



Advisory Board On Alcohol And Other Drug Problems

June 18, 2013

5:30 PM

Mental Health Administration
1137 B Street, Merced

Present:

Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Paula Mason; Su Briggs

Absent:

Lori Newman, Vice Chair; Steve Pierce; Nathan Sweem; Su Briggs; Dr. Livermore

Others Present:

Curt Willems; Christopher Jensen; Sgt. Kevin Blake, Sheriff-STAR Team; Deputy Ray Framstad, Sheriff-STAR Team; Vince Ramos, Mental Health Board; Cora Gonzales, Chair, Mental Health Board; Carol Hulsizer

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Richard Hawthorne, Chair

Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 5:30 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

Vince announced that at the last Mental Health Board meeting a document was passed out which shows the number of personnel on the Mental Health staff - it shows how many are certified and licensed. Vince passed out copies of this document to share with the AOD Board members.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Mason / Briggs) to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2013 meeting.

V. Approval of Agenda for June 18, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Briggs / Mason) to approve the agenda for the June 18, 2013 meeting.

VI. Guest Speakers – Sheriff's Office - STAR Team – Sergeant Kevin Blake & Deputy Ray Framstad

Sergeant Kevin Blake and Deputy Ray Framstad from the County Sheriff's Office were present. They are both from the STAR Team – Sheriff's Tactical and Reconnaissance Team. Sgt. Blake reported that the STAR Team is a four-person team and they are like a "save-all" type team. They have all kinds of different duties and one of their primary duties right now is marijuana eradication. This has been a hot topic the last few years and is a big problem. One reason it is such a large-scale problem is because it is a very convoluted issue and there is a lot of confusion over the last few years on how to go about combating marijuana. There is a lot of fear of liability and being sued. Basically, now they are seeing people growing under the auspices of medical marijuana and taking advantage of that. They are seeing some of the larger scale growths – most are what they consider cartel or Mexican national type grows. They are growing hundreds of plants which produce one to three pounds/per plant. In California a pound sells for \$1,200 and if it goes to the east coast it sells for \$3,000 to \$5,000. It is a huge cash crop and is beginning to overshadow the harder drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine. The biggest issue with the Sheriff's is the huge increase in violence because there is so much money involved. There have been several homicides this year that have very direct undertones that are related to marijuana – home invasions turned bad. Their goal is to be very aggressive with the marijuana because they are seeing such serious crimes related to it. Deputy Framstad is qualified to testify in court as an expert and they are able to write search warrants and eradicate marijuana based on his expert testimony. California produces 70% of the world's marijuana. Deputy Framstad passed around copies of actual marijuana cards and explained how easy it is to get one. Deputy Framstad showed a powerpoint that he brought which outlines medical marijuana. He explained that year-to-date their four-person team has eradicated over 30,000 plants. They are so busy that the Under Sheriff flies the aviation unit identifying grows and the next day they are out there doing what they call a "consent form" where they explain the law to the grower or are out writing search warrants. Merced County follows the State law which says you can

VI. Guest Speakers – Sheriff’s Office - STAR Team – Sergeant Kevin Blake & Deputy Ray Framstad – con’t.

possess 8 oz. of marijuana; you can grow six mature plants or 12 immature plants. Doctors are telling “patients” that if they pay them extra money, they will say it is okay to grow up to 99 plants because 99 plants is the Federal cutoff where you can be prosecuted under the Federal government.

