

Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC)  
Meeting Hi-Lites  
September 21, 2005

**Members Present:**

Lily Alvarez, Kern County  
Maureen Bauman, Placer County  
Michael Borunda, State DMH  
Vivian Brown, PROTOTYPES  
Michael Cunningham, State ADP  
Carmen Delgado, State ADP  
Troy Fox, Merced County  
Sandra Goodwin, California Institute for Mental Health  
Rollin Ives, State DMH  
Jim O'Connell, Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc.  
and California Association of Addiction Recovery Resources  
Ben Partington, State DSS  
Terry Robinson, Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute  
Al Senella, Tarzana Treatment Centers  
and President of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives  
Marv Southard, Los Angeles County  
Cheryl Trenwith, Placer County

**Others Present:**

Verda Bradley, Los Angeles County  
Joan Hirose, State ADP

**Welcome and Introductions**

Cheryl Trenwith and Marv Southard, the two association co-chairs, convened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

Members agreed to additions to the agenda that will be covered under New Business.

**Opening Remarks**

State members discussed collaboration between the two state departments and the two associations. Appropriate representation among stakeholders was an important issue with COJAC having clients and family member representation. Opportunities for clients, ADP and DMH staff, and emeritus county mental health directors also exist to serve on subcommittees. Members raised concerns about criminal justice representation from the county level or from a larger organization such as the head of the chief probation officers' association, judicial, or other constituency. Inadequate representation of ethnicity and geography of small counties was noted. The working subcommittees are to be more inclusive to represent ethnicity and geographic concerns. While the number

of COJAC members is to remain limited and at the discretion of Directors Jett and Mayberg, the aperture for participation within the subcommittees is larger. The working subcommittees can be more inclusive.

In partnering with each other, the counties and the state departments must work together to take advantage of the opportunities to move forward the COD Action Plan.

Information: The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) will fund two positions at ADP to work on the initiative. These positions will work on prevention as well as treatment.

Both ADP and DMH are working on the administrative support funds to assist in the logistics of the COJAC meetings. DMH is working through the County of Los Angeles and CiMH for \$20,000 while ADP is working on acquisition of funds for support services.

Outcome measures were stressed in the field where data is poor. Los Angeles County has been working on baseline information for six years and the data is poor. No baseline information exists.

Members discussed that no one way is the right way to provide services to clients with COD. The individual's experience as the person who receives service is paramount. Customer satisfaction is the goal.

ACTION: The group suggested that the directors attend to the diversity issue by approval of COJAC members from diverse ethnic and geographic areas.

### **Charter Discussion**

ACTION: As the distributed version of the Charter was not the most recent, Carmen and Michael B. will make edits and distribute them to the group. Rollin emphasized the need to build upon the statements and language already vetted.

ACTION: The date of the version on the charter will be noted to avoid distribution of outdated copies.

### **Updates from Subcommittees**

#### **1. On-Going Partnerships Subcommittee**

Terry reported that his On-Going Partnerships with Co-Occurring Disorders groups held a teleconference. He distributed copies of the home page of the COJAC webpage. Members later approved the logo.

Funding opportunities directly to providers can be publicized and a directory of model for delivery of COD services can be published to further the communication on COD.

The website should focus upon the COD Action Plan, the vetting process, and state endorsement. Policy letters from both the national alcohol and drug program and

mental health administrators can also be posted. The website should access a compilation of a centralized calendar of COD events and regular agenda items on subcommittee reports.

ACTION: This workgroup will publicize the COD Action Plan and push it out to the counties for input back to COJAC. Outreach via the COJAC website will take place with workgroup meeting schedules and workgroup composition and contact information being posted. Information from other sources will be explored for posting on the website.

## **2) Funding**

Lily reported that the two administrative associations will have representation, but wondered how big and broad this workgroup should be. The members indicated that this entity should be open and inclusive. Outreach is needed for greater participation for this funding subcommittee.

## **3) Statewide Screening for COD**

Vivian reported that her committee has 12 members.

ACTION: Vivian will schedule prior to the next meeting.

