

## **Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee Minutes April 27, 2011**

**Members Present:** Eric Guyer, Robin Kigel, Larry Lyman, Theresa Morris, Jody Parrott

**Guests:** Commissioner Skundrick, Rita Sullivan, Jenna Brehm

**Staff:** Michele Morales, Mark Orndoff, Shane Semin, Jim Shames, Carol Wedman,

### **I. Introductions**

Larry Lyman called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Larry asked if there were any changes to note for the March 23, 2011 LADPC meeting minutes. None being heard, Eric Guyer motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Jody Parrott seconded, minutes were accepted as presented.

### **II. Announcements**

Michele shared that she had attended the Impact of Marijuana Summit that was held in Mt. Hood, Oregon. A related PowerPoint presentation was shown. Michele advised that some states that currently have legalized medical marijuana laws in place presented at this summit and shared what impact those laws have had on their states. Each state agreed that the initial intent of these laws were to help the seriously ill. However, the number of cardholders has increased exponentially. The majority of those cardholders were reporting unspecific chronic pain. The demographics from this research showed that the average medical marijuana users were male, age 30, and had a history of drug and alcohol abuse. Currently one in twenty-one adults in Josephine County and one in thirty-one adults in Jackson County are card holders. All states identified drug trafficking, outdoor and indoor grows, fire and environmental risk, neighborhood disruption and violence as common by-products. She explained that many medical marijuana cardholders have more plants than allowed and that it is difficult for law enforcement to get into the grow sites. It is also difficult for law enforcement to obtain information on who is a legalized grower. The grow sites are not regulated and, therefore, have no applicable codes to growing. In many instances, the sites are dangerous due to fire hazards and pesticide use. Between February and June of 2009, Los Angeles saw 481 new dispensary applications. They did not have policies in place due to lack of oversight from an individual organization. They adopted an ordinance to regulate dispensaries in January 2010. They then shut down several dispensaries after the ordinance was enacted. During that process it was found that the dispensaries were holding more than the legal amount of Marijuana allowed and concealing money under ground. Here in Oregon there are no regulations as to where grow sites can be. Homes are being rented and gutted specifically to be used as grow houses and it is ruining the home. Dispensaries are also growing swiftly in Colorado. Colorado is now viewing it as a viable business and is beginning to regulate that "industry." They have created a Rulemaking Advisory Committee. In Montana they are not allowed to grow outside so there is a lot of transport from California and Oregon.

In California, SB129 is a bill that would not allow conviction for an offense relating to possession and cultivation of marijuana for primary caregivers who possess or cultivate marijuana for use by the patient. It also declares that it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against hiring, terminating or any term or condition of employment for any person if the discrimination is based on a person's status as a qualified patient or if the employee receives a positive drug test for marijuana. It would be unlawful to terminate a person under the influence

during the hours of employment because of the medical use of marijuana. It has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and is on the Senate floor. Michele advised that the medical marijuana lobby is very strong. Interventions were offered from the medical community, state laws, industry regulation, and county and city ordinances. Work place policies, school policies, and the role of law enforcement was also a topic. The American Medical Society of Addictions Medicine has issued a policy statement, it began with two questions; "Is there a principal reason we can find to exempt cannabis from the federal approval process?" There is an approval process for regulating medications in this country. Having brought together a number of doctors to debate this, the overwhelming answer is, "There is no reason to exempt cannabis from the federal approval process." The second question, "Could this achieve FDA approval?" They felt that it could. There are a number of studies in the works right now to determine if marijuana could be beneficial.

Michele stated that SB777 is an Oregon bill that limits the conditions by which marijuana cards can be endorsed and increases monitoring by physicians. It would require a cardholder to be seen by the physician every six months. It is currently planned for a work session. Michele asked if a preemptive ordinance banning dispensaries is in order and Commissioner Skundrick advised that he has made note and there will be some discussion. He said that the Sherriff in Jackson County has been very active in eradication efforts and has done a good job. However it has moved this problem out to Josephine and Curry counties.

