
County of Riverside

Cause for Concern



Riverside County offers an impressive range of treatment programs. However, the overall approach to implementation lacks a public health focus. The county did not make an effort to solicit input from affected communities.



- Prop. 36 Money Given to County to Date: \$5.9 million
- County's FY 01/02 Prop. 36 Budget: \$5.9 million

Riverside committed 82% of its Prop. 36 funds to treatment - somewhat short of what is needed to implement Prop. 36 adequately.



The diversity of treatment services, as well as Riverside's commitment to mental health issues, is impressive. The minus was given for the lack of expansion of methadone maintenance needed to address the heroin crisis in the county.



A criminal justice approach continues to dominate the county's response to the problem of addiction in Riverside. Probation officers will perform case management as opposed to health professionals, and drug testing will be used to threaten, rather than to treat, clients.



Riverside's plan did not mention any community forums or input from affected communities as part of their planning process. The implementation task force was heavily weighted with criminal justice professionals.



Guidelines were developed and shared with the Lindesmith Center – Drug Policy Foundation by the District Attorney's office.

Report Card

Prepared by **The Lindesmith Center – Drug Policy Foundation**

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