



Los Angeles County
COMMISSION ON
ALCOHOL AND OTHER
DRUGS

Annual Report

January - December 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>2</u>	Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Commissioners by Supervisorial District
<u>3</u>	Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Mission Statement and Ordinance
<u>5</u>	Key Issues Impacting At-Risk and Systems-Involving Alcohol and Other Drugs
<u>6</u>	Strategic Priorities for 2023 Strategic Priority 1: Address Substance Use Disorder Treatment Effectiveness and Efficiency Strategic Priority 2: Focus efforts on the Opioid, Fentanyl and Meth Crisis Strategic Priority 3: Improve Services and Outcomes for County’s Youth Strategic Priority 4: Improve Collaboration with the Board of Supervisors, other Commissions, Departments, Agencies, and Jurisdictions Strategic Priority 5: Marijuana Education and Regulation Strategic Priority 6: Promote and Destigmatize Harm Reduction Strategies
<u>8</u>	Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Meetings Education and Prevention Committee Policy and Planning Committee Commission Recommendations
<u>11</u>	Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Strategic Partnerships Commissioner Representation on other County/Community Bodies Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
<u>17</u>	Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2023 Accomplishments

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS COMMISSIONERS
BY SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Deena Duncan, Chair
Mark Ryan, Vice Chair (served until August 2023)
Tony Bell, First Vice Chair
Johng Ho Song, Second Vice Chair
Tonya McKenzie, Recording Secretary
Jack Hadjinian, Member-At-Large
Bruce Boardman, Member-At-Large

COMMISSION LIAISON

Jessie Taw
Ronae Harrison (served until August 2023)

FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

Christina L. Gonzales (appointed August 2023)
Jack Hadjinian
Bennett W. Root, Jr.
Jerry G. Velasco

SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Bruce Boardman
Tonya McKenzie
Dean Nakanishi
Johng Ho Song

THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Amanda Cowan
Charles Robbins (appointed November 2023)
Avia Rosen (appointed November 2023)
Wendie Warwick (served until April 2023)
Mark Ryan (served until August 2023)
Sharona Nazarian (served until September 2023)
Vacant (as of September 2023)

FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Deena Duncan
Mark Mendoza
Juan Navarro
G. Lola Worthington

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION
AND CONTROL**

Alicia Garoupa

FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

Tony Bell
Rebecca Birotte
Jozef Essavi
Howard L. Winkler

**LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
LOS ANGELES DIVISION**

Lou La Monte

**COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE COORDINATION
COMMITTEE**

Jeremiah Hart

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS MISSION STATEMENT AND ORDINANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) advises and makes recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on alcohol and drug issues with the goal of reducing problems and the negative impact of substance use disorders on the quality of life for individuals and their families residing in Los Angeles County.

ORDINANCE

The Commission, as an advisory board, is established pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 429.997, 11752.1(e), 11798.1(a), 11805 and 11998.1(f)(2). The Commission functions pursuant to Chapter 3.15 of the Los Angeles County Code; Board Order Nos. 10 of January 19, 2010, 55 of January 19, 2010, 64-B of January 19, 2010, 19 of January 26, 2010, Ordinance No. 2010-0003 (Which consolidated the Commission on Alcoholism and the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission and repealed Chapters 3.06 and 3.40), and Board Order No. 125 of June 26, 1990, Ordinance No. 90-0086 (Term Limits); Board Order No. 31 of April 6, 2010, and Ordinance No. 2010-0016. Board Order No. 38 of October 19, 2010, Ordinance No. 2010-0046. The Commission is charged by its ordinance to:

- Review federal, state and local legislation and recommend to the Board appropriate measures for the implementation thereof
- Recommend to the Board strong programs in the field of enforcement, medication, prevention, and rehabilitation concerned with problems associated with the abuse of and addiction to alcohol and other drugs
- Advise the County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) on goals and policies of the County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Administration and on any other related matters the County SAPC Administrator refer to it or which are raised by the Commission
- Organize and assist in alcohol and other drug conferences in areas of the County
- Encourage and educate the public to understand the nature of addiction, and encourage support throughout the county for development and implementation of effective programs for prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse, addiction and related problems
- Do all other things necessary or helpful to reduce the illicit and problematic use of alcohol and other drugs

