

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION  
PROPOSITION 36 REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING – SERVICE PLANNING AREAS 3 & 7  
DISCUSSION NOTES  
MAY 7, 2008**

**AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE**

Behavioral Health Services / ELA Calif Drug Consultants Family Services Long Beach IMPACT/Principles, Inc LACADA- Allen House		Latino Family Center (CHCADA) Mariposa Recovery Center Options- The Family Center Plaza Community Center		Prototypes STAR House and CASC Offices Santa Anita Family Service & Fam. Couns. Service Southern Cal. Alc. Drug Program/ Cider House SPIRITT Family Services	
<b>ADPA</b> Yanira Lima Leona Anderson Dennis Koba  <b>Superior Court</b> Judge Michael Tynan Judge Deborah Sanchez Judge Georgina Torres Rizk Comm. Jose A. Rodriguez Aide Correa Maryanne LaPinta Sandy Lopez Linda Wu Debra Medina Cecilia Morales	<b>Public Defender</b> Robert McBirney  <b>Probation</b> Art Sosa Richard Contreras Susie Martinez Ray Thompson Eugenio Topete Adam Wiggins	<b>Corrections</b> Gilbert A. Saenz, Sup.  <b>CASC</b> E. Ramirez-Neally Alicia Trivison Georgina Yoshioka	<b>Treatment</b> Melanie Arellano Herman Avilez Steven Baima Eduardo Camarena Charito Carrillo Marie Carrion Elizabeth Castillo Heather Cuizor Sandra Dalton Tracey Dunne Dorothy Garcia Manuel Garcia Rick George	<b>Treatment (Cont'd.)</b> Karen Gilbert Fabian Gonzalez Gwenevia Grant Billie Kittrell Jason Knight Rudy Martinez Irene Preciado-Salazar Linda Quinonez Irene Redondo-Churchward Charles Shedrick Glenn Wright Catherine Ybarra	<b>LabCorp</b> Kiah McIntyre
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>			<b>ACTION / RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	The meeting was called to order by Yanira A. Lima. Self-introductions were made. Ms. Lima expressed appreciation to SPIRITT Family Services for their willingness to host this meeting.				
<b>II. Approval of Discussion Notes/ Announcements</b>	The discussion notes for February 6, 2007 meeting were approved without changes. These discussion notes will be posted on ADPA’s website at <a href="http://www.lapublichealth.org/adpa">www.lapublichealth.org/adpa</a> , under the “Proposition 36” link.				

**II. Announcements/  
and Discussions  
(Cont'd.)**

Handouts:

- 1) Agenda (May 7, 2008)
- 2) Discussion Notes from Previous Meeting (February 6, 2007)
- 3) List of Prop 36 Community Assessment Service Centers (CASCs)
- 4) Prop 36 Monitoring Courts Directory (Updated)
- 5) Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation Staff List (Updated)
- 6) Proposition 36 Calendar (Updated)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

**Nonviolent Offenders Rehabilitation Act (NORA) of 2008-**

- Judge Luna provided an update on the level of communication statewide currently taking place in order to address the volume of new participants coming into the drug courts if the NORA legislation passes in November 2008. There is a current sense that it will increase the volume by one-third of what the Proposition 36 program currently involves, and will impact the courts, probation, CASCs and treatment.
- Judge Tynan asked how many of the providers are out getting signatures for NORA. This is going to be a big deal; Judge Tynan commented that LA County has a very good program template for Prop 36 on which to build if this new proposition passes. However, there is no current information on how the funds will be distributed.
- Judge Luna commented regarding the number of allowed criminal offenses under NORA. As long as a person has a drug problem associated with the crime they would be able to access NORA treatment services, it seems there will likely be many more participants, however it is not clear if this will be enough funding.

**Revised Summary of Treatment, Continuing Care Services Matrix-**

- A number of treatment agencies stated that there continues to be some confusion when agencies move participants from primary care to aftercare, and whether it is required that the Court is involved. A Bench Officer stated that if it's recommended by the treatment agency, it will usually be approved. The Courts are not the party to make that determination. Judge Luna stated that the treatment providers should make a recommendation to move the client from primary care to aftercare and put this in their progress notes. If the participant is under the old matrix (six months of aftercare) is doing well in treatment, and the agency wants to recommend three months of aftercare (instead of six months), put it in the progress report so that the participant does not have to wait an extra 3 month to get back to the court.

