



Offender Treatment Advisory Group May 4, 2007 Meeting Summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Millicent Gomes, Deputy Director, Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration (OCJC) opened the meeting by welcoming the Offender Treatment Advisory Group (OTAG) members. Millicent then introduced the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs' (ADP) newly appointed Director Renée Zito.

Director Zito thanked the members for participating. Director Zito provided the members with a brief background on her experience including her work in the drug treatment field for three decades. Director Zito commented that Proposition 36 remains a top priority for ADP. She asked the members to consider what is best for Proposition 36 and to continue the excellent collaboration that has been a hallmark for the group.

Millicent then facilitated introductions and updates from the OTAG members and the audience.

UCLA EVALUATION DISCUSSION

Millicent briefly reviewed some of the findings from the fourth and final annual report. Millicent noted that ADP has a new contract with the University of California Los Angeles to address questions raised in the report.

Many members expressed concern that after five years of research and findings, ADP still does not have adequate SACPA funding. Members stated ADP should use the UCLA scenarios to help demonstrate the need for additional money.

Members are also concerned that ADP is not providing the Legislature adequate data to demonstrate the need for additional funding. Members would like ADP to recommend that UCLA focus on collecting data, which is required by statute. The group voted to establish an Evaluation Subcommittee to assist the UCLA on the direction of further evaluations.

Millicent commented that the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a hearing on June 28, 2007, to report on the findings and recommendations from the 2003 Little Hoover report. ADP may be calling on some of the members to testify.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Millicent mentioned she attended a DUI conference in San Diego and several individuals talked about their multiple offenses. She noted that there is a significant gap in mental health services for alcohol and drug abusers. Members discussed suggested improvements to the DUI program. It was agreed that the issue will be discussed at the next County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC) meeting.

WEB-BASED CONFERENCE CALL ON THE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL (RANT)

Dr. Douglas Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D. from the Treatment Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania presented the RANT. The RANT assesses offenders' public safety risk, treatment need, and psychosocial functioning. The information is then used to help determine the type and level of program that an offender may need.

Dr. Marlowe and Mr. Van Lam demonstrated an on-line explanation on how the RANT works, the process of signing in and creating a new client and the different levels of access available.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

ADP will conduct more research on the RANT and the ASAM to see how counties can use it locally, and provide an update at the next meeting.

The group voted to reconvene the Parolee Subcommittee and work with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in addressing parolee issues. OCJC will send out the goals for the Evaluation and Parolee Subcommittees and allow members to join one or both of these subcommittees.

Members discussed how ADP can demonstrate to the Legislature the need for additional funding. The group expressed concern over the way the money has been distributed to counties. Members stated some counties show higher completions rates as completion data is being reporting differently.

Michael Cunningham, Chief Deputy Director, ADP, noted that CalOMS data is being evaluated for consistency; and inconsistencies are being addressed immediately.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

May Revise
RANT & RAVE Update
Evaluation and Parolee Subcommittee

FUTURE MEETING DATES

July 27, 2007
September 7, 2007
November 2, 2007