

**County of San Mateo  
Drug and Alcohol Advisory  
Board (DAAB)**

**Annual Report**

December 2004

## **DAAB Structure and Operations**

The Annual Report of the County of San Mateo Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board (DAAB) has been prepared and submitted in accordance with the Procedural Rules of this body. It summarizes activities and recommendations in 2004, in accordance with the DAAB Annual Work Plan.

### Mission Statement:

*Advise the Board of Supervisors on alcohol and drug programs to meet the needs of the community by fostering a comprehensive system of care and to assure quality of Alcohol and Other Drug Services in San Mateo County.*

DAAB currently is composed of 11 members, plus one alternate member for the two youth representatives.

DAAB established seven major activities for its annual Work Plan, as of July 2004.

- 1. Support the strategic plans of the Human Services Agency and Alcohol and Other Drug Services.*
- 2. Review Alcohol and Other Drug Services budget and spending and provide public comment and input.*
- 3. Foster youth participation and input in county drug programs and increase youth awareness of drug issues.*
- 4. Increase community awareness of drug issues.*
- 5. Support and improve network of providers of alcohol and drug services.*
- 6. Review and critique success of county drug programs based on clients served, outcomes achieved and cost effectiveness.*
- 7. Improve and maintain an effective board.*

DAAB Chair Fred Koehler has continued his efforts to visit County-funded alcohol/drug providers. This allows an opportunity to share provider-level information with the DAAB and agencies have been receptive to such visits. Communication between providers and the DAAB can be enhanced through increased agency visibility, such as presentations at DAAB meetings.

A number of new members were added to the DAAB in 2004 and several old members were replaced. The service of existing members and those who have left is recognized and appreciated.

In 2004 it was discovered that two members were serving on the DAAB although their terms had expired. The terms of additional DAAB members expire at the end of 2004 and it is recommended that they be renewed. Recently three DAAB members have resigned and recruitment will begin shortly.

It remains unclear whether financial disclosure is required by DAAB members. At this time it is not being done. The Procedural Rules regarding financial disclosure have been suspended by resolution of the DAAB.

At the suggestion of the DAAB, Alcohol and Other Drug Services has benchmarked the efforts of other counties on the internet and added a considerable amount of material on its website. DAAB agendas and minutes have been formalized and are being distributed both via the Internet and through regular mailings. Continued efforts to improve communication with the broader community will be made.

### ***Strategic Planning***

***Background:*** San Mateo County Alcohol and Other Drug Services completes a strategic planning process every 2-3 years. This plan concurs with the strategic plan of its parent organization, the Human Services Agency, and provides additional detail on alcohol/drug prevention, treatment, funding, and advocacy.

All identifiable stakeholders were included in the latest strategic planning process, including the DAAB, government departments, community-based providers, and community members. The *Strategic Plan 2003-2004* was completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors in March 2003. The current plan is more concise than the previous one, but is nevertheless, excellent. It identifies four Strategic Directions for 2003-2004.

1. Maintain service capacity and ensure a continuum of care.
2. Improve linkages.
3. Promote community education and advocacy.
4. Improve client/participant outcomes.

**It is recommended that Alcohol and Other Drug Services status and update this document during 2005. A concise addendum (or an executive summary if the entire plan is revised), no longer than three pages in length, would be useful.**

### ***Alcohol/Drug Treatment System***

***Background:*** There was a significant infusion of new alcohol/drug treatment money in San Mateo County in the late 1990s. This included a number of new Federal SAMHSA

grants secured by Alcohol and Other Drug Services and well as expanded local funds committed by the Board of Supervisors over a multi-year period.

DAAB has reviewed the *Community Indicators of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Risk--San Mateo County 2004* prepared by the Center for Applied Research Solutions for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs which shows that the adult treatment admission rate in San Mateo County *declined* in every year from 1999 through 2002. This is directly linked to program capacity and treatment demand. State data shows an *increase* overall for California from 2001 to 2002. AOD has recently indicated that their CADDs data also shows an *increasing* trend, but this is based on a different basis and has not yet been reviewed with DAAB.

