



Advisory Board On Alcohol And Other Drug Problems

December 17, 2013

5:30 PM

Mental Health Administration

1137 B Street, Merced

Present:

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

Absent:

Su Briggs; Dr. Livermore

Others Present:

Scott De Moss; Christopher Jensen; Chris Kraushar; Vince Ramos; Tabatha Haywood; 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

Richard asked that everyone introduce themselves because there was a new Board member present – William Hamilton.

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

Lori requested to speak, not as a Board member, but as the Executive Director for Community Social Model Advocates. They currently have a 16-bed perinatal Drug Medi-Cal program. She is seeking approval/support to turn in a couple of applications for non-perinatal Drug Medi-Cal. She believes that she needs the County's approval or at least support and thought she would begin by bringing it to this Board. Scott stated that Tabatha was going to do some research about the changes in Medi-Cal because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that allows her to apply for these non-perinatal Medi-Cal program funds. Tabatha continued that they have been looking at typical policy procedures as if they were going to open up new services to be provided into the County and would typically do an RFP; however, because the way that DHCS has initiated all its Drug Medi-Cal programs have to be recertified and at the time of recertification you can also apply for additional services under the ACA, it goes around the standard County RFP process. In doing that, the State is hoping that we would be able to bring on more providers to be able to have access with all the new individuals coming in for services. In doing that, it is the County Mental Health Director working with the local providers who want to expand their services and move forward on making sure the need is there. Tabatha met with Scott and reviewed the application. She does not foresee any issues moving forward with allowing non-perinatal beds that will be potentially covered with the new ACA. Lori asked about the Medical Director and if she would be allowed to use them. Tabatha stated this will have to be worked out. Scott stated that as the Acting Director his goal is to have the County do what is needed to help with the process. We have ownership of providing care and as we have other individuals who want to step up and expand their treatment services, we are going to be their partner. That is why Tabatha is doing all the research and double checking what the State has given us as far as what a good application would look like. In a concurrent process we also need to work on what the agreement needs to look for us and them to partner together in providing the administrative oversight, medical oversight and those pieces. The MH Dept. is in favor of moving forward with CSMA except that we have not received a lot of technical assistance on our end from the State to bring it all together.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Newman / Mason) to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2013 meeting.

V. Approval of Agenda for August 20, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hamilton / Newman) to approve the agenda for the December 17, 2013 meeting.

VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen

➤ An issue came up about six months ago regarding a memo from Governor Brown to County-level prevention providers in 2011 or 2012 on what the Governor called "swag" – stuff we all get. It was in regards to lanyards, key chains, pens and pencils with your provider name and those things being given out. It was seen as a waste of State money and it was not allowed anymore. However,

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

there has been a big push back from the Prevention field because it also included things like t-shirts and other items that are not just promotional items, but program ID items; for example, the Mentoring Program has mentoring shirts that student can be recognized on campus without having to be stopped. It also promotes a sense of unity and belonging for the at-risk students in their programs. A revised letter was received from SAMHSA through DHCS that swag does not include program identification items any longer. It is just things that would be given out for free for non-reoccurring situations. It has to be something regarding program participants or individual participation in a specific program. This is good news for us because the Youth-2-Youth Conference is coming up. With gang issues, this helps stifle any of those issues at the Conference.

➤ Youth-2-Youth is an annual conference hosted by the AOD Prevention Unit and Mental Health. They take high school students and train them the day before the conference to facilitate group discussions, group activities and group debriefing with middle-school students from 6th, 7th and 8th grades. They go over the effects of alcohol and drug on the community, the home, on the individual as well as other issues that are precursors to people using alcohol and drugs for coping strategies. They try to give the students information on issues that the Planning Committee sees as current that youth are struggling with; it could be eating disorders, divorce in the family, or other serious issues, and then they have fun workshops where they offer the student information on what activities there are available in our community. One of the goals of the Conference is to promote the things that are healthy for the students to get involved with whether it be athletics, music, science, engineering, etc. This year there will be an astronomy club and their workshop will be trying to construct an indoor galaxy. They are looking for a dance crew to do a workshop and some other workshops they are looking at. The Sheriff's Office will give a workshop on marijuana and the new regulations and ordinances. The Conference will be on March 21st and 22nd held at Buhach High School in Atwater. The 21st is the training for the high school students and will be done at the B Street site.