### III. Legislative Updates

Rita heard that legislature is looking at a 30% budget reduction instead of the former figure of 19% reductions. She advised that it has to do with the health care transformation bill. Mark advised that

A & D will be hit the hardest.

### IV. Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling Prevention Services RFP

Michele advised that Mental Health has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling Prevention Services, for the new biennium. It is due on 5/16. It is posted on the Jackson County website and hard copies are available in the HHS Administration office. An Email was sent out to current providers. Commissioner Skundrick asked who would be reviewing the RFPs. Michele advised that three experienced individuals would be chosen that are not directly involved with A & D Services in Jackson County.

### V. State Access to Recovery (ATR) Implementation

Shane Semin shared that the Access to Recovery grant program (ATR) is a federally funded grant that initiated with the Bush Administration and was then re-funded through the Obama Administration. It will be funded for the next four (4) years. It is primarily set-up for those seeking recovery or are currently in recovery. The target population is veterans, those in the DHS child welfare system and those coming out of incarceration. Funding is set aside to help with drug and alcohol issues and other relating issues as well, such as child care, credit counseling, transportation, aid in securing housing, and getting back into the workforce. Shane is meeting with individuals and providing assessments to determine the top three needs of the individual and trying to help obtain services for these clients so that they can be successful. The grant just opened up in Jackson County. Jackson County was chosen because of the high percentage of people in the three (3) target populations. Michele advised that some individuals have begun using their vouchers but no feedback has yet been received. Robin asked how people are referred

to the program. Shane advised that currently they are referred to the program through a case worker/case manager. However, fliers have been made with tear-off tags with the program phone number on them and other marketing efforts are also under way. The program is trying to get away from the case manager/case worker referral and wanting it to be primarily client choice and about their individual needs. Mark asked if the faith-based piece was maintained through the transition from administrations. Shane indicated that faith based counseling has still been maintained for recovery support services. Mark asked if the target for this program is 200 clients per year. Michele confirmed that is correct. The current year target is 175 clients as the program got a late start. Robin asked what the time period parameters are for transitioning out of incarceration as many people are in an out of jail. Shane advised most likely 6 months to one year. Mark added that some parameters are not yet well defined by the state as it is a pilot program.

## **VI. Gambling PSAs**

Michele shared that a new 30 second public announcement has been developed that is centered around gambling. KOBI has been a great partner with HHS in developing these ads and had donated their production services. Michele showed the public announcement on gambling to the committee. Michele recruited feedback from the group. Jody felt it was good. Michele advised it will air upon approval. \*\*The ad has begun airing.

## **Other**

Oregon Partnership, a substance abuse prevention organization out of Portland, is sponsoring a regional prescription drug abuse summit on June 3rd. It will include six counties: Coos, Curry, Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, and Klamath counties. Michele asked Rita if she was involved. Rita advised that she is happy to help coordinate with them but has not yet been involved. Representative Walden has agreed to be there and other legislators are expected to attend as well. This is expected to be a high profile event. One item they would like to work on is a prescription drug monitoring program to track individual's pharmacy/prescription records. Doctors, nurses, and pharmacists will all have access to this database and will check each time prescribing to eliminate the "doctor-shopping." Law enforcement will not have access unless specifically authorized to do so. Michele asked the group to let her know if anyone is interested in attending the summit.

Michele asked about input for the upcoming joint MHAC/LADPC meeting. Theresa asked about the possibility of discussing the ATR program, other services, and partnering together. Other items previously discussed include; LADPC and MHAC roles, what each committee does, if there are any particular concerns, co-occurring disorders – look at available services and gaps, and a focus on commonalities between the two committees.

## **Next Meeting**

The next LADPC meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 4:00-6:00 p.m. and is currently scheduled in the ADAMS Room at the Medford Library. Carol Wedman will see about getting the largest conference room at the library – the Carpenter room.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

