



## Advisory Board On Alcohol And Other Drug Problems

December 16, 2014

5:30 PM

Mental Health Administration

1137 B Street, Merced

**Present:**

Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; William Hamilton; Paula Mason

**Absent:**

Lori Newman, Chair; Dr. Livermore

**Others Present:**

Yvonna Brown; Chris Kraushar; Christopher Jensen; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

## MINUTES

**I. Call to Order – Lori Newman, Chair**

Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**II. Self-Introductions – Members and Guests**

Self-introductions were not needed.

**III. Public Opportunity to Speak on Any Matter of Public Interest Within the Board's Jurisdiction Including Items on the Board's Agenda**

None

**IV. Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2014 (ACTION ITEM)**

*Action/Recommendation:* M/S/C (Hawthorne / Mason) to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting.

**V. Approval of Agenda for December 16, 2014 (ACTION ITEM)**

*Action/Recommendation:* M/S/C (Hawthorne / Mason) to approve the agenda for the December 16, 2014.

**VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen  
a. State Plan**

a.No discussion.

➤ Christopher passed out copies of a Save-the-Date flyer for the upcoming Youth 2 Youth conference scheduled for March 28, 2015. This conference takes place every year in March and the idea is to engage young people in positive activities that are actually happening in the community with each other. It is a peer mentoring conference where high school students staff and facilitate the day's events. It is a very structured social gathering. The high school students facilitate group discussions about self-esteem, effects of alcohol and drugs. They have some topics through general sessions and the high school students facilitate discussions about those topics and break-out sessions. Usually about 300 students attend throughout the county. Sixth grade through eighth grade students (middle school) attend as participants. AOD staff train the high school students with high school or college-age students that have done the conference over the years. This year's theme is "The Best Social Network". There was a recent youth video that talks about how many messages young people get every day because of the internet, social media and their reliance upon them instead of human contact for information. It is an eye-opening illustration of the need to get back to basics with people and have personal time with individuals. They are trying to promote that human connection through the conference. There are workshops ranging from information on marijuana, privilege vs oppression, healthy relationships, education planning, fire-house smoke-house (the firehouse in Atwater has a trailer that they fill with smoke (vapors) – it's a mock living room set up – and the kids have to get down on the floor and be trained on emergencies. There will also be yoga, Zumba, cross-fit exercises and a UC Merced student who will be doing a choir workshop. There will also be a hip-hop dance group from Delhi that will do choreographed dance, Polynesian dance from KiKi Rianna here in Merced and a arts and crafts workshop through the Mariposa Art Company. Christopher continued that when the young people come in for services that there is nothing to do – the idea was to get local organizations that provide things to do either free or low cost and promote themselves through their hands-on workshop with the students. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year for this conference and it starts at 9:00 am and ends at 9:00 pm. Yvonna asked that Christopher add the times to the flyer. Every school is sent a package of registration forms or staff applications (depending on middle school or high school). They are still looking for a keynote speaker. The last few

**VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen – con't.**

years they have had national keynote speakers come in at a low cost. Christopher knows that there are local people in our communities that have this speaking ability; if anyone can recommend such a person, please let Christopher know.

- AOD is actively recruiting a Prevention Worker position to replace Marissa Chavez.
- Christopher has been in recent contact with COMVIP in Merced regarding underage and over intoxicated drinking. They have been talking about starting the Drug Store Project in Merced.

**Action/Recommendation:** Yvonnia asked that Christopher send her a copy of revised flyer along with the workshops offered. She will send it out to the different Departments to promote the event.

**VII. Executive Committee Report – Lori Newman**

Lori was not present. Richard was not aware of any issues that Lori wanted to report on.

**Action/Recommendation:** None

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**a. Update on Blending of Two Boards**

a. Richard reported that they are almost there. He and the Director are meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> with County Counsel to go over the draft revision of the by-laws and discuss the issues of blending the two Boards. The Director wants to move this forward but it will depend on County Counsel. Once Richard finishes with the list of questions they have, he will forward all the information – questions, by-laws, etc. – to Carol who can then forward to Yvonnia and County Counsel. It looks like both Kyle and Paula will be able to transition to the new Board. Christopher suggested that a description of the qualifications to join this Board and the work it entails be posted in the clinics – this would be good for recovering individuals to get involved in things in the community.

**Action/Recommendation:** As noted above

**IX. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator's Report – Yvonnia Brown**

**a. 1115 Waiver Update**

**b. Budget Report – Sharon Mendonca**

a. Yvonnia reported that the 1115 waiver has been submitted to CMS. It was submitted in November and they have 120 days to respond as to whether they will approve the State's plan for the 1115 waiver. Some of the counties (seven or eight) have been asked to do a pilot project to demonstrate that if you choose to opt in, this is what would be offered. Currently there is not a performance-based measure that CMS says will justify our funding source. To do a demonstration project for the next five years, you have to be able to illustrate that whatever project put into place will meet the needs of the community, be within budget and be unique. If a county does not opt in and cannot perform, there will be other consequences. Yvonnia is looking at possibly opting in – because it would benefit the County more than opting out. With opting in, the Department would have to monitor the programs already housed – Aspiranet and Turning Point – contracts are already in place. However, staffing patterns will have to be looked at; it will require more oversight in every program within the Department. They are in the process of putting a workgroup together for this. Yvonnia does have to report back to the BOS on what she feels is the best solution. Financially this would give the Dept. more ability to bring in additional funding because of services that can now be billed under Medi-Cal. There will be more oversight with contractors and whether they will be approved to come into the County; if the Dept. does approve them, oversight would have to be provided and making sure they adhere to the regulations. Christopher questioned if this will affect the NTP programs. Yvonnia stated that it would and it would be a big plus. Currently the NTP contract means that so many slots are given for individuals on methadone treatment; but if the Director decides to deny the slot increase, they can go around her and go directly to the State. They can service anyone throughout the State and the Dept. has to pay for it. With the 1115 waiver, the Dept. has the option to say how much they will be given or contract with someone else. If the Dept. decides to not opt in and we send our clients outside the county, the money goes with the client. Many of the services required are already in Merced County; one service that our County does not have – but is about to have – is the sober living environment. Merced County will also have to have a centralized in-take process and Yvonnia is hoping that by February there will be one point of entry for the Department. Staffing patterns will also have to be looked at; QI has to increase and this will need to be mapped out. Yvonnia will be reporting back to the BOS by the end of next month. b. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Action/Recommendation:** Information only

**X. Other Business (Discussion Only)**

**a. Update on Counselor Credentials – Lori Newman**

a. Lori was not present. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

➤ Richard reported that the Board has received an application to fill the vacant HSA slot on the Board. The applicant is a Social Services Program Administrator at HSA. Richard recommended accepting the application; Carol will follow-up.

➤ William has a co-worker that is doing a project on marijuana and parent/child communications. He thought she might like to present her project at our February meeting. Carol will add her to the next agenda.

➤ Richard stated that Aegis will also have a guest speaker at the February meeting.

*Action/Recommendation:* As noted above

**XI. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location**

*Action/Recommendation:* The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2014.

**XII. Adjournment**

*Action/Recommendation:* The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Carol Hulsizer