<p><b>III. LabCorp</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been calls from supervisors regarding the inability to confirm the Point-of-Care drug tests that come into the lab with the lids not completely closed. The Point-of-Care kits cannot be tested if the sample has leaked out during transportation. If the issues lie with the POCT cup itself then providers should call Ms. McIntyre at Labcorp immediately, and have the lot number readily available.</li> <li>• The Point-of-Care kits have a higher level of sensitivity and the cut off measure is closer. This could cause some tests to confirm a positive even when, for example, over-the-counter medications may be present (i.e. Vicodin) and the test would come out positive for opiates. During confirmation testing the lab tests for only opiates and methadone so a positive test on site for opiates could be ruled out at a confirmation test.</li> <li>• If providers need additional training call to get a refresher training that addresses specific issues they may be handling. Number to call: (800) 859-6046, Extension 73213. Fax number: (858) 391-7175.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IV. Court</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Rodriguez stated that he appreciates the level of detail in progress reports to his court, specifically when the documentation includes why drug testing or meetings have been missed. This is very helpful to the court in order to address relapse issues with the defendant.</li> <li>• A Bench Officer raised a concern regarding some of the reports being cryptic, or there's difficulty reading the drug testing information. This makes it difficult for the Court to assess treatment information on the defendant and better evaluate and determine the level of treatment.</li> <li>• Judge Sanchez addressed that some clients come back to the Court and are not clear about their appointment with the CASC. Georgina, Director Prototypes/CASC stated that providers need only to send the participant to the CASC site to transition to their next modality of care. This is so there is no gap between residential and outpatient services in Level III.</li> <li>• Co-Occurring Courts- Judge Tynan addressed an issue regarding placement of defendants with a demonstrable Axis II diagnosis, from downtown to the Van Nuys area, in order to place them in a better sober living facility. South Los Angeles presents challenges for these chronically mentally ill defendants. This is working as best as it can considering there are approximately 25,000 to 35,000 of these potential participants in L.A. and the Courts are probably dealing with less than one third at full capacity.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>VI. CASC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgina announced that she is leaving her post effective 5/13/08. The SPAs 3 and 7 RCC meeting attendees thanked her for her contributions.</li> </ul>	

<b>VI. CASC (Cont'd.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Tynan brought up a concern regarding the Pasadena Court stating that they have had to use A.I.R (transportation service) because it takes three weeks to go through the CASC. Ms. Parker, who will take the place of Georgina, will be the point person to contact regarding the issue.</li> </ul>	
<b>VII. Corrections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A representative from the Department of Corrections stated that they have had a good working relationship with the CASC (Georgina) and will be sorry to see her go. Judge Tynan stated his observation that the staff meetings with Parole seem to be having some positive benefit for both parties. Corrections further reported on Parole program success rate across the State, which is up by 50%.</li> <li>• Judge Tynan asked the representative from Corrections how long they keep them (parolees) before Parole discharges them. Corrections; stated that it depends on how long they need to supervise them. The parolees come up for review every 12 months, and as long as there are no technical violations they can be dismissed from parole. During that period, we utilize the Prop 36 program, and any one of the residential programs we have available in lieu of sending them back to prison.</li> <li>• Corrections emphasized this is the alternative to sending these individuals back to prison.</li> </ul>	
<b>VIII Probation</b>	No questions or announcements.	
<b>IX. Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment providers were asked to notify the CASC as soon as they have open slots.</li> <li>• Treatment providers were reminded that progress reports need to be sent to Parole on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>	
<b>X. Other Matters/ Public Comments</b>	<p>There were no public comments.</p> <p>Next Meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, August 6, 2008 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. SPIRITT Family Services Santa Fe Springs Neighborhood Center 9255 Pioneer Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670</b></p>	Meeting Notice will be mailed prior to the meeting.