



ADPA Bulletin

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Alcohol and Drug Program Administration



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ADPA News

◇ On June 16, the Board of Supervisors approved the renewal of 318 alcohol and other drug (AOD) contracts that were set to expire on June 30. Stipulations include a change from a three-year to a one-year renewal. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will notify all contracted providers that their contracts are subject to termination or reduction if state funding is reduced or eliminated.

◇ ADPA will host its first **Quarterly Provider Meeting** on July 17, 2009. The goal of these meetings is to discuss ways to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of services delivered throughout Los Angeles County. The first meeting will cover the impacts of state budget reductions, including a review of the Proposition 36 (P36) program.

◇ The **National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)** hosted its **15th Annual Drug Court Training Conference** in Anaheim on June 10-13. The conference served to train drug court professionals and treatment providers in the latest drug court methods and procedures. Approximately 2,500 individuals from around the country attended. The conference included special California-specific sessions about P36. ADPA staff presented a lecture on the benefits of using Process Improvement strategies in P36 programs. These cost-effective strategies are particularly relevant in these difficult economic times.

◇ **Rico Cruz**, Associate Administrator at the **Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center's (AVRC)** Warm Springs Recovery Center, has been nominated to participate in the

Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center's (PSATTC) Leadership Institute.

This program serves to cultivate new leaders within the addiction field through the enhancement of knowledge and development of leadership competencies. Trainees will be assessed for their leadership and management interests and will participate in a five-day immersion training to learn the theory and practice of leadership. Each trainee will have an individualized development plan and mentor. Rico's ultimate goal is to "take [his] game to the next level by enriching the quality of what [he's] doing" and would ultimately like to mentor the next generation of young men in leadership activities.

◇ **AVRC Warm Springs' Alumni Day** is September 12. This event joins together 300-400 alumni and their families with those currently in treatment to celebrate recovery and life after rehabilitation. Alumni stories, a BBQ, and various contests contribute to a positive experience for those currently in treatment. AVRC Acton will hold its Alumni Day on October 3.

◇ On June 3, the **Commission on Alcoholism** and the **Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission** held a special meeting to draft a motion advising the Board of Supervisors to encourage the Governor and State Legislature to continue P36 and CalWORKs funding, reject the proposed reduction to AOD treatment services for incarcerated individuals, and encourage the adoption of a 10 cent-per-drink alcohol excise tax to fund the above-mentioned programs. The Commissions recognize that, though these cuts may save money in the present, their long-term ramifications will be very costly.

ADPA Collaborative Projects

◇ The Probation Department opened the **Day Reporting Center (DRC)** in late 2008 in partnership with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), DPH, and the Department of Public Social Services to provide services for probationers. The facility targets high-risk proba-

tioners between the ages of 18-25 years, who may be involved in or influenced by gangs. DRC's goals are to reduce recidivism, improve public safety, effect positive behavioral change, and decrease the number of offenders sent to prison.

DRC held its first graduation ceremony on May 29, 2009. Nine DRC probationers completing the project received a DRC (continued on pg. 2)

Director's Corner



I hope this message serves to inspire, edify, and challenge us as we continue to improve the quality of our services and the lives of others. During my six-month tenure as ADPA's director, I've observed closely the work done by our contracted partners. The characteristics of this collective work bring to mind a speech on patriotism by presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson when he said in 1952, "what we need is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." You as providers have demonstrated steady dedication while witnessing fads and trends come and go.

Numerous presidents have stated their commitment to fighting the "War on Drugs" and have demonstrated this commitment through fiscal allocations to the drug war. In 2005, almost 11% of total federal and state government budgets went to the "War on Drugs." However, of this amount, only 1.6% of funds went to treatment and prevention and 0.4% to research. For too long there have been frenzied outbursts of effort to address the impacts of drug abuse and addiction at the cost of continuous, sustained efforts to allocate resources for treatment and prevention. Alcohol and drug treatment and prevention professionals here and everywhere who have been working quietly and with continuous dedication are true statesmen and patriots and need the support of all. I look forward to working with each of you over the next few years as we "lift the hands that hang down."

—John Viernes, Jr., Director

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SAVE THE DATE!

- **July 17: Quarterly Provider Meeting:** LAC Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007. Agenda includes a Plenary session (10:00-12:00) and Regional Workgroups (1:00-3:00).
- **July 18: No-Cost Training for Faith-Based Alcohol and Drug Counselors:** Bethel A.M.E. Church, 7900 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90047; 8:30-3:00. Contact Akim Watts (323) 238-0445
- **July 29-August 1: 2009 NIATx Summit/SAAS National Conference:** Tucson, AZ
- **September: Recovery Month**

ADPA Staff Milestones

◇ Congratulations to ADPA staff who have achieved some important milestones!

William Mae Bell received his Bachelor of Science degree from Springfield College.

Marghot Carabali received her Master of Public Policy and Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Matumaini Taylor received her Master of Divinity from King's Seminary.

Michael Wools received an Associate of Arts degree from Los Angeles Mission College.

Well done!