Action/Recommendation: Information only

VII. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen

Christopher is going to coordinate with Sgt. Blake and Deputy Framstad to get the Prevention Unit trained by the STAR Team as to what is going on with marijuana. One of the objectives in the Strategic Plan for the next five years is to create a website specific to methamphetamine and marijuana use so that people will know what information is needed when they leave a hotline tip. A few months ago the Department hired a new Alcohol and Drug Counselor – Darren Leonardo. Darren was the intervention specialist that was running the District Opportunity Center for the High School District. This is a program where a student, who has been caught under the influence or in possession of a substance on campus, is sent to the District Opportunity Center where Darren would do a 4-hour intervention program four days a week with them; they would serve their suspension on campus. Christopher will bring the Progress Report to the next meeting to show the objectives from the Strategic Plan that he is talking about. They also wanted to have a curriculum so that if there is a high success rates in the education program, they would know why they were successful or not. Darren has put together this 7-week curriculum for the education program and they have worked together developing an outcome measuring tool. This tool is measuring perceptual harm, use, skill development, etc. There is a pre- and post-survey and a spreadsheet will be developed to track all those outcomes. The mentoring program has finished for the year; they were at the Valley Continuation in Merced, Golden Valley, Tenaya, Livingston High School and Middle School. They are hoping to expand this program next year through the MHSa PEI program by getting additional staff. Christopher has been working with a group in Livingston called the Road Map Team. This team surveyed the parks in the city of Livingston for tobacco use around the playgrounds and presented the results to the City Council. They have now been given the green light to write up a proposed policy for smoke-free parks and this will be put on the City agenda. RAFT is still operating. All the school-based programs finished last month and they are planning now for next year’s programs.

Action/Recommendation: Information only

VIII. 2013/2014 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for FY 2013/2014 was in this month’s packet. With the blending of the two Boards, this schedule will more than likely change.

Action/Recommendation: Information only

IX. Executive Committee Report – Richard Hawthorne**a. Update on Blending of Boards**

a. Richard reported that he and Lori have been attending the Mental Health Board meetings. Mental Health Board members have in turn been attending these AOD meetings. Cora Gonzales is the new Chair of the MH Board and they have recommended that Richard be the Vice-Chair; the drawback is that he has to be part of the Board to be appointed. Richard is currently going through the application process to become a member of the Board. When the two Boards blend, the members that are interested in moving to the Mental Health Board will have positions to move to if they choose to do so. There will be an AOD Sub-committee that initially Richard will chair. This sub-committee can meet separately, if they choose, to discuss issues. One of the biggest issue they have in regards to blending is how long the meeting will take place. At present the MH Board is 1.5 hours and every minute is filled up. Adding AOD will mean more time would be needed. Curt stated that one solution is putting time limits on each agenda item. If there are presentations, then certain business that has to be conducted is all that is done that night and you have to let Board members know ahead of time. Cora stated that the MH Board will have a new-looking agenda this coming month; time limits have been added to agenda items. County Counsel advised that AOD Board members just be grandfathered into the MH Board, if By-Laws so state. Curt stated that some AOD Board members are also vendors/providers and cannot be grandfathered in because the MH by-Laws and State requirements prevent providers from being on the MH Board; Richard stated that those Board members are aware of that. When more information is known, it will be presented.

Action/Recommendation: Information only

X. Committee Reports a. Membership – Vacancies
a. No update.
Action/Recommendation:
XI. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator’s Report – Curt Willems a. May Revise b. CADPAAC Update
a. Curt stated that this is the first year there is positive news. The State budget was passed this last weekend. Mental Health and AOD services are actually going to get more money this year for the first time in a long time. There has been enough pushing at the Federal level that says these are real issues and there have been enough problems like the shootings in the schools that has gotten the attention of the people that something needs to be done. The State is going to cover our portion of the match for the Federal money. County Administrators are very happy about this. b. Manuel attended the recent CADPAAC meeting and brought back some information which was passed out. One document, <i>Racial/Ethnic Disparities – A Date-Informed Perspective</i> , Curt asked everyone to take a look at. In this document it showed the over-all and child poverty levels by County and Merced County is number 2 on the list. There are issues affecting families here in Merced County that other counties are not having to deal with quite as drastically. It has an impact on our kids, parents, and adults as they try to make ends meet and raise their kids in this community. Across the board there is an impact. Also passed out was a copy of the Assembly Bills being watched by CADPAAC.
Action/Recommendation: Information only
XII. Other Business (Discussion Only)
Christopher mentioned AB 473 which would have ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) oversee marijuana regulations. Curt stated they are trying to find regulations in order to draw down taxes on this business. When you start regulating this, it takes some of the crime out of it. Richard stated that there is a lot of money in this but questioned how do you regulate something that is so vague.
Action/Recommendation: Information only
XIII. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location
Action/Recommendation: The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2013.
XIV. Adjournment
Action/Recommendation: The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Carol Hulsizer