

**Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA)  
STATEWIDE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY  
May 10, 2002**

**WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kathryn P. Jett, Director, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP), updated Statewide Advisory Group members and guests on recent developments affecting the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA).

- The "Making It Work" Conference in San Diego on March 25-27, 2002, was a tremendous success. Director Jett expressed appreciation to the Statewide Advisory Group members who were presenters and supporters of the conference.
- At the request of Assemblymember Dion Aroner, Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee, Director Jett briefed the committee on alcohol and other drug programs.
- With funding provided by the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, Consultant Michael Brady of Senator John Burton's office is organizing an education day on alcohol and other drugs for legislators and their staffs on May 30, 2002.
- ADP is providing assistance to legislators and local officials who are asking how to deal with community resistance to siting of treatment facilities.
- Efforts to develop a Fiscal Year 2002-03 budget given California's financial picture continue to be challenging.
- The Little Hoover Commission is studying the needs and challenges of publicly funded treatment programs as well as the role of the private sector. ADP is among those providing information for the study.
- Director Jett recently met with the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). NASADAD's focus will be on bringing alcohol and drug issues to the forefront.
- ADP is part of a state Interagency Task Force on Homelessness. A special focus for ADP is housing for women leaving perinatal treatment programs.
- ADP expects to complete the ADP Strategic Plan in June 2002. Areas emphasized are enhancing the professionalism of the field, promoting understanding of alcohol and drug abuse, measuring program outcomes, and improving access to services.

**PROGRAM UPDATES  
FROM STATEWIDE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS**

Members provided brief updates on program implementation.

General:

- Progress is being made, particularly with Director Jett becoming more involved at the national level. The momentum associated with SACPA is striking and represents an enormous effort.

- Collaboration between judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors is making SACPA work.
- Emphasis continues on "recovery happens and treatment works." A "Celebrating Recovery" event is scheduled at the Capitol on September 4, 2002.
- Three initiatives similar to SACPA are currently being pursued in Michigan, Ohio, and the District of Columbia.

### Capacity

- Several projects are underway addressing community resistance to treatment facilities. However, with projected budget reductions, such programs will suffer.
- Work is underway to bring Native American tribes together with county governments and to help get tribal programs certified.
- Concern was expressed on capacity issues such as waiting lists for beds and the lack of non-residential slots. It is important that those who voluntarily seek treatment continue to be served.
- Some good programs are choosing not to become licensed or certified due to SACPA reporting requirements.

### Client Flow

- Although progress is slow in getting SACPA parolee referrals, the number of parolees moving into assessment is increasing. Greater increases could be seen when the parole authority finalizes its referral process. Work is also underway to create a more localized model for SACPA-eligible parolees.
- One county has created a brochure that improved the flow of SACPA clients.
- Probation officers are discussing the courtesy supervision issue at a statewide meeting on May 20, 2002. The outcome will be reported at the next Statewide Advisory Group meeting.

### Methadone Treatment

- There is continued community resistance to siting of methadone treatment facilities due to the stigma associated with methadone treatment.
- More education regarding methadone treatment is needed.

### Funding

- Severe county budget cuts are anticipated across the board. The depth of budget cuts will affect the ability to deliver services in the counties. County funding cuts in perinatal and adolescent treatment programs are painful. Despite these cuts, counties are trying to stabilize the system of care.

## Public Safety

- Criminal justice representatives reported that crime rates for drug offenses are being assessed for their implications for SACPA.
- SACPA-related cases are coming up through the courts of appeal to the California Supreme Court. One case has clarified that an offender is considered eligible for SACPA if it has been five years since the offender's last conviction for a violent offense.

## Service Delivery

- The focus now must be on clinical treatment infrastructure, funding, capacity, and staffing. More diverse approaches to treatment are needed.
- The San Francisco Veterans Administration Hospital and Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco are not receiving SACPA referrals. There are meetings underway with the Veterans Administration in the Los Angeles area to begin SACPA referrals.
- Data collection is a significant burden for many providers.
- Courtesy supervision between counties is an issue that needs to be resolved soon.

# ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

Susan Nisenbaum, Deputy Director, ADP Office of Applied Research and Analysis, discussed the changes in allocations to counties between Fiscal Years 2001-02 and 2002-03. The data on which the allocations are based – including population (50 percent), treatment caseload (25 percent), and drug arrests (25 percent)– were updated as required by the regulations and resulted in increased or decreased allocations to counties. Nisenbaum said she could not pinpoint one factor as the basis for changes.

Information relative to allocation issues was provided by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives. Because the allocation formula is based in part on population, funding levels fluctuate. Alternative formulas, such as the standard ADP methodology for determining fund amounts, do exist and could be considered.

Members commented that a review the methodology must consider allocation principles and required elements. Stable funding is important. The weight given to each SACPA allocation element should be examined, and the definition of caseload should be reviewed. Issues of unexpended fund transfer and rollover of funds should be addressed.