The Commission remains a dedicated and diversified entity providing discussion and perspective around topics and concerns related to the use and regulation of alcohol and other drugs within the County of Los Angeles. Through a diverse multicultural and comprehensive viewpoint involving a wide variety of community representatives, the commission provides advocacy on the importance of substance use prevention and treatment among all age groups and populations residing within the county. The Commission is committed in supporting and partnering with SAPC and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to create a system of inclusive integrated services by advocating thorough policy, planning, education, prevention, and recovery, those services that are designed to address and reduce the negative impact of alcohol and other drug use on the quality of life for children, youth and adults in Los Angeles County.

KEY ISSUES IMPACTING AT-RISK AND SYSTEMS-INVOLVING ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

For our Commission, in 2023 we welcomed three new Commissioners to complete our roster, bringing in new perspectives from a variety of knowledgeable individuals engaged with serving diverse populations across Los Angeles County. Those who serve have helped the Commission become a stronger advocate in the health and well being of all Angelenos.

With the intensifying crisis of fentanyl laced illicit drugs plaguing all age groups in our Los Angeles communities, substance use has become an epidemic of its own leading to too many unnecessary deaths. Methamphetamine abuse continues to wreak havoc on communities and loved ones, destroying the minds and health of Angelenos and all the families involved. Alcohol abuse continues to increase leading to more cases of domestic violence resulting in families being pulled apart from the devastating effects. The toll of substance use and abuse is having a profound effect on our learning institutions, homelessness, families, work force and communities as a whole.

The commission recognizes the importance of taking action now to strengthen our Communities, Families, Educational Institutions, Medical Providers, Behavioral Health Providers, Emergency Responders, Homeless Outreach Services, Courts, Probation, Parole, Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Public's (DPH) SAPC and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to create partnerships in providing increased prevention, education, harm reduction and low barrier treatment strategies to address our critical Los Angeles' societal needs.

The Commission is tightly integrated with SAPC, the principal agency within the County authorized to create and maintain County programs designed to assist in the prevention of alcohol and drug related problems and to coordinate and support County efforts to provide treatment and recovery options for its residents confronting alcohol and drug use and abuse.

The CAOD adopted and enacted a new strategic plan with a focus on prevention. To that end, we adopted a new Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The SPF six step planning process guides the development of prevention services. The following is a list of our strategic priorities and how we informed and educated the commission in each of these areas.

CAOD's strategic plan focused on six (6) Priority Areas, including:

- Priority 1: Address Substance Use Disorder Treatment Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Priority 2: Focus efforts on the Opioid, Fentanyl and Meth Crisis
- Priority 3: Improve Services and Outcomes for County's Youth
- Priority 4: Improve Collaboration with the Board of Supervisors, other Commissions, Departments, Agencies, and Jurisdictions
- Priority 5: Marijuana Education and Regulation
- Priority 6: Promote and Destigmatize Harm Reduction Strategies

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2023

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ADDRESS SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Goal 1: Identify opportunities and funding sources to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of current county programs addressing substance use disorders (SUDs), improve access to effective treatment, and explore other efforts to reduce recidivism.

Goal 2: Address and support integration of services pertaining to Cal-AIM implementation, co-occurring disorders & integration of services including increased collaboration with diversion programs.

Goal 3: Support the integration of Student Well-Being Centers which provide mental health and other support services to those with SUDs and their families.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: FOCUS EFFORTS ON THE OPIOID, FENTANYL AND METH CRISIS

Goal 1: Increase awareness through education, outreach, and promote programs to address the opioid, fentanyl and meth crisis.

Goal 2: Improve strategies involving medications for addiction treatment and harm reduction.

Goal 3: Work with the SAPC Meth Taskforce and DEA Community Engagement and support SAPC with the implementation of contingency management for stimulant use disorder.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: YOUTH

Goal 1: Advocate for improved K-12 school and community-based preventive efforts and effective programs for young people, including those in foster care.

Goal 2: Make recommendations to SAPC as needed as they continue to refine and enhance benefits available to youth.

Goal 3: Examine options for State, County and local regulations regarding Sober Living, Transitional Housing and Recovery Bridge Housing to help ensure the best possible outcomes for young people.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: IMPROVE COLLABORATION WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, OTHER COMMISSIONS, DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Goal 1: Improve communications with the Board of Supervisors and staff to further the mission of the commission and the will of the Board with regard to these strategic goals.

