

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COMMISSION MINUTES

5:30 p.m., May 8, 2023

1400 Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz CA, 95060 Rooms 207 & 206

Call: +1 (831) 454-4222 and enter conference ID 626 205 668 # OR

Join via video conference (no registration required): Email arianna.lomeli@santacruzcounty.us for the meeting link

SUDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Chavez, Jim Anderson, Joe Thompson, Jozee Roberto, Robert

Pursley Jr.

SUDC MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chris Gunst, Jackie Heath, Susie O' Hara

COUNTY STAFF: Karen Kern, Briana Kahoana, Arianna Lomeli

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS*

5:35 P.M.

2.0 CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

n/a

3.0 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

n/a

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Approved 2023.01.09

5.0 PROVIDER REPORTS

5.1 New Life Community Services

New Life Community Services experienced a long list of people who were awaiting services. New Life Community Services expanded services within their fiscal contract two times. They have thirty-eight beds available for clients. Children stay free of charge (up to 18 years of age) while their parents are provided with support services. There is a set focus to have clients be re-engaged into the community. New Life also encourages focus on the goals of clients such as going back to school, entering training, and pursuing jobs etc. An example of an achievable goal is when a client works and saves their money, they can then use it to go towards housing after they leave. A challenge that arises for those in treatment is when they enter the six-month mark. Support throughout the six-month mark is important to utilize. There are twenty-four beds that are dedicated to Santa Cruz County clients. New Life has a Self-Pay Program where it costs \$40 a day for clients. This is based on what an individual working a minimum wage job can pay. The program allows those individuals to receive treatment at an affordable rate through a sliding scale. The CORE grant provides funding to continue the program and make treatment services more affordable. A three-year funding cycle helps offset costs for county beds, supports self-pay, and serves the community. New Life is surveyed every year. In regard to client's survey results, the location of New Life was found to be an inconvenience. In the treatment perception survey, many clients would recommend New Life to others, felt as though they were thoroughly helped, satisfied overall, and felt welcome. New Life has experienced an increase with clients needing mental health services or detox services. Regarding sobriety of clients, it has been noted that there can be a dip in the four to five months range of recovery. This finding suggests continued support is necessary and 30 days of support is sometimes not enough.

Additional Information: At New Life initial stabilization is the first two weeks, clients can have sponsors, visits, and calls. Self-pay clients are different where they may only go out for job interviews or job leads. After two weeks clients can stay the weekend elsewhere and have visitors. The schedule for clients is full. They have group sessions from 5-9, including mealtimes, chores, and bedtime. Weekends are lighter where a typical meeting can last about an hour. If a residential client happens to relapse, it will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. It depends on how much they used, what they used, and addressing the safety issue of not having medical attention on site. It can result in suspension. Please note, New Life cannot detox people. Only a hospital may deem individuals releasable after substance use. There is not a designated childcare company that watches children. The clients will rotate watching children while their parents are in group sessions. There is child therapy available for children. An increase in clients is thanks to a partnership with Santa Cruz County and Medi-Cal. Biggest challenges involve Gemma, SUDS transitional housing and the need for continued funding for Gemma. Gemma can be viewed as multipurpose as it supports women, SUDS treatment, probation, and mental health.

5.2 Sobriety Works

Sobriety Works is a disorder treatment and sober living environment facility. Sobriety Works has been contracting with Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Services since 2018 and the network of Medi-Cal providers. Sobriety Works substance use disorder services assist in referral, assessment, case management, recovery support, sober living environments, group counseling, and individual counseling. Remote services and lack of transportation for clients make it hard for clients to get in connection with others. Sobriety Works has found a rise in the need of clients needing mental health services in residential treatment. Sobriety Works offers in person groups of 9 hours a week. Sobriety Works is a flexible program with its continuum moving up and down. Sobriety Works assists folks in serving pretrial clients along with family preservation. Sobriety Works offers surveys that are intended to measure quality assurance and are given once a quarter at random to clients while in treatment. This data can be used for staff changes and addressing concerns. A challenge that Sobriety Works is noticing is an increase of clients using having alcoholism and using fentanyl. There is a dangerous combination of fentanyl and other drugs. It is important to raise awareness regarding fentanyl and Xylazine being mixed. Currently there is not a reliable test for Xylazine exposure. It is important the committee knows about the need for research and addressing Xylazine and fentanyl to raise awareness to the community. Rather than expanding Sobriety Works, they are interested in improving their existing programs. However, there is a need to have drug tests available on hand at the facility. Sobriety Works is interested in retaining their staff in means along with deepening the quality of support they provide. Additional Information: Medi-Cal does not cover drug testing, which is a problem for substance use disorder treatment center facilities.