➤ Strategic Prevention Grant Update – this grant was awarded last year to reduce underage and excessive drinking among 12-24 year olds in the City of Merced. This grant called for them to allocate the funding to a community group or grass roots organization that could mobilize around this issue. They selected the United Way of Merced because they have various partners throughout the community. The grant calls a lot on law enforcement to take action on certain issues; they will be partnering with a group called COMVIP (Community Violence Intervention and Prevention). This group is based in Merced and spearheaded by the Police Department and multiple agencies partner with this group to address different issues. The idea of the enforcement piece is not to act as the traditional hammer but to be more of a preventative tool. There are some other projects that are not enforcement-oriented that do the same thing; one is called a Recognition Reminder Program which Christopher will partner with the UC Merced. Currently the city of Merced is struggling to get their grant underway because they have been working on a MOU between different enforcement agencies. They want the UC enforcement to be onboard and the County Probation Dept. to have a unified front of enforcement on these issues. They hope that the MOU goes before the City in January.

➤ The PEI (Prevention, Early Intervention) mentoring program is an expansion of the Friday Night Live middle-school mentoring Program. The FNL mentoring program has been around for about ten years and they have always done it at three different school sites. They recruit high school students and they mentor 8th graders from a feeder middle school. The students are struggling either socially, academically, financially, etc. that cause the student to have academic issues, attendance issues, or behavioral issues at school. They use the mentoring relationship to facilitate more school connectedness and more confidence so that when they transition into high school they are less likely to start dropping out of school. Up until this point, they have not had the personnel to be able to expand the program; this is the first year that Christopher has had time to expand at least one site. The hope is to get an additional Prevention staff in order to expand or duplicate the number of sites. This year they expanded to Atwater and this will be the first year they have had mentoring there. Atwater High School students will be mentoring students from Winton Middle School.

➤ They will be attending a webinar tomorrow produced on prevention and the Affordable Care Act. Hopefully this will bring about more projects.

Action/Recommendation: Information only

VII. Executive Committee Report – Richard Hawthorne
a. Blending of Boards Update

a. Richard reported that they reached a junction in the process where there are three things that need to be done. They need to finish off a draft of the document Lori put together regarding the blending of the two Boards. Second, there is a County ordinance that authorizes the AOD Board to operate in Merced County – this will have to be addressed. Third, they need to meet with the Board of Supervisors individually to give them an update on the blending of the two Boards. They would like to wait until there is a new Mental

VII. Executive Committee Report – Richard Hawthorne – con't.
Health Director in order for them to be a part of the process. Richard continued that he is now a member of the Mental Health Board, he is a Member At Large. If anyone has questions, please let him know. Everyone is invited to attend the monthly Mental Health Board meetings. Vince questioned what a vendor is. Richard responded that anyone who is associated with the County either by employment or by contract is considered a vendor and cannot serve on the Mental Health Board.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only
VIII. Committee Reports
a. Membership – Vacancies
Richard pointed out the newest AOD Board member – William Hamilton.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only
IX. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator's Report – Scott De Moss
a. Recruitment
b. Update on Department Certification – Tabatha Weeda
a. Scott reported that he has been sharing the information on the recruitment for a new Mental Health Director in all the different committees and meetings. The first round of interviews was held earlier this month. Sometime was lost with the holidays and County furloughs. He believes that the next round of interviews will be after the beginning of the year. The CEO is working to find a good replacement. Scott will be here for the interim and is happy to be here. b. Tabatha reported that the Department of Health Care Services is now overseeing what used to be the Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Services. Every Drug Medi-Cal program in the State of California has to go through a recertification process. There are three phases in which the counties will go through this process. Merced County was in the second phase which started last month. The recertification packets were due on December 15 th . Merced submitted recertification packets for Los Banos, RAFT, El Portal, and M Street. The difference with the recertification process this time is that it was like a new provider having to go through and explain your entire policies, procedures and practices. Each packet was lengthy and if you didn't read the fine print you could miss things. Lori is going through the same process for CSMA. The Department is helping Lori any way they can and Aegis was also offered assistance. They are now waiting to hear back from DHCS. DHCS will be doing a site visit in January to ensure that what the policies and procedures stated are actually how the business is being run. However, Tabatha was on a recent conference call and there was discussion about how backlogged they are with the applications; Tabatha will be ready for them in January but in reality she feels they probably will not be here until February. Tabatha continued that each of her sites have the AOD program certifications that are due bi-annually. El Portal was just submitted and renewed. M Street's recertification is not due until March and will be submitted in mid-January.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only
X. Other Business (Discussion Only)
Vince commented that there is a 30-day posting on the County website for the MHSA Proposed Program Update FY 13/14. Everyone should look at it. On January 14 th there will be a Public Hearing at the Mental Health Board meeting.
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i>
XI. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, and Location
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2014.
XII. Adjournment
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Carol Hulsizer