



# Advisory Board On Alcohol And Other Drug Problems

August 20, 2013

5:30 PM

Mental Health Administration

1137 B Street, Merced

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Steve Pierce; Su Briggs; Dr. Livermore

**Others Present:**

Manuel Jimenez; Christopher Jensen; Carol Hulsizer

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order – Richard Hawthorne, Chair

Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 5:35 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

There was no one from the public present.

### IV. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2013 (ACTION ITEM)

**Action/Recommendation:** M/S/C (Hawthorne / Mason) to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting.

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

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

### VI. Prevention Specialist Report – Christopher Jensen

➤ Christopher passed out copies of a summary of the County Prevention Plan Report. This document states the identified problems as well as the goal(s) for the next five years and the objective(s) to meet those goals. One thing they wanted to do was increase the perception of harm and on the planning report, under the first problem statement, Objective 1.1.1 – the two programs they have to do this is RAFT (Recovery Assistance for Teens) and Friday Night Mentoring (FNLM). Mentoring serves a selective population and could be something like the foster youth or those who receive free or reduced school lunches. Some risk factor is identifying them. The RAFT serves more of an indicated population where they have had some contact with law enforcement, school discipline, or probation that indicates they have a substance abuse issue. For the mentoring program they have an evaluation tool built into measure whether they think drugs and alcohol are more harmful after the program; but for RAFT, they have never developed that. It was always up to the counselor's discretion what type of material to give the students over the course of their education. The new AOD hire developed an 8-week curriculum (which is in the last minutes); the curriculum was developed to build their skills, refusal skills, coping skills, etc., and also educate them on the real symptoms of developing a dependence in order for the student to recognize that and increase their perceptual harm. They have received a lot of good results. He developed an outcome measurement tool so it is a pre- and post-survey they take. He also developed a spreadsheet that tracks each year and can then see percentages because their goal/objective is to have 75% in the program. They have received good feedback from the clients saying things like they had no idea they were technically addicted to marijuana but they could now identify withdrawal symptoms. Objective 1.1.2 was to work with off-sale alcohol outlets (you can buy but have to take the liquor to drink it, not bars or restaurants, liquor stores, AM/PMs, etc.) to minimize the access to alcohol by young people; helping operate decoy by operations or shoulder tabs where you see if adults are willing to go in and buy, educating them on responsible beverage service (many vendors do not know that they are responsible for what happens outside their store as well as inside). They received a grant that basically does this exact same thing with different funding so this is technically inactive. Once the grant runs out (they are using the grant as a pilot to learn what worked and what didn't) then they will continue this objective. The third objective is dealing with the young people's perception of what a celebration or party is. A survey was done at the UC a few years ago and the student's number one response as to what is needed at a party, in order to consider it a party, is alcohol. Christopher continued with the plan and methamphetamine. When the plan was written, the Federal law about keeping ephedrine

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

behind the counter had not yet come out so there was still a lot of work to do but it seemed to curb a lot of the environmental issues with the meth labs. Richard stated that individuals making meth have gone back to the original method because they are tired of trying to get the ephedrine; this is less potent so it makes it easier to get them off their addiction. Christopher stated that they wanted to develop a website like what Crime Stoppers does, specifically with meth and marijuana. People can log on anonymously and all the information is there as to what the signs are of meth activity or marijuana grows. There would be a template (filling in the blanks) with the information that the Task Force would need to actually launch an investigation. The whole objective is to increase the community's response to meth and marijuana illegal activity. Christopher will be taking this on over the next few years. Lastly, the past two Prevention Plans written have solely been developed by the Prevention Specialist and Advisory Board. Their hope is to get a better community response to prevention planning and hopefully they can do some trainings to educate the community about what they can do.

➤ Christopher gave an update at the last meeting about the Road Map which is a process that they use with Friday Night Live students to basically use as a strategic planning process to identify an issue in their community and implement a prevention project to curb that issue. Last year's was underage drinking; social hosting was the issue and a video was developed that Christopher showed at this meeting a few months ago. This year the group did tobacco use in parks in the city of Livingston. There is a current law that is called the Tot Lot Law where you cannot smoke or discard tobacco or smoke related waste products within 25 feet of a sandbox or playground area in a park. They advocated for signs to be posted and did a survey and found 147 cigarette butts just in the sandboxes of three parks. The city put signs up stating no smoking in the playground. Now they have written a smoke-free park policy that will be going to the City Council on September 17<sup>th</sup>. If the Council approves there will be a "soft ban" because it is a policy and not an ordinance. They will be discouraging people to smoke in parks. A flyer will be distributed with a monthly bill that is sent out.

