



## **Offender Treatment Advisory Group January 11, 2008 Meeting Summary**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Director Renee Zito opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and thanked them for attending.

Director Zito discussed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 preliminary Governor's Budget which calls for a ten percent across-the-board reduction to most General Fund departments and programs. Director Zito mentioned that the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) will reduce its general fund budget by ten percent across eight programs.

Some of these proposed reductions will include a \$10 million decrease to Proposition 36 with a corresponding reduction of \$3.3 million in FY 2007-08. Director Zito also mentioned that there is a proposed \$2 million decrease to the Substance Abuse Offender Treatment Program (OTP) and a corresponding cut of \$667,000 in FY 2007-08.

Director Zito discussed that there is a proposed \$3.1 million decrease to the Drug Court Partnership Act, Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Act, and the Dependency Drug Court funding and a proposed corresponding reduction of \$1 million in FY 2007-2008 as well.

Soon after the meeting, the Governor's Office announced that the proposed cuts for FY 2007-08 would not occur.

Director Zito informed the group that there were a lot of recommendations and action items from the last meeting which has resulted in a very full meeting today. Director Zito provided the members with a brief overview of the agenda and thanked everyone again for attending.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Millicent Gomes, Deputy Director, Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration, facilitated introductions and updates from the OTAG members.

There was consensus from the members that the FY 2008-09 proposed budget cuts would affect all counties resulting in burdens on treatment providers, decreases in the number of clients served, and increased waiting lists.

Additionally, members were pleased to see Department of Mental Health at the table.

## **COJAC UPDATE**

Marjorie McKission, Assistant Deputy Director, Program Services Division, ADP and Dave Neilsen, Chief, Community Services and Supports, Department of Mental Health (DMH), presented an update on State activities to address Co-Occurring Disorders (COD). The two reported that the next Co-Occurring Joint Action Committee (COJAC) group meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008, in the Los Angeles area.

They mentioned COJAC has created five subcommittees to develop strategies for the implementation of the COD State Action Plan. The subcommittees are in the process of updating the plans and will be reporting back to the full group. The subcommittees are:

- Funding – Ongoing Funding Analysis, Evaluation & Recommendation
- Housing – Increase Appropriate Housing for Persons with COD
- Screening – Adoption of a Statewide Screening Tool
- Partnerships – Developing Ongoing Partnerships
- Licensing and Certification

Members expressed concern in utilizing the Dual Diagnosis Capable Addiction Treatment (DDCAT) validation tool. Members thought that rather than wait for the two years to have the tool validated, the DDCAT could be marketed as a promising practice.

Members from the treatment field would like equal access to existing treatment slots. Additional members discussed that caps cause many persons with COD to be rejected for services because they are not placed in the appropriate category. Additionally, members requested a list of the MHSAs programs and the coordinators to be posted on the DMH website so individuals can locate services.

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY SPECIALIZED OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAM**

Tom Koepke, Parole Agent, Riverside County, provided the members with an overview of the specialized caseload for Proposition 36 parolee clients. Agent Koepke informed the group that Riverside County is testing an innovative approach to managing Proposition 36 treatment called the Riverside County Specialized Offender Treatment Program. Findings show that having a specialized caseload utilizing a dedicated treatment provider and a parole agent to deal with parolees, ultimately increases treatment success.

Agent Koepke noted that prior to this program, there were waiting times of two to five months or more, making it difficult to track parolees and allowing parolees the opportunity to re-offend. The main goal of the program is to enroll parolees quickly and allow for same-day assessments and placement into treatment.

The program assigns a caseload of 50 parolees to one parole agent. Agent Koepke noted that having a dedicated caseload for parolees provides for a one-on-one working relationship resulting in treatment success. Working with one dedicated treatment provider allows Agent Koepke to establish a rapport with the program and its clinicians. It also provides him the ability to maintain daily interaction with the clinic and have “real-time” knowledge of the client’s treatment progression. The treatment episode consists of 26 weeks of primary treatment and eight weeks of aftercare.

## **SB 1453 UPDATE**

Sylvia Penunnuri, Parole Administrator, Division of Addiction and Recovery Services, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), provided the members with an update on Senate Bill (SB) 1453.

Sylvia Penunnuri stated that the Governor signed SB 1453 and the bill was chaptered in 2007. This law provides, upon parole, that eligible parolees who successfully complete an in-prison drug treatment program, shall, whenever possible, be entered into a residential aftercare drug treatment program. If the parolee successfully completes 150 days of residential aftercare, he/she shall be discharged from parole. SB 1453 is currently being utilized in 22 prisons and is expanding.

Sylvia Penunnuri mentioned that if treatment staff or a parolee determines that treatment is needed beyond the 150 days, the case will be handled on an individual basis. Parole agents will refer failing parolees to the Board. Parole agents can then recommend remedial sanction and/or other treatment programs. CDCR will provide additional training to the field to handle these types of cases.

At the end of March 2007, the statistics were as follows:

- 1,574 inmates were paroled from an in-custody Substance Abuse Program (SAP) into SB 1453
- 1,546 were admitted to a SAP upon parole
- Of the 1,546 parolees that were admitted to a SAP upon parole:
  - 594 successfully completed successfully
  - 356 failed
  - 6 completed the 150 days unsuccessfully
  - 28 parolees failed to show up to a SAP program upon parole
  - 590 parolees are actively participating in a SAP as of January 11, 2008

## **AB 900 UPDATE**

Armand Burruel, Acting Director, Division of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction, Office of the Secretary, CDCR, provided the members with an update on Assembly Bill (AB) 900, chaptered on May 3, 2007.

AB 900 authorizes CDCR to design, construct, or renovate prison housing units, prison support buildings, and programming space; to acquire land; design, construct, and renovate reentry program facilities; and construct and establish new buildings. AB 900 also authorizes the State Public Works Board to issue revenue bonds to finance the design and construction of these projects.

Six million dollars has been set aside for the construction bonds. CDCR would like to operate the re-entry facilities and then turn over to local governments to facilitate. CDCR is interested in working with the counties; however, CDCR has to wait for counties to identify interest. Counties can work individually or collaborate with various counties on the site location and construction.

Mr. Burrue! stated that the next steps would depend on counties deciding when the start-up of services would begin. A handout (attached) was provided detailing counties that have signed agreements to cooperate.

### **PROMISING PRACTICES**

Darren Urada, Ph.D., University California at Los Angeles, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs gave the members a presentation on promising practices. Most of the promising practices presented have been utilized within the Offender Treatment Program. The areas covered were:

- "Classic" Recommendations for Reducing No-Shows
- Employment
- Narcotic Replacement Therapy
- Homeless Mentally Ill
- Treatment Matching: Residential
- Incentives & Sanctions
- High-Risk Offenders
- Process Improvement

Dr. Urada informed the members that the next round of the SACPA Evaluation started today January 11, 2008, and continues through December 31, 2010. The five areas that will be examined are:

1. Promising Practices and Effect of Related Criminal Justice Reforms
2. Special Populations
3. Performance Management
4. Population and Benefit-Cost Analyses
5. Methamphetamine Special Study

### **NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

- Discussion with Carole Hood, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs, CDCR, on how ADP and CDCR will coordinate services
- Mental Health Services for those who need them (COJAC)
- Bibliography of Resources for Proposition 36 Research
- Proposed reduction in treatment services
- Revitalization of the Mental Health, Parolee, and Narcotic Replacement Therapy subcommittees
  - E-mail members requesting volunteers

### **NEXT MEETING**

April 25, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 1700 K Street