

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (CAOD)

Meeting Summary – November 13, 2019

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Deena Duncan, Lou La Monte, Juan Navarro, Sharona R. Nazarian (Chair), Monica Sanchez, John Song, Denise Tom and Wendie Warwick

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Jozef Essavi, Roger Gertmenian, Jack Hadjinian, Jihan Judeh, Mordechai Polityko, Bennett Root, Sharon Shelton, Jerry G. Velasco, Howard Winkler and G. Lola Worthington

GUEST REGISTER: Mayra Del Real, Children's Hospital Los Angeles; Ed Nettles, Intervention Institute; Ken Pierce, Center for Counseling; Diana Quintero, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: Meeting Agenda; October Meeting Minutes; CAOD BOS Report September 24 - October 2019; Prevention Services Presentation; Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Presentation

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Call to Order	Chair Nazarian, County of Los Angeles, to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) convened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.; a quorum was not present.	
Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair Nazarian asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guests.	
Presentation - Stephanie Chen, LCSW, MPH Chief and Barbara Roberts, Prevention Program Specialist Community and Youth Engagement Prevention Services	Stephanie and Barbara presented a general overview of what SAPC's Prevention program does. Strategic Prevention Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce misuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. 2. Decrease marijuana use among youth and young adults. 3. Decrease underage drinking and binge drinking among youth and young adults. 	

<p>Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Los Angeles County Department of Public Health</p>	<p>4. Prevent methamphetamine and other illicit drug use by youth and young adults.</p> <p>In addition to the SPA Coalitions, Prevention also has County-specific special projects (STAR, Friday Night Live, etc.).</p> <p>Media campaigns have proven successful, we have had support from leadership, law enforcement and other stakeholders. Each campaign has an end of campaign report which includes outcome measures. All publications are available on the SAPC website.</p>	
<p>Chair's Report</p>	<p>Sharon Papa has officially resigned from the Commission as of October 23, and we thank her for her service.</p> <p>Commissioner Sanchez was elected to the Pico Rivera City Council on November 5 and will be sworn in on December 10.</p> <p>There will be elections in February; Commissioners La Monte and Warwick will be heading the Nominating Committee. Commissioners Song and Navarro have also agreed to serve on the committee. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, please let us know. Additional nominations can also be made the day of the meeting in February, as per the bylaws.</p> <p>We will have a holiday potluck at our December meeting.</p> <p>Our Annual Report is coming up, your input is welcome, please let us know if you have any feedback.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>AB 919 and AB 728 were enacted. SB 10, AB 920, SB 445 and SB 589 were vetoed.</p> <p>Per Commissioner La Monte, has been trying to find a way for this committee to work with the Mental Health Commission. Encourages all to think of questions or any results you would like to achieve and forward to Commissioner La Monte and Casey Silva.</p>	

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<p>Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</p>	<p>Michelle Gibson, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), provided an update.</p> <p>Flavored tobacco has been banned in unincorporated areas of LA County.</p> <p>A request was made to assess the health care needs of people experiencing homelessness to address rising mortality rates. DMH, DHS, DPH, Medical Examiner-Coroner, CEO and LAHSA will work in collaboration on this report.</p> <p>Question from Chair Nazarian, what is being done about a homeless person with a mental health issue who is arrested for assaulting someone on the street and released without being treated for their mental health condition?</p> <p>Per Ms. Gibson, there are outreach teams and the alternatives to incarceration workgroup is a space where health, mental health and the justice systems can all work together. There are also sobering centers/restorative centers, where individuals who are under the influence can go in lieu of being arrested.</p>	
<p>Presentation - Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health</p>	<p>Per Dr. Ferrer, we have seen an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness and in the rate of mortality. The key causes of death were alarming - alcohol, drug use, diseases related to drug and alcohol use, injury and violence. Homeless people die on average at the age of 55 versus the age of 75 for the non-homeless.</p> <p>Dr. Ferrer reviewed the recommendations identified in the report and next steps for the recent board motion. Next report is due to the Board of Supervisors in February. We need to figure out if these people were accessing our services, look at linked records.</p>	

	<p>Per Dr. Ferrer, national data shows us that there is a significant difference between being an unsheltered homeless person and a sheltered homeless person; one's chance of dying drops significantly. There is a healthy tension between putting Measure H money in permanent housing versus temporary housing. There are many issues at hand, not an exact either/or situation.</p> <p>Facilities are needed to provide services, but no one wants the facilities near them. What we need to do is be more creative with our county property. We can put services on our county hospital grounds. The funding needs to be identified.</p> <p>We need to build services first in our communities to keep them out of jail, that is the real diversion. About 80% of the people in our jails have an addiction, if we get more people into services, they may avoid the criminal justice system all together. There is a role for advocacy and thinking broadly on how to build out the community system of care. You can't divert people if there is no where for people to go.</p> <p>Update on West Nile Virus, 26 cases in LA County this year and three deaths.</p> <p>Update on Treatment on Demand – We still don't have treatment on demand. We need to think about a place for someone to go for a few weeks until a treatment bed is available. We also have a staffing issue and are working to increase MAT, coupled with counseling and support.</p>	
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Comments from Commissioners	None	
Public Comments	Per Mr. Pierce of the Center for Counseling, you can't get services unless you have top insurance or Medi-Cal. Has had a homeless individual ask for help but there is no way to help him. Was told the only thing to do for him is to have him arrested. Would like to see an insurance commissioner come in here and ask why the insurance companies are allowed to get away with this.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.	

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, A-9 East Ground Floor G-2 Conference Room, in Alhambra.