Goal 2: Strengthen partnership and improve cooperation with other county commissions and departments including Mental Health, Disabilities, and Young People to further our mutual goals.

Goal 3: Explore other jurisdiction models and solutions to replicate and incorporate their solutions to meet our goals.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: MARIJUANA EDUCATION AND REGULATION

Goal 1: Monitor cannabis legislation, dispensary locations and the effects throughout Los Angeles County, including our underserved communities.

Goal 2: Assist with preventative efforts surrounding the legalization of recreational marijuana, particularly those aimed at youth.

Goal 3: Support efforts at a more robust and effective K-12 marijuana education.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: PROMOTE AND DESTIGMATIZE HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Goal 1: Expand educational opportunities of harm reduction modalities to communities and individuals.

Goal 2: Work to improve acceptance of addiction as a disease creating a more welcoming environment in treatment facilities and educational discussions.

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS MEETINGS

Commission meetings are the primary vehicle through which information regarding alcohol and other drug related issues in Los Angeles County is disseminated and the venue at which policy matters are considered and recommendations are developed.

During 2023, the Commission held 11 regular meetings during which reports, and presentations were given in alignment with our strategic goals by County departments, advocates and stakeholders on SUD related issues, services and programs were provided. The meeting topics included:

Wing Man for Addiction

Hayes Thomas
Chief Executive Officer of Wing Man for
Addiction

Harm Reduction

Dr. Siddarth Puri, MD
Associate Medical Director of Prevention for
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Prevention Services Focus

Stephanie Chen
Chief of Community and Youth Engagement for
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Michelle Gibson, MPH
Deputy Director for Substance Abuse
Prevention and Control Bureau

Fentanyl Campaign

Cherene Cexil
Manager, Equitable Access and Promotion
Section for Substance Abuse Prevention Control

The Commission also has two active committees that meet prior to the general meeting. They were the Education and Prevention Committee and the Policy and Planning Committee. The following topics were discussed and brought to the Commission in 2023:

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION COMMITTEE

- Dangers of Fentanyl and Fentanyl Strip Distribution
Beth Weinstock, Birdielight
- Prevention Services
Stephanie Chen, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
- Community Health and Safe Schools
Susan Chaides, Los Angeles County Office of Education
- Diversion Referral Programming
Betsy Lara, Los Angeles Unified School District
Detective Jason Fumarolo, Los Angeles School Police

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- AB 67 (Muratsuchi) Homeless Court Pilot Program.
- AB 86 (Jones-Sawyer) Address statewide homelessness. Identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent and end homelessness in California.
- AB 219 (Patterson) Existing law authorizes school districts, County offices of education, and charter schools to provide emergency naloxone hydrochloride by school nurses or trained personnel.
- AB 268 (Weber) Add additional two members to the Board of State and Community Corrections, appointed by the Governor.
- AB 374 (Haney) Cannabis lounge retail prep, sale and consumption of food and beverage products- Governor vetoed
- AB 767 (Gipson) Expands the allowable community paramedicine services program specialties to include providing short-term, post discharge follow-up for persons recently discharged from a hospital.
- AB 1207 (Irwin): Cannabis labeling and advertising protecting children- Governor vetoed
- AB 1532 (Haney) Office conversion projects.
- SB 10 (Cortese) Existing laws sets various provisions regarding opioid overdose prevention and treatment.
- SB 19 (Seyarto) Establishes the Anti-Fentanyl Abuse Task Force to undertake various duties relating to fentanyl abuse.
- SB 43 (Eggman): Behavioral Health expanding the definition of gravely disabled for the purpose of involuntary commitment for Mental health and substance abuse. Governor approved
- SB 44 (Umberg) Existing law makes it a crime to possess for sale or purchase, transport, sell, furnish, administer, give away, manufacture, compound, convert, produce, derive, process, or prepare various controlled substances including fentanyl, peyote and various opiates and narcotics.
- SB 51 (Bradford) Authorizes Department of Cannabis Control to issue a provisional license for a local equity applicant for retailer activities.
- SB 58 (Wiener): Decriminalization of hallucinogenic substances- psilocybin, psilocyn, DMT, ibogaine, mescaline. Governor vetoed
- SB 65 (Ochoa Bogh) Provides \$1 billion to behavioral health continuum infrastructure program.
- SB 76 (Wiener): Authorizing a caterer's permit for the sale of alcohol for permitted music venues and also authorizes permit to allow consumers to leave the premises with open containers of alcoholic beverages for consumption within an entertainment zone that may be on public streets, sidewalks, public right of ways. Governor approved
- SB 495 (Dodd) Deliveries of alcoholic beverages via UberEats, Postmates, and other delivery services.

