

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Barbara Graves
Gino Giannavola
Sarah Moore

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Annie McGowen
Jenna McAdam, Athena House
Harmony Galford
Dana Alvarez, CHDC

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Action Items

- Approval of Minutes from September Meeting: Item held over for November meeting.
- Rohnert Park Party Ordinance Letter of Appreciation: Steve Thomas will write this letter on behalf of the Board.
- Letter of Support regarding Clean & Sober School referral process: DAAC is meeting with Lynn Garric of SCOE to discuss this issue. Steve Thomas will attend as well. A letter of support is not necessary at this time.

III. Presentation: Lynn Garric on the Healthy Kids Report

Lynn Garric of SCOE (Sonoma County Office of Education) presented information regarding the 2003/2004 California Healthy Kids Survey. The survey is issued statewide every two years, and surveys youth for risk and protective factors in their lives. In Sonoma County, the survey sample was 13,000 out of 23,000 students in grades 5, 7, 9, 11, and alternative education. The survey asks questions about the following topics: alcohol and drug use, perceived harm and availability, normative behavior, violence and safety, mental and physical health, and resiliency issues. The resulting reports are available at the county, district, and school levels of information, and can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.scoe.org/content.php?PageId=216>.

Some of the highlights of the report include:

- Tobacco use by Sonoma County youth has decreased overall, although Sonoma County Alternative Education kids use tobacco 10% more than their peers statewide.

- More Sonoma County youth smoke marijuana than tobacco, and marijuana use by kids in Sonoma County exceeds the state average
- Sonoma County students exceed the statewide averages in all areas of high-risk behavior, and as many as 85% report that it is easy to obtain alcohol.
- While the majority of students feel safe at school, 40% report that they've been harassed at school and 3% of 5th graders say they've brought a weapon to school.
- While most Sonoma County youth feel that both they and their community have high expectations of them, less than 15% feel they have meaningful participation either at home or at school. Overall, Sonoma County youth report better rates of caring relationships, high expectations, and meaningful participation in their community than their peers statewide.

The survey provides an opportunity for parents, educators, and community members to ask the right questions about how to increase well-being for our youth. We can ask how adults can maintain an active role in the lives of young people as they grow up, how can we strengthen meaningful participation, and how we can provide more opportunities for youth in planning, critical thinking, and decision making.

The Board was interested to hear if any of the information from this survey was particularly surprising, in light of the previous survey. The high number of kids who reported binge drinking and the high number of kids who reported that it is easy to obtain alcohol were surprising for Lynn.

Another question posed was whether Lynn felt that kids were honest in their answers. It is felt that most kids want to tell someone what they are doing and how they feel about their situation. This factor, combined with reassurances about the anonymous nature of the data, makes the kids fairly honest. There are some questions in the survey that are designed to test overall honesty, and about 2% of surveys are rejected for being unreliable.

Board members wanted to know if school boards see this information. Lynn replied that some of them do, but not all of them. Now that it is available online, they expect more schools to take be aware of and take advantage of the information.

The Board thanked Lynn for her work on the survey and for presenting the information to the Board.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy

This subcommittee has not met since the September meeting of the Advisory Board.

Community Education

Prevention and Planning is working with the subcommittee to arrange a special meeting of the Board, which will focus on the issue of older adults and substance abuse. The Board would like to have Patrick Cullinane, from the American Society on Aging, come present at this meeting. He gave a presentation for AODS, and was very well received. The goal of the meeting will be to learn more about the issue, and to help determine an effective direction for the Board, and especially this subcommittee, to take. The Board would like to make sure the meeting is

available to members of the community who may also be interested in this topic, and approved having the meeting during the morning in order to make that more likely. Prevention will try to schedule the meeting for a date in January 2006.

V. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

Funding for the SACPA program after 05/06 is likely to be included in the governor's budget, but is likely to be closer to \$90 million than the current \$120 million per year. This amount may also be contingent upon the passage of SB803. The Governor supports law enforcement, which has agreed to support SACPA if some changes are made to the program, all of which are part of the SB803 legislation. The proposed changes would bring the SACPA program model closer to the Drug Court program model.

The program is already contemplating a reduction of about \$500,000 per year to accommodate the lack of carryover funding. This additional reduction could potentially reduce the program by another \$300,000 per year. The Steering Committee reduction subcommittee continues to analyze the current program in order to develop a reduction proposal. One of several options being reviewed for reducing the program is to become more restrictive based on eligible charges.

The SACPA plan, which was submitted to the state in May 2005, was approved this week. The approval allows amendments to be made to the plan. One amendment that has been pending is clarification of the language regarding collecting client fees. The new language would allow providers to assess and collect fees throughout the client's treatment as appropriate, instead of a one-time fee assessed at the start of treatment.

VI. Prevention Division

The Board of Supervisors approved the Pharmacy Needles Sales Board Item on September 27. Implementation of the program is scheduled for January 1, 2006. 6 pharmacies in Santa Rosa and West County, including Walgreen's and some community pharmacies, are currently ready to participate. They are still looking for pharmacies in other areas of the county, and are also developing consumer information materials, pharmacist trainings, and waste management protocols. The media coverage so far has been minimal.

Assembly member Patty Berg sponsored a bill that removed the requirement for the Board of Supervisors to declare a state of emergency every two weeks in order to continue the needle exchange program. The governor signed the bill. An annual update will take the place of the two-week reports.

The South County binge drinking project work plan has been approved. Prevention and Planning has opened recruitment for a community mobilizer for the project.

The Padres Unidos project has been granted 100% funding for this year.

Prevention and Planning is beginning some strategic planning around AOD issues, and plans to release an RFP based on the results of this process.

They have received some additional funding for HIV issues, and are going to use it to examine the connection between methamphetamine use and HIV. They are also doing some radio outreach to the Hispanic community about free HIV testing and treatment.

The governor has returned AB417 to committees for additional review. 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.

VII. AODS Division Report

AODS has received a \$17,000 increase in CalWorks funding. Some discussions are planned for how to spend the money, and more information will be available for the next Board meeting.

The Mental Health Services Act plan has been released. Gino suggests that the Board invite a representative from Mental Health to present an overview of the plan, and what it means for the AODS system of care at this stage. The Board approved this recommendation. Gino will issue the invitation.

The current meeting room for the Board is not ADA compliant. A new location must be determined. Several possible locations were discussed, which AODS will follow up on. The new location will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

VIII. Recruitment

An application has been received and is in process.

Anne McGowen, who is in attendance this meeting, is interested in becoming a member for the 1st District, for Valerie Brown. She will submit an application for review.

Tammy Cotter may also be available now, since she is no longer under contract with Prevention and Planning. Steve Thomas will follow up with Tammy to see if she is interested in returning to the Board.

IX. Roundtable

Steve Thomas

Steve Thomas serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Action Partnership. This may constitute a conflict of interest per the bylaws of the Advisory Board, although the language is not clear on this point. County Counsel will be consulted for clarification. This issue will be on the agenda for the November meeting of the Advisory Board.

Meeting adjourned: 7:18 pm