

SAPC Newsletter

SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
PREVENTION AND
CONTROL
PROGRAM

THIRD QUARTER 2015
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...aimed at informing SAPC's network of contracted alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, and recovery service providers.



Director's Corner

September is Recovery Month! Here at the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control program, we are celebrating Recovery Month and hope that you are joining in the celebration too. This year's Recovery Month theme is *Visible, Vocal, Valuable!* Celebrating recovery is valuable. Recovery Month increases the public's understanding and awareness of substance use disorders. It helps people recognize they are not alone in their struggle with addiction. It mobilizes the community to seek SUD services with the same regularity and urgency as any other health, chronic condition.

On September 1st, the Board of Supervisors will proclaim the month of September Recovery Month for Los Angeles County. What are you doing to celebrate Recovery Month? Is your agency hosting an event or participating in another? If you are looking for ideas, check the [Recovery Month website event calendar](#) for events near you. We encourage you to join in the National Recovery Month observance and help build this national platform for the voices and faces of recovery.

In addition to Recovery Month activities, we want you to be aware of what is happening within the walls of SAPC. Check our website for training activities and information on program services, including new information on the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). SAPC is holding four more regional meetings during September to orientate providers with the DMC-ODS application and gather feedback. Read page four of this newsletter for more information and to access meeting dates. Information is also available on our website in the [Provider Resources/Health Care Reform-DMC-ODS section](#).

Enjoy the newsletter and Happy Recovery Month 2015!

Wesley Ford, MA, MPH
Director

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Save the Date

Follow Los Angeles County Department of Public Health on our social media pages and keep up-to-date with local health information, news, and statistics.



Upcoming Events and Training



September 1: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Annual Recovery Month Proclamation. Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Board Hearing Room, 500 W. Temple, Los Angeles, 90012, 9:30am.

September 15: The Los Angeles Dodgers Celebrate Recovery. Dodger Stadium. Colorado Rockies vs. Dodgers. 6:30pm pre-game activities, 7:10pm game starts.

For tickets (\$16/each) contact Candy Cargill-Fuller or Norma Cruz at 562-599-8444 ext. 4207

September 18: SAPC UCLA/ISAP lecture on Motivational Interviewing. See case scenarios and participate in role playing. Alhambra Auditorium, 10am-1pm.

CEUs offered. Details and invitation coming soon. To view past lectures, click [here](#).

To find other Recovery Month events, click on the banner above.

Find details about events such as the Social Model and InterCoast Colleges Open House on September 12th at the Carson and West Covina campuses.

October 23-29: 7th Reel Recovery Film Festival, Los Angeles Edition. Laemmle NoHo Cinema 5240 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601.

For information, call 818-762-0461 and visit the [website](#).

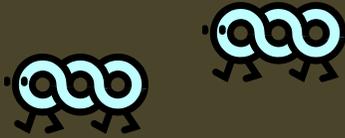
October 28-29: 12th Annual Integrating Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care Services Conference: Integration from the Ground Up. Hilton Universal City Hotel, Universal City.

Click [here](#) for information and to register.

**Don't forget to check our
website for additional trainings**

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/event.htm>

STAY IN THE LOOP!



THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTES TO MERGE THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

into one unified Health Agency. The Board is working on several immediate steps to get the new structure in place. To view the agenda and specific reports and presentations from the August 11th meeting, click [here](#).

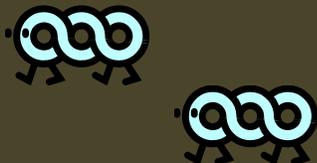
12TH ANNUAL CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS CONFERENCE IS COMING.

Mark your calendars and save the date for this very popular event. This year's theme is "Integration from the Ground up." The conference will be held October 28-29, 2015, at the Hilton Universal City Hotel.

Attendees may follow tracks (LGBT issues, primary healthcare, children and transition - age youth, and service integration) through the breakout sessions, or mix and match content to meet their own needs.

Plenary speakers for the first day of the conference include Anne Herron, MS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Michael Botticelli, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Dr. Walter Ling, founding Director of the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs will be presented with the Recognition Award during the conference.

Visit the [COD Conference website](#) for more information.