- SB 234 (Portantino, Umberg): Requires all public schools, including charter, concerts, stadiums and amusement parks to maintain unexpired doses of naloxone for opioid overdose reversal and have 2 trained staff at all times to administer. Governor approved
- SB 236 (Eggman) Behavioral Health Services Act – requires county to submit claims to DHCS and to pursue reimbursement through various channels authorizing counties to report issues to Dept of Managed Health Care and Dept of Insurance- Governor approved
- SB 525 (Durazo, Gonzalez, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Wahab): Requires healthcare workers minimum wage \$25 hour with a tiered schedule for covered health care facilities with 10,000 or more full time employees, hospitals with a high government payor mix, specified clinics and all other health care facilities. Governor approved
- SB 2365 (Patterson) Fentanyl program grants.
- HR 8454 (Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]) Establishes a new, separate registration process to facilitate research on marijuana.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The CAOD, as a whole recognizes the lack of residential treatment services for youth in Los Angeles County who have been impacted by substance use and need residential care due to neighborhood influences in their community of residence and peer influences in their educational institutions which make it difficult to cease alcohol or drug use remaining in those environments. Youth who have become addicted to alcohol or other drugs need residential treatment services to remove them from the environments that greatly influence their decision making and continued substance use which with readily available fentanyl laced drugs could be life threatening. Therefore, the CAOD will revise next year strategic priorities to include a focus on increased access and availability of youth services. The goal of the CAOD will be to collaborate with County partners on the goal of increasing youth services across Los Angeles County so that those families and the youth needing care will have substance prevention, use, and abuse treatment available.

The Commission also recognizes the need for low barrier admission policies for substance use/abuse treatment services and the changing environment of substance use/abuse treatment as a whole. Los Angeles County with its rising homeless populations, increased moderate to severe mental health populations and increased deadly drug combinations must be readily available to promote introductions into a helping environment that is welcoming and all-inclusive in generating whole person care even if those being helped are not ready for abstinence of using substances. Medications for Addiction Treatment of substance use must be accepted in all facets including interim housing as a lifesaving method. Harm reduction strategies and trauma informed care is key to building rapport and success with those individuals still contemplating if substance use/abuse is detrimental to their ability to function in society or an unhealthy means to cope.

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission maintains a critical and distinct role in Los Angeles County. As advisors to the Board, and advocates for those with SUDs and their families, the Commission often serves as a bridge between the County and its partners, including the County service agencies, law enforcement, courts, philanthropy, the nonprofit sector, and the community. The Commission's experience, expertise and steadfast commitment to at-risk children, youth and adults has contributed to the forging of strong partnerships with some of the most important entities shaping public policy in Los Angeles County.

COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATION ON OTHER COUNTY/COMMUNITY BODIES

Tony Bell	L.A. County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
Bruce Boardman	Member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE)
Amanda Cowan	MAT Community Advisory Board Prevention & Education in Communities of Color Grant UCLA- ISAP Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Project Community Advisory Board for IAS PhD Candidate
Deena Duncan	SAPC Advisory Committee Board member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE) California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
Jozef Essavi	Los Angeles County Small Business Commission
Alicia Garoupa	Countywide Prevention Services Taskforce
Christina Gonzales	California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. California Association of DUI Treatment Programs SAPC Provider Advisory Committee
Lou La Monte	Meals on Wheels West Board Member
Tonya McKenzie	Black Public Relations Society – Vice President North Redondo Beach Business Association – Past President Redondo Beach Police Dept – Community Engagement Board Advisor Better Youth – Advisory Council Redondo Beach General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Member Redondo Beach Emergency Crisis Council Al-Impics Planning Committee

