



The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

*Building a safer, healthier community by preventing
and treating alcoholism and drug abuse*

April 13, 2009

Supervisor Joseph Centeno
511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Ste. 141
Santa Maria, CA 93455-1341

Dear Joe,

We are writing you today on behalf of the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) to solicit your support for consideration of opening up the Drug Court program in South County for bid at the earliest opportunity.

Originally, the Council was instrumental in bringing Drug Court to the County of Santa Barbara. It was subsequently awarded to Cottage Hospital and later to an out of county, for profit provider.

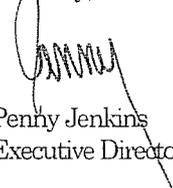
The Council is concerned that the Drug Court program as presently constituted and administered in Santa Barbara is not being run efficiently, and could be provided at a lower cost if run by the Council in conjunction with the Clean and Sober Court program and Proposition 36/SACPA programs.

The Drug Court program as currently provided by Mental Health System's Center for Change in Santa Barbara had 9 clients in Drug Court program at February 23, 2009, and 13 clients in the Prop 36 program. As recently reported, the lack of proper administration by the current provider has resulted in a deficit to ADMHS's revenue stream. There have been ongoing administrative issues reported at the SACPA Core meetings, culminating in a statement at the January 26, 2009 meeting that the Mental Health System's Corporate Office was considering providing its 30-day termination notice. Since then a resolution seems to have been reached between ADMHS and Center for Change that will keep them going through the end of this fiscal year.

It is the Council's position that Drug Court could easily be absorbed within our existing adult treatment programs. We understand the compliance requirements and can assist the County with economies of scale resulting in lower cost of service. Combining the resources will be more efficient because it would be administered by staff already in place. Presently, the Center for Change program in Santa Barbara is supported by one full-time staff person, which is not satisfactory from both a treatment and safety standpoint. Furthermore, ADMHS has acknowledged that the Council is doing an excellent job administrating its programs with the County and with the State, reducing the risk of audit exceptions. As you now, CADA is celebrating its 60th anniversary in Santa Barbara this year.

We have tried to engage ADMHS in a discussion of the possibility for CADA to be allowed to bid on Drug Court, but to date we have not been able to get a hearing. Before the next budget cycle is completed, we would like to pursue this opportunity and solicit your support for the process to be opened up to other bidders.

Sincerely,


Penny Jenkins
Executive Director, CADA

cc: Board of Directors, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

ROUTE TO:
2009 MAY 26 PM 12:48
RETURN INSTRUCTIONS:

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