## **4) Facility Program Licensing and Certification Standards and Procedures**

Ben reported that a teleconference occurred on September 16.

ACTION: Ben and Liz are to have a telephone call this week to discuss funding. Members of this workgroup will want to discuss a mental health facility model based on a Sober Living Home model and the inherent licensing and certification issues.

## **5) Housing**

Michael B. reported for this workgroup that a teleconference will be held before the next COJAC meeting. Tenants' rights are an issue with this workgroup that probably will be explored. For example, a mental health facility model that intends to be used as a Sober Living Home and the clients' rights after relapse will need to be addressed.

## **OTHER ACTION ITEMS FOR ALL WORKGROUPS:**

- The Policy Council will need to clarify the role of the subcommittees and the specific responsibility of administrative support staff.
- Marv and Cheryl will discuss the role of COJAC, what happens to it; clarify meeting hi-lites, and subcommittees before the next meeting on November 2, 2005, in Fresno.
- Sandra agreed to check on venues for the November meeting.

- Workgroup chairs are to contact Terry and Sandra to coordinate activities so that appropriate publicity and partnering will occur.
- All subcommittees are to present deliverables for the next meeting:
  - Membership
  - Meeting schedule
  - Workplan
  - The work plan shall link to the COD Action Plan and be available on the COJAC website.

DISCUSSION: Members wondered how concrete the COD Action Plan is; can it be modified? Carmen's response was that the plan was designed to meet the needs to meet California's needs of California and the plan can be tailored to meet California's unique needs. Michael C. noted that focus of the workgroups may well result with proposals to modify the plan. Troy Fox mentioned that such items such as specific residential settings and quality control may result.

### **New Business**

Marv shared his experience with Los Angeles County with the full service partnerships and the MHSA. Noting that counties begin at different places, he made a request for guidance on decisions on COD by DMH's provision of guidelines. What is a description of a full service partnership with COD programs for persons who are in Quadrant 4 with a severe mental illness and a serious alcohol and other drug disorder? What are the critical elements, concepts, and a menu of services for persons who fit into Quadrant 4 and the use of MHSA funds?

Marv discussed drug courts, mental health courts, substance abuse courts, combinations of mental health and drug courts, and the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act. MHSA monies can not be used for drug courts; however, there is potential for drug courts to become COD courts when dealing with individuals with criminal justice backgrounds suffering from COD.

ACTION: ADPI and CiMH will develop an initial draft of what the elements are for persons who fit into Quadrant 4.

DISCUSSION: What are the best practices for COD courts? What are the guidelines and should COJAC prepare a policy paper on this subject?

Carmen discussed the Co-Occurring Center for Excellence request for technical assistance and the need for a systematic communication plan of priorities. Maureen suggested a review of requests be centralized. Carmen mentioned that the State of California will be participating in the National Policy Academy on Homelessness in October.

COJAC members made the following recommendations for ADP and DMH directors.

## **Recommendations to Directors Jett and Mayberg:**

- **ADP and DMH shall disseminate information on COJAC to all AOD and mental health and related organizations.**
- **Discuss the composition of COJAC members as to diversity and geography and determine appropriate additions to the body.**
- **Input on COD State Plan Strategy 1.2, Action 1.2.1.: Promote opportunities to ensure ongoing stakeholders' dialogue and decision making about COD issues at the county level and encourage counties to convene forums to address COD issues in the context of the MHSA and SACPA.**

## **Announcements**

- Cheryl thanked the members for their input and feedback on the CADPAAC position paper. Sections of the paper have been reworked and reorganized. Sharing the document was an opportunity to discuss in a safe place for feedback and input.
- There is a CMHDA meeting on October 13 during which Marv and Cheryl or Lily will present COJAC information. This will be another opportunity to collaborate and begin the development of a "marketing" plan for COJAC.

**ACTION:** Advance COJAC information to all organizations and request adoption of the COD Action Plan.

## **Next Meetings**

- Wednesday, November 2, 2005, in Fresno
- Action: Sandra will investigate venue opportunities.
- Wednesday, January 18, 2005, COJAC meeting will be held at PROTOTYPES in Pomona.