Dean Nakanishi	National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, Board Chair
Juan Navarro	Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Board member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE) Board member of the PIH Health – Community Benefit Oversight Committee
Dr. Sharona R. Nazarian	President for the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills Public Works Commissioner for Beverly Hills USC Hillel Executive Board Co-President of Beverly Hills Sister City
Bennet W. Root, Jr	Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission
Johng Ho Song	Queens Care Charitable Foundation Board
Jerry Velasco	Mexican American Opportunity Foundation San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance El Monte Promise Foundation
Howard Winkler	West Coast Vaad Hachessed

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

2023 Milestones and Highlights:

SAPC 2023-2028 Strategic Planning

Released five-year 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan in June 2023. The Strategic Plan is culmination of input received from the community, providers, and SAPC team, and will guide SAPC’s critical work for the next five years to ensure that we are successfully connecting with and ensuring that Los Angeles County residents have access to needed services provided by a robust, culturally responsive workforce that can carry out SAPC’s missions.

R95 Initiative

Launched the Reaching the 95% (R95) Initiative (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/reaching-the-95.htm>) to implement strategies to better support the 95% of people who need SUD treatment but who do not want or decide to enter a treatment system that is welcoming and able to meet their needs regardless of whether they have made the decision to be abstinent. This requires a comprehensive strategy, in partnership with network providers, to determine how to evolve their admission and discharge policies, and train and support staff, to make program modifications necessary to engage those who may not be ready for “treatment as usual”. This is a critical effort to reduce the negative impacts of substance use of individuals and families, and to find workable solutions to the overdose crisis.

Fentanyl Prevention Media Campaign

Developed and launched the Countywide Fentanyl Prevention Media Campaign, a large-scale multimedia campaign designed to address the increasing overdose and death rates due to illicit fentanyl in Los Angeles County by targeting three main populations: general population, experimenter males ages 18-39, and teens ages 13-17. The campaign educates the public on the benefits of naloxone as a lifesaving overdose prevention tool and provides information on the risks associated with opioids and other substances (pills and powders) that could be laced with illicit fentanyl, if not prescribed by a doctor or obtained from a U.S. pharmacy.

- Phase 1 launched in July 2023, releasing a series of creative organic social media posts and out-of-home posters. SAPC posted 10 unique social media assets targeting the community and teens yielding a total of 134,782 impressions and 99, 601 accounts (persons) reached.
- Phase 2 launched on September 26, 2023, and includes various out-of-home materials (including bus kings and billboards), and online video content used social media platforms. Phase 3 of this campaign will begin in Spring 2024.

Funding for Substance Use Disorder

Increased funding commitments to SUD Prevention Services by maximizing available federal dollars. Since the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System was implemented in Los Angeles County in 2017, SAPC has increased its Prevention Services budget by 260%. Funding has expanded existing primary prevention and harm reduction initiatives, including but not limited to a Countywide fentanyl media campaign, innovative positive youth development programs, educational presentations, outreach, and trainings, cannabis regulation activities, coalition-building, and policy advocacy efforts.

Engagement and Overdose Prevention Hubs

Contracted with 7 Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs (harm reduction syringe services program) agencies spread out over 26 field sites and 71 street-based outreach events every week. During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 year, this network conducted ~20,500 encounters serving nearly 11,100 individuals, distributed over 52,000 naloxone doses and over 14,000 fentanyl test strips. Over 3,500 lives were saved through overdose reversals reported by individuals served by EOP Hubs. By the conclusion of 2023, SAPC certified 16 community-based organizations (in total) to offer lifesaving harm reduction syringe services programs in Los Angeles County.