Legislative Update: Blue Ribbon Commission

The Pathways Report: The Blue Ribbon Commission on Marijuana Policy

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Marijuana Policy (BRC)—comprised of policymakers, public health experts, and academics from across the nation and sponsored by Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, and the American Civil Liberties Union of California—released *The Pathways Report* on July 21, 2015. The report draws from 18 months of research and public forums to provide recommendations on strategies, policy goals, and policy options for legalization and taxation of marijuana. The BRC has defined its role as strictly advisory in presenting the recommendations and policy options presented in their report.

The *Pathways Report* was produced to inform voters, policy maker, and those writing ballot initiatives of important issues surrounding marijuana legalization prior to the possible introduction of a marijuana legalization initiative in the 2016 State election. Items presented in the report represent a wide range of topics—tax revenue and the minor impact that would make on the State budget, the importance of consumer, worker, and environmental protections, the prevention of corporate consolidation of the marijuana industry, among other topics.

According to the BRC and the *Pathways Report*, California would need to develop a highly regulated market with enforcement and oversight capacity from the beginning, as opposed to an unregulated free market. Furthermore, revenue raised from marijuana taxes should be used to help further the public interest by funding SUD prevention and treatment and other services serving public health and safety.

Regardless of the results of the 2016 elections in California, proper regulation and legalization of marijuana would not be a process that happens in one election, but a process that unfolds over many years requiring flexible and responsive policy making, implementation and enforcement. To read the *Pathways Report*, visit: <https://www.safeandsmartpolicy.org/reports/>.



SAPC and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System

SAPC has been actively meeting with its network of providers, clients, partner agencies, and other community stakeholders to gather their feedback on Los Angeles County's draft Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver application. This application will be submitted to the California Department of Health Care Services in October 2015. The application contains SAPC's implementation plan operationalizing the expansion of access to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services, increase types of covered services, improve treatment outcomes, and establish a SUD treatment and recovery continuum of care.



SAPC held a Kick-Off meeting on August 13, 2015 and five additional regional meetings. Four more regional meetings will be held in September at the remaining Service Planning Area locations. A summary of all the meetings and resulting application changes will be discussed with all stakeholders on October 8, 2015.

For a list of complete meeting dates and locations, please click [here](#). In addition to the regional meetings, SAPC is also gathering stakeholders' feedback through an online survey that can be completed [here](#). To read more about DMC-ODS, please visit the [SAPC website](#).

SAPC Vision Paper A Brief Summary

The field of SUD has gone through a number of changes over the last several years as a result of federal and state changes. Due to these changes, SAPC will become a key component in the LA County health care system by transforming itself into a specialty health plan, which will allow SAPC to:

- ✓ Establish a continuum of care that integrates all of its funding sources;
- ✓ Collaborate with other County health agencies to ensure care coordination and service integration;
- ✓ Obtain approval to participate in the DMC-ODS waiver plan.

Foundational Principles

- Treat substance use disorders as a chronic health condition.
- Provide coordinated and integrated care.
- Establish a single benefit package.
- Establish a patient-centered system.
- Maintain a partnership between SAPC and its community-based provider network.
- Educate, empower, and inform people and their communities.
- Establish a continuous improvement process for treatment services.

The SAPC Vision Paper outlines the background and vision for the transformational process that will result in the formation of SAPC's new identity as a specialty health plan. SAPC's Foundational Principles are among the concepts detailed in the Vision Paper. In addition, the Vision Paper describes the following areas:

- ✓ Continuum of Care – requires evaluation of medical necessity and application of ASAM criteria for treatment placement in one of the levels of care provided by LA County (withdrawal management, residential, outpatient, or intensive outpatient).
- ✓ Outcomes for a Patient-Focused Service Delivery System – requires that patients access appropriate services (and recovery support) as clinically indicated, treatment goals are established and supported by a treatment plan and patient satisfaction is assessed.
- ✓ Financing the System of Care – SAPC will use funds from various revenue streams and sources to provide services to LA County residents. DMC funds will be the primary source of ODS funding.

The Vision Paper also discusses the Transformational Processes (system capacity building, workforce development and financing) as well as dates and timelines for proposed implementation. For more details, read the Vision Paper by clicking [here](#).

Updates & Important Information

LA County Rave/Electronic Music Festival Recommendations and MDMA Resources

In 2010 the LA County Task Force on Raves and Electronic Music Festivals (no longer active) compiled several recommendations for concert and event planners to address the use of MDMA, or ecstasy, at rave events. The LA County Department of Public Health has collaborated with SAPC to send educational information to the public via the SAPC website and the Department's social media outlets. In addition, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has several valuable tools on their webpage regarding ecstasy use, including information on prevention. To view the recommendations and additional resources, check the links below.