5.3 Janus DDP

Janus DDP strives to reduce DUI recidivism by educating and counseling those who have had a DUI. They have an evidence-based treatment program that offers a full continuum of care. The age majority of individuals who are enrolled is twenty-five to thirty-four year olds. Second highest age majority is eighteen to twenty-four year olds. Janus DDP is working on updating their tracking system of accurately counting individuals who are transitioning or who are non-binary. While examining the amount of satisfaction clients have with their services, they found a lot to be satisfied with their services. Currently, they do not collect post program recovery surveys. For those that are willing, they are referred to 18-month detox programs and methadone clinics. DUI clients have access to other Janus programs including detox, residential, and intensive outpatient treatment. Janus DDP utilizes educational based curriculum, motivational interviewing principles, interactive journaling, and a focus on the program priority areas of advocacy and education. For clients who are first offenders they partake in an exit interview for self-reflection, identification of triggers, and strategies. For re-entry multiple offender clients, the last six months of Janus DDP are designed to reinforce responsible decision making for changed behaviors. January 1, 2019 became the start date for all DUI offenders get ignition interlock devices (IID) installed in their vehicles. Additional information: Updates include challenges that involve technology, such as learning a new software system. A new software system will give reminders to clients regarding their outstanding payments. Clients at Janus DDP are becoming involved in interactive journaling which includes doing so in both groups and individual settings. Janus DDP will investigate language accessibility and illiterate issues clients may face regarding journaling. If a client can't read or write in a journal a counselor may assist case by case. All clients who need help will be assisted in a consistent manner as all counselors will be on the same page.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Commissioner Reports

Jim Anderson- No

Joe Thompson- No

Nicole Chavez- No

Robert Pursley- No

Jozee Roberto- In September 2023 at a date to be determined, Jozee Roberto and her husband will host Connection Playshop. Connection Playshop is a three-day spiritual emergence for parents that have loved ones in substance use disorder recovery. It will be a place of rejuvenation including yoga, sound therapy, and rhythm games. New Leaf, Whole Foods, Om Gallery, Village Music Circles, Fuel PHitness, and NANOSPECTIVE are sponsors for the event. Parents will be offered nutrition and fitness classes. Parents are also offered the opportunity to have massages and acupuncture. The CEO of Janus will provide licensed therapists on site. It will also be a chance to give back to the community where scholarships will be given based on recommendation.

6.2 HSA Substance Use Disorder Updates

Briana Kahoano- Outpatient programs are returning to in-person, which is great as clients get energy from each other. Regarding the CalAIM audit, 10 files were reviewed unexpectedly, and the County received positive feedback from the review. There is a new project regarding the follow up with hospital emergency departments. Follow up will happen at 7 days and at 30 days to increase the chances of offering treatment and services. There is a focus on working to improve treatment of NTP for 180 days consecutively. There is also a focus on improving juvenile treatment. Santa Clara County had an individual die from a fentanyl and Xylazine overdose. Fentanyl and Xylazine gives users challenging withdrawal management. Please note, the language that we use in the presence of those in recovery is important to consider. It is important to dispel harmful language and phrases such as “come back when you are ready”. If someone makes a mistake it is ok and is to be expected in recovery.

7.0 New Business

- 7.1** Next meeting vote to change SUDC Bylaws to document that the meeting frequency is every other month.
- 7.2** Next meeting elect Chairperson and elect Vice-Chairperson.
- 7.3** Discussion regarding writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors about Medi-Cal not covering the cost of drug testing and the treatment facilities such as Sobriety Works have needing drug testing to be available for their clients.

8.0 NEW AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

July 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. location, 1400 Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz CA, 95060 in rooms 207 and 206
The PUBLIC may join via phone or video conference by Microsoft Teams Link to be announced on meeting Agenda.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

7:02 P.M.

If you need interpreter services for the hearing impaired, please contact Arianna Lomeli at least three working days in advance of the meeting at 454-4984 (voice) or use the California Relay System at 1-800-735-2929 (TDD). Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis. Please make advance arrangements by calling 454-4050.

Traducciones de ingles al espanol y del espanol al ingles estan disponibles. Por favor hagan arreglos por anticipo por telefono al numero (831) 454-4050.

* A quorum must be present in order for any matters requiring a vote to be acted on. A quorum shall be one person more than one-half of the appointed members of the Commission.

