options being reviewed for reducing the program is to become more restrictive based on eligible charges.

The question was posed about whether or not clients are referred to PC1000, or Diversion, before they are referred to SACPA. Clients are offered the option if they are eligible, and about 95% of those offered will choose PC1000.

Providers are now able to assess and collect fees per the plan, but only for a one-time charge. This is not particularly helpful for providers. The Steering Committee approved a change to the plan to allow recurring fee assessment and collection.

#### **VI. Prevention Division**

The Prevention Division expresses their appreciation to De Williams for attending the Prevention Partnership Group.

The Pharmacy Needles Sales Board Item goes to the Board of Supervisors on September 27. They expect some questions to come forward from law enforcement in particular, regarding how to handle people traveling to and from the pharmacies with needles. Other counties have implemented similar programs, and many pharmacies are participating statewide. Sonoma County is a bit more difficult because we are the only county charging a disposal surcharge, but this surcharge is not expected to be prohibitive.

They have awarded 6 contracts for Early Intervention services, related to kids with AOD and violence issues. Much of what will be funded are programs that do screenings and referrals for this population.

In light of recent funding reductions, Prevention and Planning is trying to work more closely with the Probation Department, which funds many of the same providers for very similar services. This is a growing partnership, which is very welcome.

The Padres Unidos program has started their 7<sup>th</sup> class. 100 families have been served so far, and 22 people have been trained as parent project trainers.

John Abrahams asked if Prevention would be interested in becoming involved with the Cinco De Mayo celebration and its connection to drinking and violence. Barbara Graves indicated that this might be a good issue to work with, and that the Advisory Board Policy Subcommittee may also be interested.

The Advisory Board may want to consider writing a letter of appreciation regarding the Rohnert Park Party Ordinance. This will be on the agenda as an action item in October.

## **VII. AODS Division Report**

The Division is starting a co-occurring pilot program on October 1, designed to serve 36 people with co-occurring issues. Ultimately, this program would work well in conjunction with the Mental Health Services Act, but the current funding for the MHSA is only for their target population, which does not include the majority of AOD clients.

The WITS contract for a new database that will encompass both CalOMS reporting requirements and HIPAA Drug Medi-Cal billing requirements is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors on September 27. The new application will assist the Sonoma County treatment provider network to better track outcomes and other statistics.

AB417 is a newly proposed piece of legislation that would move some malt liquors into the “beer” category, which significantly lowers the tax on it. This makes it much more accessible to younger drinkers. CADPAAC has written letters to the governor opposing the legislation, and encourages others to do the same. Copies of those letters will be made available for those who would like an example to compose from.

## **VIII. Recruitment**

Advisory Board members are reminded that they have each agreed to recruit a potential Board member from their district. It was determined that the introductory packet, which describes the role of the Board and the responsibilities of its members, should be updated.

Harmony will be interviewed for a Volunteer Center article in the Press Democrat, and will mention the Advisory Board as good opportunity. She will also mention it during her speech at the Recovery Happens Rally.

## **IX. Roundtable**

### *Gary Westby*

Gary has noticed that in many town squares throughout Sonoma County, particularly in Petaluma, there seem to be a lot of intoxicated kids and young adults hanging out. He feels this helps make them available to be victimized, and it would be nice to see if this problem could be addressed somehow.

It was suggested that, because we know where they are gathered, it may be easier to do outreach of some kind.

### *DAAC*

The workshops on intervention turned out very well. About 75 people attended the abbreviated version on Thursday, and about 150 attended the full-day version on Friday. They are planning to have a similar workshop next year, to focus on methamphetamine issues.

Attendance at the Clean and Sober School has been great so far this year. They feel that outreach to parents about how important that attendance is to funding has made a significant difference. There are some new issues around the method of referral to the Clean and Sober School. Students used to be referred through SRPD based on general situational assessments, but now they have to be based on strict evidentiary conclusion of drug use. DAAC is working with Lynn

Garric and the schools to figure this problem out. The Board requested that this be listed as a potential action item for the next Board meeting.

***Harmony Galford***

Harmony has accepted a position with DAAC at the Clean and Sober School. She is also looking forward to Recovery Happens next Sunday.

***De Williams***

De attended the Sacramento Recovery Happens event, and enjoyed it. She was glad to see a “Prevention Works” banner up on stage next to the “Recovery Happens” banner.

She also attended the intervention workshop sponsored by DAAC, and thought it was well done. In particular, she thought it was interesting to note that emotions react 7 times faster than logic, so it is really a challenge for so many people to give themselves time to reach a logical conclusion and react from that, instead of the emotions.

Meeting adjourned: 6:36 pm