

Sonoma County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Problems

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2005: 5 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Thomas, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Gino Giannavola
Ellen Bauer
Sarah Moore
Jackie Pratt

PROVIDERS & GUESTS

Michael Spielman, DAAC
Annie McGowen
Harmony Galford, SRJC
Cheryle Stanley, WRS
Phillip Tapia, SRJC

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Action Items

Minutes from September Meeting were approved, and October Meeting Minutes were approved with corrections.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Policy Development/Advocacy

This subcommittee has not met since the October 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. The American Society on Aging has requested a date of February 27th for a three-hour session. The first two hours would be a presentation on the issues, and the last hour would be a discussion regarding what we can do with the information. Ellen will coordinate a meeting with the subcommittee members in December regarding the details of the event.

IV. SACPA (Prop 36) Update

The Steering Committee met today to discuss reductions. The program will have to reduce by over \$107,000 this fiscal year, and \$700,000 next fiscal year. AODS is planning to bring the reduction plan to the Board of Supervisors for approval in January. The ad-hoc reduction subcommittee is focusing on redefining the SACPA eligible charges to reduce the number of referrals. Referrals for the past several months have numbered 70 to 80, and need to be reduced

by half. Other areas to be looked at include provider contracts, the assessment system, the testing program, and the case management and probation supervision.

The ad-hoc reduction subcommittee has also reviewed client success rates in relation to specific providers, modalities, and client demographics. All providers and modalities were within 5-6% of each other with regard to success rates, and client demographics did not indicate that one group is more successful than another. This information will not be used to help determine reductions.

It is anticipated that many clients excluded from SACPA due to the reductions will put pressure on the system in other areas, including the jail, Drug Court, and TASC. In particular, it is important to remember that expectations for the program overall will need to be lower. Less funding will have an impact on the ability of the program to meet the needs of the population, regardless of how well planned and implemented the reductions are.

There is no updated information regarding SACPA funding in the governor's budget. In recent talks, the DADP director Kathy Jett indicated the belief that counties might be able to supplement state SACPA funding. This belief was based on the fact that counties supplemented \$10 to \$15 million in the previous fiscal year. However, only three counties were able to supplement. Counties argued that an ongoing funding solution system-wide should not be based on the actions of three counties. Kathy Jett agreed with this assessment.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee met, and was not attended by the republicans. However, the democrats in attendance seemed to agree that more funding is needed for SACPA instead of less, and they appear to be ready to recommend at least the original \$120 million. The LAO's report was also discussed. One important point was the MOE, which means that if state funding is cut, the state will lose \$180 million in federal funds over the next two years.

Because there is no Advisory Board meeting in December, AODS will email the proposed reduction plan to the Board for comments and feedback as soon as it is available.

VI. Prevention Division

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 are working with Diane Reed to help profile the needs and resources. They expect that there will be plenty of opportunity for community involvement, including the Advisory Board.

Diane is also assisting them with their current project regarding the connection between HIV and methamphetamine use. Funding for this project is coming from the Office of Aids. The project will not lead to additional funding, but will hopefully assist them in determining how to make the most of their current resources. The kick-off meeting for this project is scheduled for December 8 from 4 to 7 pm. For more information about this project, Ellen Swedberg is the contact person, at 565-6683.

They have identified 6 pharmacies that are interested in participating in the Needle Sales program. The question was posed regarding whether or not the Needle Sales development process included discussion around making the disposal of sharps more convenient. Ellen stated that it was discussed briefly, but that it is a separate issue and was not the focus of this particular effort.

VII. AODS Division Report

The Human Services Department received an additional \$18,000 in funding this fiscal year for AODS and Mental Health issues. The entire amount will be used to supplement the SonomaWorks program contracts.

The Health and Human Services Coordinating Committee is currently discussing issues around methamphetamine treatment. This may result in a task force that would look at all the implications around methamphetamine, not just treatment. Reunification is a particularly prevalent issue with methamphetamine families, because it can take much longer than the current reunification process allows for a parent on methamphetamine to be stable enough to care for their children.

AODS is negotiating with the Courts for a Dependency Drug Court. This would help bridge communication gaps between the AODS system of care and Child Protective Services (CPS). The court would deal with all drugs, but methamphetamine would figure predominately. Funding would be an issue for this project.

Methamphetamine issues have been a topic at the last two provider meetings. AODS is trying to get Rick Rossen from UCLA to come present sometime next year, as he is an expert on the topic.

Senator Jackie Speier is starting a Senate Select Committee on methamphetamine use. CADPAAC will be participating and Gino will be able to provide additional information on this process as it becomes available.

The administration unit at AODS is restructuring staff assignments, and Sarah Moore will no longer be staff support to the Advisory Board. Jackie Pratt will be taking on this assignment. Sarah will continue to be the web site contact.

VIII. Recruitment

The latest applicant to the Advisory Board is in a wheelchair and uses public transportation. He is dependent on the bus schedule, which would not allow him to attend the meetings as they are currently scheduled. There are a few possible options to address this issue. The issue will be an action item at the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

Anne McGowen, who has attended that last two meetings, is interested in becoming a member for the 1st District, for Valerie Brown. She has submitted an application for review.

Steve Thomas continues to have a conflict of interest per the Advisory Board bylaws, as he also serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Action Partnership. County Counsel has confirmed that this is a conflict, and that Steve will need to make a decision regarding which board he would like to remain on.

IX. Roundtable

WRS

Cheryle announced that WRS is having their 30th anniversary open house event on November 20 from 2 to 4 pm. Advisory Board members and staff are welcome to attend. WRS has also been

working with Nick Honey from to help counselors better understand some of the issues around methamphetamine.

DAAC

They did a survey of their perinatal program and 83% have indicated that methamphetamine is their primary drug.

They have been working with the Drug Free Babies program and are finally seeing some of the results with higher treatment numbers.

The Petaluma Clean and Sober school is averaging 25 kids with a waiting list. They may make two classes. The Santa Rosa school is averaging 18 kids. They are both doing quite well.

They are starting advertisements for private pay clients, to be aired on KFOX, in the Bohemian, and in movie theaters.

They currently have 11 vacant positions, which is becoming more and more of a problem. They have two weeks to find a nurse practitioner in order to be in compliance with regulations. WRS stated that they have the same problem meeting their staffing needs.

Marvin Mars

Marvin requested that the three-year report on Drug of Choice information both statewide and within the county be distributed. Sarah will email the information to the Board and send a hard copy to both Marvin and Harmony.

Harmony Galford

Harmony thanked Sarah for her staffing support to the Board.

Meeting adjourned: 7:04 pm