



Advisory Board On Alcohol And Other Drug Problems

April 16, 2013

5:30 PM

Mental Health Administration
1137 B Street, Merced

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Lori Newman, Vice Chair; Dr. Livermore; Paula Mason
Absent:	Steve Pierce; Nathan Sweem; Su Briggs
Others Present:	Curt Willems; Tabatha Weeda; Janet Spangler; Christopher Jensen; Mary Hofmann, Mental Health Board; Vince Ramos, Mental Health Board; Cora Gonzales, Mental Health Board; Carol Hulsizer

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Richard Hawthorne, Chair

Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

II. Self-Introductions – Members and Guests

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

Lori stated that as a family member of a consumer to the Mental Health Department, she thanked the Department for allowing her nephew to go to his mother's funeral in Los Banos two days in a row. She feels the Department went way above their call of duty by sending him with a social worker and a guard.

Vince announced that the Mental Health Board is having their first Annual Retreat from 8:30-4:00 on Saturday.

Vince asked about an article in the newspaper regarding community members taking back the streets and trying to curb violence. Richard commented that the program is called Cease Fire. This program began in Boston about ten years ago and is a faith-based, community-generated program. In Merced they have been working the last year developing the guidelines and taking trainings. They pick an area that has a high incidence of drug-related problems and shootings. Individuals will go out in these areas and walk the streets. Their goal is to get the community members to come out and talk with them. They have resources and individuals that they can go to to assist in either alcohol or drug related issues. Many of the religious organizations also have their own counseling services in regards to those issues. The Merced Police Dept. is aware, but try to stay away from walking the streets with these individuals because if they are out there, the community may not come out talk with these individuals. Once they start walking, they stay out nightly to eventually get people to come talk to them and try to reduce crime. The drug dealers do not like to be seen dealing drugs when people are watching. It just started and there is no statistical information available.

IV. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Newman / Mason) to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2013 meeting.

V. Approval of Agenda for April 16, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: Dr. Livermore wanted to have some Board discussion on gang violence prevention. It was decided to add this agenda item to #XI (Other Business). M/S/C (Newman / Mason) to approve the agenda for the April 16, 2013 meeting with the noted agenda item.

VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen

a. Youth-2-Youth Update

Christopher reported on the Annual Youth-2-Youth Conference that took place on March 9, 2013. They had about 80 high school students that were trained on March 8th on various skills, group facilitation, confidentiality, conflict resolution, and leadership skills. They had about 220 middle-school students show up at Buhach High. Using local providers for the event allows the youth to follow-up and be participants on a regular basis. A slide show was created showing the event and it was shown at this meeting. They are still going over the evaluations and entering the data in excel. What they have seen so far is that they have seen an average of 96%

VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen – con’t.	
of the students saying the conference was amazing. In the past they had contracted with a national trainer. The last two years, for cost-saving measures, they felt they were prepared enough to do it themselves. They do all the coordination, training and facilitation. Christopher gave special thanks to CSMA for lending volunteers and Janet Spangler for donating some staff to help out also.	
Action/Recommendation: Information only	
VII. Mental Health Court Update – Janet Spangler	
Janet is the new Program Manager for Adult Services. Janet spoke first on the Dual Diagnosis Program (DDP) as it relates to Mental Health Court. DDP had a series of unfortunate events where they lost staff, but they now have Jamal who is a great asset to the team. They also have a Dual Diagnosis Clinician and Dual Diagnosis Drug and Alcohol Specialist. They are rebuilding the program using the SAMHSA Toolkit of evidenced-based integrated treatment. They are building capacity and incorporating some 12-step models. As it relates to Mental Health Court, Janet thanked Tabatha for taking this on and then handing it over. Now that DDP is more solid, it is a referral source for Mental Health Court individuals. There have been some changes in the Commissioners as well some attorneys which has also given it some new life. They are looking at referrals, working with the Probation Officers and the attorneys. There is now the Trident Center, which is a one-stop shop for AB109 returnees. HSA is represented for benefits and will be doing some classes. Mental Health is there, Drug and Alcohol as a component, Probation Officers and Sheriff’s Dept. The Trident Center is right across from the Court House and is easy access to clients and defendants coming from the Court to be linked with services. Janet hopes to come back for an update. There will be an Open House at some point for DDP.	
Action/Recommendation: Information only	
VIII. Executive Committee Report – Richard Hawthorne	
a. Establish Nominating Committee for June Election of Officers	
a.Lori commented that she thought this would be put off due to talk of the AOD Board and Mental Health Board merging; if the merging of the two Boards does not happen by July 1 st , Lori believes that the Director wanted the Exec Committee to carry over until this is solved. After discussion it was decided to go ahead and nominate Richard Hawthorne as the Chair and Lori Newman as the Vice-Chair for the next fiscal year. The suggestion was made to have either Richard or Lori be the Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Board.	
Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Newman / Livermore) to appoint Richard Hawthorne as the Chair of the AOD Advisory Board for FY 13/14. M/S/C (Mason / Hawthorne) to appoint Lori Newman as the Vice-Chair of the AOD Advisory Board for FY 13/14.	
IX. Committee Reports	
a. Membership – Vacancies	
a.Richard stated that the Board is holding off on filling vacancies until the decision is made as to merging the AOD and MH Boards.	
Action/Recommendation: Information only	
X. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator’s Report – Curt Willems	
a. Sequester	
b. CADPAAC Update – Tabatha Weeda	
a. Curt commented that the sequester will minimally affect the Department’s budget, if at all. According to what the State is saying, there are mixed reviews because SAMHSA is being cut across the board by a certain percentage. At the same time, it should not affect the Department. It is still a little unclear as to what sequestration will do. b. At CADPAAC they handed out a briefing paper regarding the implications of healthcare reform and the questions still unanswered. There was a lot of talk regarding workforce issues and the ten different certifying boards in California and there has been talk of some boards trying to merge together. The NCAA – the accreditation who certifies these boards – has been looking into the standards of these ten different agencies because they would like to show that there is a standard across the State that everyone is adhering to. Some certifying boards have been de-certified, some have been suspended, and some gave up their ability to certify counselors. If one of the certifying agencies is decertified or becomes unaccredited, they will have five days to notify the counselors and the counselors will then have six months to get recertified with another organization. They are still working out the details of grandfathering and the fees. They are hoping that at the end of all of this the organizations will have standard testing, one standard code of ethics, and it will show the healthcare industry that there is a uniform process for certifying a specialty service. They also talked about the need for pushing for the mental health side and AOD to get more knowledge and the primary care settings to be more knowledgeable on evidenced based practices, integration, prescription, drug	

X. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator’s Report – Curt Willems – con’t.
abuse, learning to use motivational interviewing techniques in a fast-passed environment of a primary care setting, and how to adapt our services into that type of setting. UCLA and ADP are working together on a presentation to share with staff and the community for a web-based training; there will be an update at the next CADPAAC meeting. Curt commented that CMHDA (CA Mental Health Director’s Association) has talked about the joining of CADPACC and CMHDA as a joint meeting and have voted on pursuing this from their side.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only
XI. Other Business (Discussion Only) a. Gang Violence Prevention
Dr. Livermore stated that at last week’s BOS meeting Larry Morse discussed the recent shooting in Atwater; his point was that Merced County will not grow if people do not feel safe. As a result, the Board was interested as well as the CEO, Jim Brown. The CEO proposed to Department heads that they talk with their managers and come up with programs. He also looked on the internet for other successes and he found quite a lot of information. Law enforcement has intelligence, gun buy backs. Dr. Livermore thought of this group because they are a good cross section who could be involved. As far as education is concerned, there are a lot of schools that have a policy on suspension and expulsion; this can sometimes cause problems with the kid having to leave school and end up further behind in school. Richard stated that the Merced Union High School District in both Merced and Atwater have Probation Officers assigned to a specific campus and that Probation Officer rotates; unfortunately this will be ending because of budget cuts. Curt commented that the CUBE does have kids coming in who are gang related; this affects the AOD/Mental Health programs and is an issue. Richard continued that three things have to happen – 1. Prevention, 2. Intervention and 3. Suppression. Law enforcement can arrest them, but because of overcrowding in the jail, they are kicked out. The goal through prevention and intervention is to keep them out of jail. Getting in front of the problem makes a difference at the other end. This takes a community effort. There is a county-wide gang task force made up of individuals from Merced Police, Atwater Police, Los Banos Police, and the CHP. They develop intelligence around the county and then try to target these gangs. They have targeted specific gangs and have taken them apart but that costs money and manpower. Last year Governor Brown disseminated the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement and that was one of their biggest intelligence resources and manpower resources in the State to deal with gangs. Prevention and intervention are community efforts but the community does not get involved.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only
XII. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2013.
XIII. Adjournment
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Carol Hulsizer