Harm Reduction Website

Expanded its harm reduction website (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/harm-reduction>) to include additional information and guidance about the risks of fentanyl and xylazine. SAPC supported DPH's publishing of related health alerts and press releases focused on fentanyl, xylazine, and the overdose crisis. SAPC updated related data reports describing the extents of the overdose crisis on our Surveillance Data Reports and Dashboards page <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/data-reports-and-briefs.htm>. SAPC also began working with the Los Angeles Sherriff's Department who has been sharing information about the composition of drugs confiscated during criminal investigations to learn more about the prevalence of xylazine and fentanyl, yielding a related press release. SAPC also began working with UCLA who has been conducting on-demand testing of drugs and paraphernalia at street-based syringe services program to both provide people with information about the composition of their drug supply and inform public health responses.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Overdose Grant

Awarded a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Overdose to Action \$3.2 million per year grant award extending from FY 2022-23 through FY 2027-28, in partnership with other County Departments. This award will fund linkage and retention in treatment for individuals at risk for overdose, harm reduction services expansion, courthouse naloxone access points, a public messaging campaign to humanize people who use drugs, safer prescribing education for health care clinicians, and data abstractor staff on SAPC's Health Outcomes and Data Analytics Division.

Op-Ed for Establishing Safer Consumption Sites

Published an Op-Ed discussing the public health imperative to establish safer consumption sites (also known as overdose prevention site) services in February 2023: <http://www.dailynews.com/2023/02/19/barbara-ferrer-and-gary-tsai-we-must-take-bold-action-to-halt-the-tragic-drug-overdose-crisis>. Related to safer consumption site services, SAPC works with Los Angeles County departmental partners to host state officials in visiting the Skid Row neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles on February 15, 2023 to discuss the public health need for Safer Consumption Sites (also known as Overdose Prevention Sites) and SAPC had representation in similar visits hosted in San Francisco and Oakland.

Early Intervention (ASAM 0.5) Services

The continued implementation of American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 0.5 Early Intervention Services for Youth (12-17) and Youth Adults (18-20) aimed at providing the full spectrum of services available in outpatient treatment settings to youth who do not meet medical necessity for a SUD, but are at risk for developing one; and developed the ASAM Screener for Youth and Young Adults to assess patients' needs for these services. In addition, through collaboration with Azusa Pacific University, developed the Health Youth Early Intervention curriculum to train providers how to implement early intervention services.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Services In Juvenile Detention Facilities

Implemented the SUD treatment services for Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Youth and Young Adults ages 15-25 at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Campus Kilpatrick, and transitioned SUD services and referrals, including early intervention services, provided by the Service Planning Area (SPA) 7 Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) provider for general population youth to Los Padrinos.

Real Talk. Real Options.

Developed and launched the Real Talk. Real Options public awareness campaign and landing page at: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/real-talk-real-options.htm> as part of efforts to integrate Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (SRH) conversations and services into SUD treatment settings and make patients aware of their options and resources available to them.

Contingency Management Program

Participated in the Contingency Management Program, since its launch in the first quarter of 2023, there are 16 agencies approved to provide services at a total of 37 sites. SAPC expects to have a total of 31 agencies providing Contingency Management at 66 approved sites by the end of the pilot period. The pilot period is scheduled to end in March 2024; however, the State has extended the pilot through December 2026. SAPC will opt-in to participate in the extended pilot.

Productivity and Quality Awards

Awarded the Productivity and Quality Awards Commissioner's Legacy Award for the collaborative work providing Sexual and Reproduction Health Education classes at 19 pregnant and parenting women treatment sites and who were referred to the Department of Health Services' (DHS) MAMA's Neighborhood program for comprehensive perinatal services. Parenting women of reproductive age who elect to connect with MAMA's are provided with family planning/pregnancy intention conversations and educational services. The MAMA's Neighborhood in turn refers pregnant women to SAPC's CENS counselors for screening and referral to SUD treatment services. The collaboration between SAPC and DHS-MAMA's was established to break down these barriers and improve access to reproductive services for women in SUD treatment, as well as improve access to SUD treatment services for pregnant women in health care settings.

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant

Awarded the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant for \$61.9 million over four years, to expand and network of Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) and release work order solicitations for new Recovery Housing (RH) and Housing Navigation. This effort will soon add 300 RBH and 100 RH beds to the SUD system.

Innovations Grant

Awarded a Department of Mental Health (DMH), Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Innovations (INN) Grant that will support SAPC's CENS and DMH staff to participate in multidisciplinary teams with DHS to provide onsite services at interim housing sites. Additionally, the project will add mental health clinicians to be imbedded in COD capable SUD residential programs and distribute overdose prevention kits to all residents in interim housing. Since mid-November 2023, DHS has been piloting onsite services at interim housing sites in SPA 4 and SAPC has been supporting the pilot, with a part-time CENS counselor, until full implementation.