Recent budget shortfalls in California have led to reduced funding for alcohol/drug treatment. While this has led to decreased treatment capacity in the most recent fiscal years, complete treatment data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are not yet available to illustrate the impact of these cuts.

AOD has reluctantly accepted the reality of the current budget situation and is making a strong effort to deal with its constraints.

**DAAB is concerned about maintaining the current level of treatment services, given current budget realities. Of particular concern is the financial viability of providers and county administrative costs. DAAB has worked with AOD to determine "cost per client" and treatment effectiveness with limited success. Unit of Service data has not been of value to the DAAB in evaluating efforts because of its ambiguity.**

Providers of alcohol/drug treatment for first time DUI offenders made a request for an increase in their fee schedule. While these rates are set by the State, they seek input and approval at the County level based on local needs and costs. **DAAB supported the requested increases for first time DUI offenders. This was subsequently approved.**

A provider sought DAAB support for adding an additional DUI service in the Half Moon Bay area but AOD staff and other providers did not feel it was indicated. **DAAB concurred with AOD and other providers that additional DUI service is not needed in the Half Moon Bay area.**

### ***Proposition 36***

***Background:*** The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA), better known as "Proposition 36", was passed by the voters of the State of California in November 2000. It has created a new emphasis on drug/alcohol treatment for individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

The Proposition 36 program has faced a number of challenges. The original mix of treatment modalities was overly complex, with an emphasis on the more expensive parts of the treatment continuum (i.e. residential treatment). Providers have also expressed concerns about the fee scale for reimbursement. There are also concerns about enforcement capabilities, including an overload for Probation Department staff.

In 2004 Proposition 36 funding constraints became severe. As a result all involved county agencies and treatment providers worked together resulting in a simplified approach with fewer modalities, less assessment, a bias toward low cost treatment and (with the approval of providers) a fee scale. **DAAB applauds the efforts of County staff to respond to funding challenges. However, concerns remain whether the current treatment mix is effective with Proposition 36 clients. In addition, there are ongoing concerns about the limited ability to enforce program guidelines with participants. These concerns were reinforced at the December DAAB meeting by District Attorney, Jim Fox, whose appearance at DAAB request is appreciated.**

San Mateo County has objected to the proposed allocation of Proposition 36 funds by the State of California. **DAAB supported the County position opposing the state allocation methodology, although the allocation methodology was still implemented at the State level.**

### ***Emerging Issues***

The DAAB has been made aware of continuing illegal sale of tobacco products to minors. Much of this input has come from the youth themselves participating in DAAB meetings. **Continued and renewed enforcement of existing laws regarding tobacco sales to minors is urged.**

The recent death of a Belmont girl from the use of ecstasy has focused the DAAB on drug use by youth. There is continued discussion on addressing this problem at the State and County levels. Young people are already aware of the dangers of drug use and yet are influenced by peers and a belief that negative effects will not happen to them. **Based on input from youth members, approaches that preach to young people have not been shown to be effective. Prevention models such as DARE have not been demonstrated to have a significant impact. Positive alternatives to drug use and drug-free venues where youth can find entertainment are more appropriate approaches for this age group.**

DAAB Vice Chair Nancy Bain raised the issue of fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD) as well as the inappropriate and dangerous use, particularly by young people, of Coricidin HBP Cough and Cold medication which is sold over the counter. **Attention to new emerging problems is needed.**

DAAB members feel that the general public in San Mateo County may lack basic information about alcohol/drugs, including the nature of alcohol/drug problems and available treatment resources. **The DAAB is working with Alcohol and Other Drug Services to prepare a broad presentation package which can be used for multiple purposes. One portion of this package will be used for community presentations by DAAB members and AOD staff.**

In 2004 DAAB moved in a more positive direction by being more proactive and productive in working with the AOD staff. It is hoped that this trend will continue in 2005.