

**METHAMPHETAMINE-FREE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN:
PROPOSED STRATEGIES (TREATMENT TASK FORCE)**

MINUTES

Monday, February 25, 2008

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Santa Maria PD – Robert Ramos Conf. Rm.

Santa Maria, CA

1. **Attendance:** Lois Craig, Rogelio Flores, Nancy Gottlieb, Asia Eichmiller, and Bob Montgomery
2. **Announcements:** Judge Flores will be attending a meeting of the State Collaborative Courts Advisory Committee later this week – an appointment his recently received.
3. **Short Term Strategies:** Made decisions on how the two strategies would be presented to Judges and CWS workers.

Action Item	Description	Completed
#1	At their next quarterly meeting, Judge Flores will provide an informational briefing to all County Judges on the importance of a Methamphetamine treatment model that is appropriate for the needs of the abuser.	
#2	Asia Eichmiller presented a proposed training module for CWS workers. Before the module is finalized, it will be reviewed by training staff from CWS.	
#3	Potential Action Plans for legislative action listed below will be presented to Congresswoman Capps on March 3 rd .	

- *Federal Title IV-E funding pays for children who are removed due parental care and placed in foster care. Many of these cases involved very young children where drugs and/or alcohol are a contributing factor to abuse or neglect. Federal Title IV-E funding does not pay for the care of children who live with their parents. Title IV-E funding is not capped, that is, the reimbursement is based on a per child bases and is not limited to a pre-determined number of children.*
- *Federal Title IV-B is available for a wide variety of child welfare programs and services, including drug and alcohol treatment of mothers and their children together. This funding is very limited and insufficient to meet the needs of mothers and children.*
- *CALWORKS and TANF provide funds to single parents and children when the child is living with the parent. When the child is removed from the parents care, to protect their safety, this support is removed. Mothers, who seek treatment when their children are in foster care, have lost their financial ability to live independently and/or pay for the treatment.*

- *CALWORKS and TANF may not provide financial support if the mother has a felony. (Check this factually.) If a mother has a past felony due to her drug use and she is now ready and willing to go into treatment, the regulations forbid financial assistance. This is a barrier for the mother to obtain treatment and provide safe care for her child. Financially, the government will extend federal financial aid for the child's foster care, often long-term, and the mother will likely not obtain needed treatment. This results in additional trauma for mother and child and additional long-term costs.*
- *Santa Barbara County has a paraphernalia ordinance that makes it illegal to possess, manufacture and advertise drug paraphernalia. Similar legislation should be considered statewide.*

4. Nancy Gottlieb provided a matrix of pending state legislative bills that are that have a brief analysis and are being watched by CADPAAC. The matrix is attached to these minutes. The California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) does not have any substance abuse bills on its watch list. Judge Flores will provide a summary of the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008 to the Council at its April meeting.

5. Short discussion on the Crystal Darkness campaign. General consensus is that the Council should make a decision on this or any other campaign and assign activities to the appropriate Task Force(s).

6. Long Term Strategy: The task force agreed to recommend a change in the language of our primary long term strategy. Since there was a consensus among task force members to make the wording change to our #1 strategy, it will not be necessary to submit to the Council for action.

"Establish a System of Care in Communities to ensure that the services and supports needed to obtain and maintain recovery are present where the individuals and families need it most – where they live."

**7. Activities in support of the long term strategy are:
Judge Flores will provide a diagram used by the Drug Court to outline community resources for drug abuse treatment. The Task Force will then list existing resources, gaps in services and begin development of a proposal for improving the treatment activities in each of the local communities. We need representatives from the various communities to help diagram the services in their respective communities. Another long term strategy from the mapping of resources and the need for increased capacity would be to provide training for providers about how to bill private insurance**

8. Our next Task Force meeting is Monday, March 24, 2008 at 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM at the Solvang Superior Court Chambers.