



**DWI Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
April 9th, 2015
12:30 PM
MATS Facility
5901 Zuni Street SE**

Voting Members:

Sylvia Sarate, Chair
Eddie Mahe
Keith Hartnett
Thomas Scharmen

Guests:

Michael Baldwin, DFA
Ruben Garcia
Phil Baca

Non - Voting Members:

Katrina Hotrum
Fran Martinez-Romero
Elena Rodriguez

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Chair Sarate.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was not approved. Quorum was not present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not approved. Quorum was not present.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. DFA-Michael Baldwin, Program Manager

Michael Baldwin introduced himself and briefly reviewed information with the Council. He stated that he was conducting a 3 day site visit next week to review the DWI Programs and then gave a quick update on some of the legislative issues that were introduced in the last session. There were a lot of alcohol related/public safety bills that

I followed, he stated. To educate themselves, he also encouraged members to follow the Legislative process.

Michael then reviewed an article from the NM Epidemiology and Response Division regarding the rate of alcohol poisoning deaths in New Mexico. The death rates, in all demographic groups in New Mexico, are consistently higher than U.S. averages he stated. This should be a red flag for all of us. Death rates were highest in New Mexico in the 40-49 year old age group. We need to focus on prevention efforts not only for this group, but for all ages. In the past, many counties did not have preventionists. It has since been determined that hiring Senior Preventionists has had huge community impact. Bernalillo County has a solid treatment program, but I feel we all need to build a strong foundation in the prevention aspect as well, not only with this age group but also with our youth. We need to keep them from becoming the next generation of binge drinkers, alcoholics and drug users. I would like to complement the County on their prevention efforts because they realize it's not only about taking care of the clients who already have issues, but also taking care of our young people. He then opened up for questions.

Keith asked Michael what he thought the states/counties perception was on the effectiveness of Councils such as theirs, mainly because of the LFC report that was discussed a few months back. Are the monies we spend on treatment, education, etc. justified? Are there any threats to continued funding for these programs? Michael stated that the threats are always there. The state is always concerned about funding and where it should go. Programs are complicated but we have to put some value on the table and determine where funding is best utilized. We have to ask - who has the necessary resources to provide these services, how much is the County willing to put on the table, do we have professionals who can accommodate these issues. These are just some of the things considered when funding these programs. Every year there are a few bills that go after funding allocated for DWI programs, but again, it comes down to the value of the programs. At the end of the day, Bernalillo County has a solid program that has nothing to be ashamed of. Director Hotrum then stated that she had spoken with David Abbey on the LFC report and his biggest complaint was that he doesn't like earmarked funding because he feels it ties our hands into developing a system, which led to discussion on how we fit in and support a structure that's not really being funded in the overall picture in terms of substance abuse or alcohol addiction, but provides a safety net service. Ultimately, he wanted to know that the Council has a voice and is capable of seeing just how the funding is being spent. In terms of results, the problem with evidence based practices is that you may not see results possibly for years. Success is hard to measure, she stated. David does feel that our programs are effective and that evidence based models should be utilized in terms of prevention and treatment. I also explained to him to keep in mind that we need to provide different levels of treatment. For example, we should be complementing what Medicaid has paid for, not duplicating it. If outpatient treatment has already been provided, we shouldn't provide it again. Why? We get grant funding and should be providing a service people can't afford to receive, not a service that is essentially overkill and deters clients from receiving the treatment they need. It's a balance that we are getting better at but it's different per county and we have to be able to justify why and what we are doing. As far as prevention he's not worried simply because we use evidence based practices and he

knows that this group is not afraid to challenge those practices. All he wants is a constantly moving system for us. Thomas asked how the alcohol/substance bills fared during the Legislative Session, specifically the opiate accountability project. Director Hotrum responded that she was not aware of that one and that most bills did not fair well. We advocated strongly for or against bills that would impact our funding, she stated. For example, Class B counties were trying to increase the amount of funding they received, which ultimately would have hurt us. That bill did not pass. As far as alcohol related bills, we realize that drinking is not illegal, it is drinking and driving that is. Unless there was a bill that promoted drinking and driving, we just watched the bills and took no action. We essentially monitored, tracked and provided technical assistance if necessary. There were not a lot of bills that got to the Governor's desk, she stated. Michael then stated that society has changed. People are much more aware of the consequences of their actions now than in years past so we are having an impact on issues such as DWI. I don't feel that funding is in jeopardy because of that impact.

5. Public Comment

Eddie Mahe stated that he's been appointed to the County Planning Board so is resigning effective immediately from the DWI Planning Council. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and wished everyone well.

Ruben Garcia from JohnnyBoards briefly stated that because data has become available in the past few years, he feels it's put them in a better position as a vendor.

Chair Sarate stated that she was recently at a Lobo game and saw the Tavern Taxi ad. I believe it is very effective. Fran stated that in FY16, the intent is to advertise more with the Lobos.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



SUBMITTED BY:

Elena Rodriguez
Elena Rodriguez

6-11-15
Date

APPROVED BY:

Sylvia Sarate
Sylvia Sarate, Chair

6-11-15
Date