Peer Certification Program

Launched the Peer Certification Program in May 2023 resulting from California Senate Bill 803 that established Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists as new Medi-Cal provider type and Peer Support Services is a Medi-Cal benefit. SAPC is providing technical assistance to Peer candidates interested in certification through help with applications, facilitating exam prep workshops, and developing certified Peer trainings to help explain new role of Certified Peers. Since the State scholarships process has been depleted as of July 2023, which covered the costs associated with the application, training and exam for applicants seeking Peer Support Specialist certification, SAPC is launching a similar scholarship process for interested Peer candidates which intends to support the continued evolution of this provider type within the Drug Medi-Cal provider network.

AI-Impics 2023

Participated in the AI-Impics, which were held on September 9, 2023, at the Los Angeles Harbor College. This year's theme was "Recovery is Discovery". Over 2,000 people attended, representing 13 different agencies. What a success as this was close to pre-COVID numbers. By bringing together treatment providers, recovering individuals, local members and leaders, AI-Impics promotes the benefits of community health through spirit of recreation demonstrating how they can achieve their respective goals. This year, the AI-Impics was joined by SAPC Director, Dr. Gary Tsai and Melissa McCracken, a trauma informed Substance Abuse Counselor and advocate.



Tuition Incentive Program

Expanded the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) in efforts to increase quality employment opportunities that build upon an individuals' unique lived experience, while increasing the availability of registered and certified SUD counselors who can support effective, long-term recovery for those affected by substance use. TIP provides tuition reimbursement opportunities at Tarzana Treatment Centers College and covers registration costs with one of the certifying agencies for individuals to become SUD registered counselors. This year, TIP enrolled 103 people and increased the number of internship sites where participants received experience.

CalAIM Payment Reform

Implemented the State's CalAIM Payment Reform provisions in June 2023 which required SAPC to quickly redesign how providers are reimbursed for services. It enabled SAPC to create a three-tiered reimbursement structure to financially reward providers who offer more comprehensive continuums of care and to support the higher infrastructure and operational costs of such systems; and to promote a more diverse clinical direct service workforce in outpatient levels of care, that includes future options to expand access to Medications for Addiction Treatment services. SAPC continues to identify solutions to ensure appropriate fiscal accountability and clinical investment after DHCS unsettled cost settlement requirements to ensure that higher rates result in meaningful clinical investments to support positive patient outcomes and the future transition to value-based care.

Capacity Building and Incentive Initiative

Launched a Capacity Building and Incentive (CBI) Initiative to fund investments in the SUD treatment network, made possible by extensive analysis on how to best invest reimbursement resulting from the difference between State-County and County-Provider rates. There are three distinct CBI categories: 1) Workforce Development; 2) Access to Care - Reaching the 95%; 3) Fiscal and Operational Efficiency. The total packages invests up to \$50 million in the network for FY 2023-2024.

COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2023, the Los Angeles Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs returned to in person meetings and maintained a full meeting schedule, working to address our strategic priorities and changes we are implementing in order to be successful in our mission to bring awareness, education, prevention and treatment to all Los Angeles County residents in collaboration with our County partners. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our Commissioners for their commitment throughout this year, our SAPC County support liaison, Jessie Taw, and our partnership with DPH SAPC for providing their expertise on all related subject matter in the quest to strengthen services to the communities, families, schools and individuals within the county.

Commissioners received education on harm reduction strategies being used worldwide, driving under the influence, youth and prevention and the legislative process of analysis and review.

We are currently working on collaborations with the Los Angeles County Commissions on Mental Health and HIV to strengthen our advocacy on issues presenting within Los Angeles County.

Our Sub-Committees, Policy and Planning, led by Chair Deena Duncan and Education and Prevention led by Chair Dr. Mark Ryan, have been invaluable this year in opening new and important avenues of discussion and tracking legislation that affects key issues that our Commission's strategic priorities aim to address.

We look forward to a future, preventing, educating, treating and overcoming the Los Angeles County crisis fentanyl, methamphetamine, alcohol and all other illicit drugs whether legal or illegal that are destroying lives, families and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.
Deena Duncan, LMFT, LAADC
Chair