

**Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA)  
STATEWIDE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING SUMMARY  
October 22, 2004**

<b>WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>
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Director Kathryn Jett, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) gave a brief welcome to all of the members.

**PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Director Jett reported that the UCLA Report on the evaluation of Proposition 36 was released in September, 2004. The evaluation continues to show that treatment programs are dealing with a group of seriously addicted individuals - most are addicted to methamphetamine, many have been using drugs for more than 10 years. For about half of the participants, Proposition 36 represents the first opportunity for treatment. It also revealed that there were not enough referrals to residential treatment for the higher end users and that more than 50 percent of Proposition 36 participants complete 90 days of treatment. The evaluation is an opportunity to educate the public that 25 to 40 percent successful treatment completion is normal for this population.

Because UCLA does not have the capacity to complete an in-depth analysis of all the issues identified in the report, ADP is bringing in The AVISA Group, to help interpret the findings. Dr. Suzanne Gelber, as lead, will be working with Dr. David Rinaldo. Dr. Gelber has 25 years of experience working in substance abuse, criminal justice, and mental health issues. They will go out to about 10 counties, and interview all parties that deal with Proposition 36. The study will be completed by March 2005. ADP will use the results to identify program improvements that can enhance the success of the initiative.

Director Jett provided an update on the California Performance Review (CPR) process. Recommendations from the CPR Committee and the Health and Human Services Agency will go to the Governor for his consideration.

**STATE INCENTIVE GRANT (SIG)**

There is a three-year State Incentive Grant to help counties plan programs to address binge and underage drinking. ADP announced last month that 13 counties will receive the \$10.2 million SIG. The counties are Alameda, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Mono, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura.

## **BUDGET**

ADP received \$1.8 million for the expansion of dependency drug courts. Applications for interested counties are due to ADP on November 1, 2004. The Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Act (CDCI) Interim Report to the Legislature will be posted on the ADP website soon.

## **ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BROWN BAG**

Director Jett announced that a Legislative Brown Bag is scheduled for Monday, October 25, 2004. Douglas Longshore, Ph.D., will present the UCLA Report on the evaluation of Proposition 36 to legislative staff.

### **UCLA REPORT PRESS RELEASE**

Lisa Fisher, Public Information Officer, reported that the news release on the UCLA Report was sent out on September 20, 2004, yet embargoed until the September 23, 2004 release of the report. Some editorials were published as early as September 22, 2004. From an ADP perspective, the coverage was balanced. On the positive side, the media viewed the 34% completion rate as being in line with other diversion programs. The criticisms cited were low rates of residential treatment for African Americans; shortage of residential treatment; and the lack of funding. CNN aired a positive report on Proposition 36. The tape was played during the meeting.

### **LEGISLATION**

Director Jett reported that the Governor signed SB 1838, by Senator Wesley Chesbro; this was ADP's Health and Safety Code technical clean up bill. He also signed SB 1159, by outgoing Senator John Vasconcellos, and AB 1796, by Assemblyman Mark Leno. SB 1159 authorizes a licensed pharmacist to furnish up to ten hypodermic needles or syringes without a prescription. AB 1796 allows convicted drug felons, who have completed or are enrolled in a drug treatment program, to be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program.

The Governor vetoed SB 1386 (Vasconcellos), which would have provided for drug and alcohol testing of students only when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is using drugs and/or alcohol. The Governor's position is that drug testing should be up to the community, therefore he vetoed the bill.

**PROGRAM UPDATES  
FROM STATEWIDE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS**

Members engaged in a roundtable discussion and commentary on the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA). Areas covered included:

**Data Collection**

Members identified a need to collect re-arrest data and crime related data. Re-arrest data needs to be specific to sort out drug crimes from other offenses. Los Angeles, Santa Clara and Sacramento are currently collecting re-arrest rates.

Members also identified a need to collect data on the cost benefit of SACPA as compared to the cost benefit of drug court.

The AVISA Group will attempt to gather per person cost data for clients going through Proposition 36 vs. drug court.

Members expressed a need to collect data around treatment availability. There is a concern about discordant placement.

**Funding**

Proposition 36 is the first serious infusion of funding for treatment increasing the network for drug treatment services by 25-30%; however, many members believe that more funding is needed.

Some members expressed a need for funding to be balanced between law enforcement and treatment.

**Program Improvement**

There was consensus that there is a need to focus on Proposition 36 and improve it.

Expressed was a need to act now based on observations while waiting for the data. From a treatment perspective, there are things that can be done to fix Proposition 36. For example, cultural competency needs to be incorporated in treatment.

Law enforcement expressed commitment to successful treatment, but believes the results as shown in the UCLA report are not satisfactory yet. Law enforcement members stated that drug court has a 40-60% success rate, as opposed to 24% for Proposition 36. They expressed a need to discuss the issues for Proposition 36, not only the great things. Law enforcement wants not to oppose Proposition 36, but to improve it.

After the exchange the participants expressed appreciation of the frank discussion. There was agreement that treatment and law enforcement are after the same thing.

Law enforcement and treatment representatives are meeting on November 17, 2004 to address issues with Proposition 36.

## EVALUATION UPDATE

David Shoemaker reported that Recidivism Among An Early Cohort of California's Proposition 36 Offenders, by Dr. David Farabee, UCLA, will be published next month. It is a journal article on recidivism among early participants of Proposition 36. The report compares this SACPA group with criminal justice participants and non-criminal justice participants. The report indicates a need for mid-course corrections.

Douglas Longshore, Ph.D., announced that two topics will be reported on by the end of the year. There will be a statewide evaluation of criminal recidivism and preliminary data on costs. Requests for copies of the reports should be directed to Dr. Larry Carr, ADP.

## RETURN AND REDISTRIBUTION OF EXCESS FUNDS

Del Sayles-Owen, ADP, reported that January is now the goal for the regulations that would authorize the recovery and redistribution of excess funds. It is anticipated the redistribution of returned funds will be in spring 2005.

## NEXT STEPS

Members contributed the following as potential agenda items for the next Statewide Advisory Group meeting:

- Results of November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of law enforcement and treatment to determine what is working with Proposition 36 and what agreements can be reached regarding Program improvement
- Timing of the release of UCLA cost offset and crime trend data
- Release of The AVISA Group deliverables
- Client access to Methadone Maintenance
- Technical assistance for counties experiencing weakened collaboration

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2004 at 1:15 pm during the County Lead Agency Implementation Meeting held at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento.