

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes for April 6, 2011**

**Members Present:** Burke Adrian, Melinda Avey, Harry Carlson, Judy Cooperrider, Heike MacKenzie, Anne-Marie Rucker, Paul Tanner

**Members Absent:** Lt. Raymond Bechler (excused), Yvonne Rodriguez (excused), Steve Wirtz (excused)

**Alcohol and Drug Services Staff:** Marguerite Story-Baker

**Guests:** Tom Avey (Avey & Associates Management Consulting), Susan Blacksher (CAARR), Nikki Buckstead, Dana Martinez (Bridges), Bryan McWhorter (Sacramento Recovery House), Gwen Nicholas, Lorraine Rinker (MAAP), Jessica Rodriguez, Mark Sawyer (Sacramento Recovery House), Sandi Snelgrove (ACAC), Deborah Vogel (Alpha Oaks/Cornerstone)

I. **Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Paul Tanner.

II. **Advisory Board Actions**

Approval of March minutes will be postponed until the May meeting.

III. **Provider Presentations:** Dana Martinez of Bridges reported services related to the Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) grant are going well. Sandi Snelgrove of Another Choice, Another Chance said ACAC just closed its Rancho Cordova office, and the Boys Ranch also closed. ACAC and other youth treatment providers are experiencing a high level of criminality among their clients because jails have no room for them, the Public Defenders office is providing minimal support, and word is out that Probation Services is now formally monitoring very few (only 654) of its approximately 20,000 probationers. ACAC's client no-show rate has dramatically increased, and security guards may be needed to control unrest in the waiting room.

IV. **Advisory Board Announcements:** Burke Adrian announced that Susan Cooper of the federal Veterans Outreach program will visit Sacramento's Drug Court on April 18. As she wants the County to establish a criminal court for veterans' substance use and other issues, he referred her to the County's Intermediate Punishments Committee.

V. **Presentation:** "Medical Marijuana" was discussed at length by many of those present. Observations included that individuals don't receive a prescription for it, simply a physician's recommendation for which they pay a fee and then obtain it at a "pot club", not a medical pharmacy. Marijuana dispensaries are supposedly nonprofit and therefore exempt from taxation, yet do they have a board of directors and account for all income as do other nonprofits? The American Medical Association has come out against physicians recommending marijuana, and Kaiser Permanente won't provide its members with a list of physicians who recommend it.

Regarding clients in drug-free programs who have a physician's recommendation, service providers don't want to deny treatment and in fact want to work with marijuana users before their drug use leads to dependence. Providers want to avoid legal suits such as what led to the *Beatty* court decision, but under their typical code of conduct (which clients must sign to enter treatment) may turn away from an individual or group session those who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The County and/or State should address this situation, as even defending against legal action is beyond the means of smaller providers, threatens their continued existence, and even the odor of marijuana on a client's breath or clothes may lead to other clients' relapse (much less smoking it in the treatment facility or on its grounds).

VI. **Administrator Report:** Marguerite Story-Baker announced that with State defunding of Proposition 36 services, ADS coordinator Sandra Johnson has transferred to become program coordinator of the Integrated Behavioral Health Team for Primary Care, where she oversees one mental health and one alcohol/drug counselor (with another position vacant). Since Prop. 36 requirements still exist, many eligible individuals will be referred to

alcohol/drug service providers with no special priority. Indigent persons will be referred to the County's System of Care (SOC), with Probation Officer Tracy Lozana helping Judge Ransom determine who is truly indigent. Although the recent *Trask* court ruling directly addressed only indigent clients in the Penal Code Section 1000 drug diversion program, in reality it will also affect all other individuals seeking court-ordered alcohol/drug and other treatment services. Accordingly, ADS is pulling together an internal workgroup to form strategies and advocate for them, consisting of program coordinators Sharon Di Pirro-Beard, Kathleen Macias, Maureen McCaustland, and Lori Vallone.

HIV set-aside funding from the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant has transferred to the Department of Public Health for HIV testing and education. Leslie Benson will work with our residential treatment providers on Hepatitis C education of their clients.

Marguerite noted that more SOC and Mental Health Department clients than ever are in active withdrawal from substance dependence and not yet eligible for MediCal-funded detoxification services. In the past, other County systems were educated not to refer such persons to SOC.

In addition it remains virtually impossible to get psychiatric medications renewed beyond the initial 30 days, even though this is needed for many residential treatment clients to continue their Scope of Practice. Complicating matters is the impending closure of the Juvenile Day Reporting Center.

Fiscally, Marguerite commented that if there is a vote this Fall to extend State tax increases and the measure fails, it is possible that substance use and other services may be "realigned" from the State to Counties with insufficient or no funding. We will have a clearer picture when the Governor's May Revise budget is announced. Finally, County Department of Behavioral Health Director Anne Edwards is presenting a budget workshop tomorrow from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

**VII. Board's Chiefs of Staff Meeting** – Paul reported that two candidates for Board vacancies were interviewed by the Board of Supervisors' chiefs of staff.

**VIII. Advisory Board Committee Reports**

1. **Executive Committee** – Harry, Melinda, Paul and Steve met to plan the upcoming Board meeting. Leo Zuniga submitted his resignation from the Board, so there is another vacancy to fill.
2. **Prevention and Education Committee** – Paul reported it identified prevention-related strategic planning principles, strengths, weaknesses, goals and objectives, to be shared with other Board committees. With Steve planning to be out of town, there will be no April meeting.
3. **Treatment Committee** – Paul noted the Committee discussed the Federal/State conflict in implementing the *Beatty* court decision, which allows clients to use physician-recommended marijuana while participating in drug-free treatment services. Melinda will chair the next meeting (on April 13 at 12:00 noon in the CAARR Conference Room).
4. **Membership Committee** – Harry reported on outreach efforts. Two potential new members were present at today's meeting.
5. **Budget, Planning and Evaluation (BPE) Committee** – Paul reported BPE discussed providing feedback to all RFP bidders, including brief strengths and weaknesses of each proposal and actual scores (cumulative and/or by each scoring section). Also opportunities, threats, and goals as part of the strategic planning process. The Committee will meet Thursday, April 14, 1:30 pm, at the CAARR Conference Room.
6. **Strategic Planning Committee** – Paul said the Committee's main planning goals would be transitioning to Federal Healthcare Reform, forming networking alliances along the continuum of alcohol/drug services, identifying emergency room patients who need substance-related services, and referring them to the services. September 16 is the planned completion date. The Committee will meet Thursday, April 28, 1:30 pm, at the CAARR Conference Room.

**IX. Reports from other Boards**

1. **Human Services Coordinating Council** – Paul reported nominations will soon be requested for the Fifth Annual Heroes of Human Services Awards.
2. **First Five Advisory Committee** – As Steve was not present, there was no report.

**X. Unfinished Business:** None.

**XI. Future Month's Agenda items** - Presentations by current providers of county public AOD services will continue – A. Jonathan Porteus, PhD, CEO of The Effort, Inc., will present next month.

**IX. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.