

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COMMISSION AGENDA

5:30 p.m., March 8, 2021

Call: +1 (916) 318-9542 and enter conference ID 969 620 840#

OR

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

SUDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Colleen McMahon-Sepulveda, Lee Smith, Susie O’Hara, Christine Berge, Jozee Roberto, Robert “Bob” Pursley, Jackie Heath, Jim Anderson

SUDC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

SUDC MEMBERS ABSENT:

COUNTY STAFF: Casey Swank

AGENCY REPS: Nora Villa (rescheduled), Lun Wang, Ali Garcia

PUBLIC ATTENDEES :

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS*

2.0 CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA – provider reports presented first because one presented had a death in the family and needed to leave as early as possible.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - none

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 11, 2021
January 11, 2021 - Approved as transmitted March 08, 2021

5.0 PROVIDER REPORTS

5.1 Janus DDP – Nora Villa –

Challenges: Impacted by COVID – stopped providing services in Spring 2020 due to pandemic then switched to telehealth services. Impacted revenue and service delivery for a period of time due to a reduction in people accessing services. They are offering service again and revenue has picked up. She has 2 new counselors which have been helpful and continue to service their usual variety of clients.

Trending – no longer doing transmission interlock devices because they went out of business. They currently are utilizing Breathe easy and also have DMV advertisement that highlights DMV and Breath easy devices.

Anything else we need to know – Janus is doing their best to get back to where they used to be pre-COVID. Currently booked to June for orientations. People are getting back to their life and the future is looking brighter. Janus continues to push forward to help and educated clients on how to utilize technology to attend meetings.

Court referral data – referrals have increased from the courts.

5.2 Encompass (ALTO) DDP –

Challenges – impacted by the pandemic. They had a spend down fund that they were able to spend down to help offset revenue losses. Had a period of time where they halted services due to COVID-19 and maintained contact with clients through phone until they could offer telehealth services. Encompass also received PPP income which supported loss of revenue as a result of COVID-19. Encompass had to develop a telehealth service delivery model in 90 days. They had to obtain equipment and train both clients and staff.

Successes – 69% success rate which is a notable positive. Achieved CARF accreditation

DUI program – implement online app that is an evidence-based curriculum which has mindfulness, CBT, and others to support clients. They can access the app and talk with their counselor about it. Went live last month and they are receiving a lot of positive feedback.

Usage Trends: increase in mental health crisis, increased acuity with crisis with MH and SUD. Due to revenue losses and other factors, they will pursue increase in client fees in collaboration with Janus and County Health Services Agency.

Access to services: additional challenge with telehealth is it creates an additional barrier to services.

Lee Smith: Important that we have representatives talking to legislators about the importance of these services to ensure that these services continue to be available.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Report of Chairperson

6.2 Commissioner Reports

Colleen – no updates at this time

Susie – strategic plan – hoping to have a conversation about where the county is about returning to the elements of the strategic plan and what the next 5 years look like. Where are we now, what does recovery post COVID look like. How do we support contractors? Intention when bringing up this topic was not for the commission to build another strategic plan but really about checking in with the county, seeing where we are and what the next 12-18 months look like given that there is likely a recovery period from COVID.

Lee: Doesn't feel he is able to put as much time on the commission as he would like to due to other responsibilities. He noticed that his appointment ends on 4/1/2021. He was asked if he wants to be reappointed? Lee does not want to be reappointed at this time. He states that he is grateful for this experience, but this will likely be his last meeting.

Josie – looking to discuss the topic about what are strategic plan with the county, where is it at, it's been expired for some time. Brenda compiled something that was quite thorough about what has been implemented and what has not. Is there some guidelines or recommendations that we can submit to the board? Updates to strategic plan with COVID related updates.

Christine – do not have anything to report but interested in reviewing the strategic plan as well.

Jim – does not have anything to report at this time.

6.3 HSA Substance Use Disorder Updates

Financial

Furloughs

Chief of SUDS

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Current SUDC vacancies:

District #4, Caput (two seats)

7.2 BH Integration and the Commission – no further updates since January

7.3 Letter to BOS advocating for more Prevention dollars – put on the agenda last meeting. Doesn't remember exactly who put this on the agenda but Susie is working with HSD regarding CORE investments. CORE has led to large discussions about how we make investments on a regional level. SUD and Behavioral Health are always brought up in discussions. Susie suggested that CORE reps come to one of the these meetings to learn about CORE investments more and figure out how many dollars are going to go into that. Currently 5 million dollars a year of discretionary funding. Susie can get in touch with CORE representatives so the SUDC commission can learn more. We could also invite members of the MH advisory board so everyone can hear the information together.

7.4 Develop SUDC strategic plan – not going to get it done today. We have the opportunity to review our current plan and how we can focus our thoughts and efforts and figure out the best way to fund programs to support a more healthy community overall.

Colleen – do we need to set-up a subcommittee?

Susie – will send out an e-mail to inquire about interest

Concern in community about needle litter

Colleen – more grace in the community around SUD?

Christine – needle litter appears to be the most concerning thing for constituents.

Casey – SSP is a comprehensive set of services designed to engage people and connect them to treatment.

Christine – concern that she's heard is more about Harm Reduction Coalition who is handling out needles and hygiene kits.

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

May 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline Ave., Bldg K, Room 207, Santa Cruz, CA

8.1 Continue to discuss contacting county SUDS so we can get more clear information about strategic plan

8.2 CORE investments presentation

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

If you need interpreter services for the hearing impaired, please contact Casey Swank at least three working days in advance of the

meeting at 454-5499 (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.