**Recommendation:** (1) Refer the issue of SACPA allocation methodology, and the issues identified by the Statewide Advisory Group, to the ADP Fiscal Workgroup for consideration; and (2) Recommend adding a criminal justice representative to the Fiscal Workgroup.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Dotty Diemer, Vice President, Rogers and Associates, described the SACPA Public Education Plan Advisory Committee and the research that has been conducted. Initial findings are that drug use, crime, and education are very serious issues to Californians. The research findings reveal wide support for treatment, as well as areas of concern. Statewide Advisory Group members suggested that input from counties that did not approve Proposition 36 could be helpful in developing public messages. Additionally, a language competent and culturally competent package is critical.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Parolee Services Subcommittee**

Bruce Slavin, Undersecretary, Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, and Subcommittee Co-chair, reported that the California Department of Corrections (CDC) has developed a new parolee referral process. The process provides that SACPA parolee's eligible for services through the Substance Abuse Services Coordination Agencies (SASCA) will start in the SASCA program. CDC also plans to generate a list of contacts for referral information. A CDC representative will participate on the Dual Diagnosis Task Force. Additionally, CDC will investigate coordinating the mental health needs of parolees. SACPA client access to existing CDC outpatient mental health services could assist with co-occurring disorder issues if referrals were possible. The subcommittee will look at the mechanics of making that happen.

## **EVALUATION UPDATE**

Liz Evans, Project Director, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Dr. Larry Carr, ADP's Office of Applied Research and Analysis, reported that ten focus counties had been identified for the statewide evaluation. They are Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Orange,\* San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, and Shasta. A description of data needed from the focus counties was made available, as well as a copy of the agreement with the focus counties. Dr. Carr also reported that the SACPA evaluation report for the first year was in final ADP review.

Ms. Evans reported that access to administrative databases is being secured from the agencies that collect data relevant to SACPA. UCLA is also gearing up for a survey of stakeholders. The evaluator intends to involve the Statewide Advisory Group in the survey process.

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\* Orange County has subsequently withdrawn.

## STATE REPORT

Del Sayles-Owen, Deputy Director, ADP Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration, updated members on the following program and policy items:

- ❑ **Budget Hearings**  
ADP presented highlights of SACPA data to the Legislature as part of state budget hearings. ADP cautioned that data for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2001-02 is preliminary, and client counts and county expenditures are expected to accelerate during the last six months of the year.
- ❑ **2002-03 County Plans**  
As of May 10, 2002, 31 counties had submitted Fiscal Year 2002-03 SACPA plans.
- ❑ **SB 223/SATTA Program Regulations**  
Emergency regulations for the Substance Abuse Treatment and Testing Accountability (SATTA) program are expected to become effective June 30, 2002.
- ❑ **Field Audit Work**  
The audit process is well underway. Some trends are becoming evident, and there are a few issues with allowable costs.
- ❑ **Summary of November 5, 2001, Implementation Meeting**  
ADP expects to publish proceedings of this meeting in June.
- ❑ **Issues Summary from Like-Sized Counties Session of March 2002 "Making It Work" Conference**  
Among the issues raised during like-sized counties sessions were dual diagnosis, parolee referrals, cross-jurisdictional issues including probation supervision, ancillary services, and transportation. Conference proceedings will be published.

In response to a request, Ms. Sayles-Owen responded that a compilation of county SACPA data for stakeholders to use would be disseminated through Rogers and Associates.

## LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

David Feinberg, Manager, Residential and Outpatient Program Compliance Branch, reported for Rebecca Lira, Deputy Director, ADP Licensing and Certification Division. ADP is continuing efforts to build treatment capacity. The number of certified outpatient providers has doubled since SACPA began, and the number of additional licensed or certified beds has increased by approximately 17 percent. Mr. Feinberg also described the need to upgrade regulations to ensure public safety through licensure.

Members also reported a need for coherent data on which to draw judgements and make informed statements regarding capacity. Data needs include uniform data definitions, a universal data set for capacity, performance outcomes of treatment, and turnover and retention rates.

Comments were referred to the ADP Licensing and Certification Workgroup, which has been convened to examine existing regulations and provide input to the department on modifying regulations. The capacity issue will be addressed at the County Lead Agency Implementation Meeting on September 17-18, 2002, in Sacramento.

## LEGISLATION

### ❑ **The ADP Legislative Agenda**

A handout describing legislation ADP is currently following was distributed.

### ❑ **Senate Bill 1449 – SACPA Legislation**

Whitney Taylor, Drug Policy Alliance, described this bill as supplemental to SACPA rather than clean-up legislation. She said SB 1449 is a consensus bill and had been accepted by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. She highlighted amendments that had been approved. The bill addresses transportation, methadone treatment, expands SACPA offenses to include possession of drug paraphernalia, and exempts SACPA clients from registration as a drug offender requirement.

### ❑ **2002-03 Budget Hearings**

Dan Carson, Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), announced that an analysis of the Fiscal Year 2002-03 budget bill is on the LAO web site at [www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov). It includes information on treatment capacity.

## NEXT STEPS

The next Statewide Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 9, 2002, in Sacramento.