➤ Lastly, Christopher reported that at the last BOS meeting they had the first reading of the Sheriff Department's proposed new ordinance around medical marijuana cultivation. He passed out a summary of the information that came from the meeting. They are proposing to limit anybody's grow to 12 plants, mature or immature.

**Action/Recommendation:** Information only

**VII. Executive Committee Report – Richard Hawthorne**

**a. Update on Blending of Boards**

a. Richard reported they are still working on the process and getting close to the end. They now need to complete the by-laws and when those are complete the next step would be for the Chair of the Mental Health Board, Manuel and Richard to meet with each of the Supervisors independently and give them a heads up on what the plan is. Once that is done, the proposal would go to the BOS. Manuel thought this might be complete by January 2014. Richard continued that he has applied to become part of the Mental Health Board to help with the transition. Paula questioned that after the blending what will happen with those members who work for an agency that has a contract with Merced County Mental Health. Manuel replied that contract providers cannot serve as an actual Board member but they can serve on a sub-committee.

**Action/Recommendation:** Information only

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**a. Membership – Vacancies**

Richard reported that they have not been pushing to fill vacancies because of the merging of the two Boards.

**Action/Recommendation:** Information only

**IX. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator's Report – Manuel Jimenez**

- a. CADPAAC Update
- b. Legislative Update
- c. Affordable Care Act Update

a. Manuel reported that the Mental Health Directors used to have a quarterly policy forum and now they are including CADPAAC Administrators into this policy forum. They will be having a meeting in a couple of weeks and they will have their first meeting of the members that were selected to combine the two boards. The next CADPAAC meeting is at the end of September. b. Attached to the agenda was the legislative update. c. Manuel reported that there is a Board agenda item going to the BOS next Tuesday. It is more informational, though there are some action items due to the elimination of some positions in Public Health. The MAP program is being

**IX. Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator’s Report – Manuel Jimenez – con’t.**

eliminated and will be run by the State because they are taking over indigent health. Through the exchange people can start getting enrolled. In October people can call the exchange to find out if they qualify for Medi-Cal or some sort of insurance at a subsidized rate. They will be asked a series of questions and depending on how they answer the questions, be qualified for some sort of Medi-Cal and be referred to the Counties. Merced County will have a call center through HSA and will also serve some surrounding counties as well. If a person does not qualify for Medi-Cal, but do qualify for some discounted rate then the exchange and the State would help them out. There are also some other agencies that have received grants to help educate the community about the Affordable Care Act. The biggest fear is probably that there are people who do not realize that they qualify for healthcare and therefore will not apply. Also part of the Board agenda item is to educate the Board of Supervisors and the community about primary care but also about mental health and substance abuse also. There will also be a small section on parity as well. It also says that we will be coming back to the Board with further recommendations about staffing issues; there will be about 25,000 new enrollees for Medi-Cal and conservatively 10% (2,500) of that population could be eligible for mental health services and substance abuse services.

**Action/Recommendation:**

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

- Manuel reported that Mental Health will be sponsoring *The House I Live In* and will be at the downtown theatre on Main Street. It is a documentary on the war on drugs. A definite date has not yet been set. Manuel is waiting for Mark Pazin and Larry Morse to respond. There will be a consumer who will participate on the panel as well as Tabatha Weeda, AOD, Scott Ball, Probation, and Eric Dumars, Public Defender.
- Lori asked Manuel if he had a sense of how the AOD Department is functioning within the Dept. of Health Care Services. Manuel stated that they hired a new Director over Mental Health and AOD services and her name is Karen Baylor. She was the Behavioral Health Director in San Luis Obispo County. Under Karen there is a Deputy Director or Assistant Director of AOD and one of Mental Health. He believes both positions have been filled but did not know by whom. Many of the ADP staff already went to DHCS last year. Lori complained that the website is very confusing. When Lori needed to get hold of someone at the Department for a very serious matter, it took her a whole day to figure out who that person should be and even the number she should be calling. DHCS could not even tell her who her analyst was nor could they give her another number to call in order to find out who her analyst was. Manuel asked her to email this to him and he would bring it up at CADPAAC. Lori hopes that either Manuel or Curt can bring back some updated information to help.

**Action/Recommendation:** Information only

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

**Action/Recommendation:** The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

**XIV. Adjournment**

**Action/Recommendation:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Hulsizer