Resources:

- Task Force recommendations, click [here](#).
- Ecstasy education postcard, click [here](#).
- MDMA information from NIDA, click [here](#).
- Ecstasy PSA featuring Kaskade, A-Trak, apl.de.ap, Steve Aoki, Z-Trip and Tommie Sunshine, click [here](#).
- [DanceSafe website](#): DanceSafe is a nonprofit public health organization that promotes health and safety within the nightlife and electronic music community. Several resources are available here.

SOURCE:

National Institute on Drug Abuse. MDMA (Ecstasy) Abuse Trends.

Retrieved from <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/mdma-ecstasy-abuse/letter-director> on August 18, 2015.

Food for Thought—Implicit Bias and Health Equity

“Also known as implicit social cognition, implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual’s awareness or intentional control. Residing deep in the subconscious, these biases are different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness.”¹



Race, prejudice, racial bias, and racism are hot topics in the news and in politics. These are also important topics in healthcare. Race and racial bias can play a crucial role in the delivery of health services to clients and in a client's interactions with health professionals. Research has shown that “doctors hold stereotypes based on patients' race that can influence their clinical decisions.”² A study by the Institute of Medicine found “strong but circumstantial evidence for the role of bias, stereotyping, and prejudice” in perpetuating racial health disparities.”²

It is important that as substance abuse professionals, we take time to address our own perspectives and biases, learn about and implement the appropriate standards to ensure equitable care, and work towards providing the highest standard of SUD services to all of the individuals who come through our doors. Let's commit ourselves and our workplaces to reducing and eliminating health disparities in the populations we work with on a daily basis.

Learn about the [National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care \(the National CLAS Standards\)](#). These standards are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services.³ In December, SAPC will present a lecture on CLAS Standards. Look for that announcement a little later on in the year. To learn more, check the references below for more information.

SOURCES:

1. Understanding Implicit Bias. Retrieved from <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/> on August 19, 2015.
2. Bias, Black Lives, and Academic Medicine. Retrieved from <http://www.nejm.org/doi/ref/10.1056/NEJMp1500832#t=article> on August 19, 2015.
3. National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care. Retrieved from <https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/content/clas.asp> on August 19, 2015.

Online Resources

- American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc.: <http://www.aatod.org>
- CA Assoc. of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives: <http://www.caadpe.org>
- CA State Suicide Prevention Media Campaign: <http://www.suicideispreventable.org>
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America: <http://www.cadca.org>
- International Coalition for Addiction Studies Education: <http://incase.org>
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: <http://dmh.lacounty.gov>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness: <http://www.nami.org>
- National Association for Addiction Professionals: <http://www.naadac.org>
- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia: <http://www.casacolumbia.org>
- National Drug Court Institute: <http://ndci.org>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse: <http://www.drugabuse.gov>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov>
- UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs: <http://www.uclaisap.org>

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) program, a division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, has the primary responsibility of administering the County's alcohol and drug programs.

SAPC provides a wide array of alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services through contracts with community-based organizations.

Visit us at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc>.

To submit suggestions or comments, email Christina Morgan at cmorgan@ph.lacounty.gov.

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Social Media Bits Promoting Recovery Month

September is here! If you haven't planned an event for Recovery Month, participate in an event near you AND promote recovery through social media.



SAMHSA has made it easy to use social media to increase awareness. Share the Recovery Month Facebook or Twitter posts or write your own. Just remember to insert #recovery, #RecoveryMonth, and/or @RecoveryMonth in your message.

Here are a few examples from the Recovery Month twitter page:

Read Kyle's story, a Navy veteran who is using his road to #recovery to inspire others. <http://1.usa.gov/1BHiKKY>

#DYK: 42.5 million adults have experienced some form of mental illness in the past year? We can help: <http://1.usa.gov/1IFFNrS>

Toolkit tip: A pitch email can be a great way to connect with the media about #RecoveryMonth: <http://1.usa.gov/1dbntbG>

Don't forget to like #RecoveryMonth on Facebook! Visit our page today: <http://on.fb.me/1j13EFH>

Recovery Month PSAs are up on YouTube. Share them on your social media pages to promote Recovery month and the specific activities your agency is planning.

[Click here for details.](#)