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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**  
**PENAL CODE 1210 REGIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**  
**DISCUSSION NOTES – OCTOBER 25, 2011**

<b>AGENCIES in ATTENDANCE</b> American Asian Pacific Ministries AADAP, Inc. Atlantic Recovery Beacon House BHS Calif. Drug Counseling Calif. Hispanic Commission CIFHS- The Family Center Didi Hirsch CMHC	Driver Safety Schools Fred Brown Recovery Services Grandview Foundation Homeless Healthcare House of Hope Foundation House of Uhuru IMPACT Latino Family Center – CHCADA Law's Support Center	Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse- (LACADA) Matrix Institute Natl. Council. on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (NCADD)-SFV Prototypes and CASC Special Services for Groups Social Model Recovery Systems Tarzana Treatment Centers The Ness Counseling
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SAPC	District Attorney	CASC	Treatment	Treatment (Cont'd.)	Treatment (Cont'd.)
Linda Dyer	Cynthia Fiedler, JD	Stephanie Armbruster	Arnold Abrams	Germeen Duplessis	Claudia Pineda
Yanira Lima		Nancy Armenta	Henry Alonzo	Linda Elliott	Violet Renteria
Pauline Lopez		Charles Bullitts	Charles Anderson	Dan George	Arisah
Dennis Koba		Della Mojarro	Nucion Avent	Michelle Gonzalez	Muhammad
Jimmy Singh		Sharmelle Parker	Herman Avilez	Doug Hellman	Mario Mungaray
Valerie Sifuentes		Lisa Sandoval	Young Baek	Jesse Henriquez	Sabrina Navarette
Michael St. Jean		Alicia Trivison	Kelvin Briscoil	Robert Larrabee	John Navarro
Public Defender			Ari Brown	Danny Laws	Denis Shook
Magaly Gil, JD			Dennis Brown	Edward Lopez	Tiffany Sofie
			Lindy Carll	Zina Love	Bill Tarkanian
			Catherine Carrillo	Mark Malone	Maricela
			Jocella Collins	Freddy Martin	Villalobos
			Lydia de Leon	Rudy Martinez	Robert Willis
			Lianna Kabbash	William McLaughlin	Catherine Ybarra
			Felipe Kaiser	Natasha Medina	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
I. Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Yanira Lima, self-introductions were made.	

<p>ii. Approval of Discussion Notes/Announcements</p>	<p>Once approved, Discussion Notes will be posted on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) website: <a href="http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PC1210/PC_1210.htm">www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PC1210/PC_1210.htm</a>.</p> <p>Handouts for the meeting included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda (October 25, 2011).</li> <li>2. PC 1210 Standards and Practices (Sept. 2011)</li> <li>3. Revised Services Matrix 2011</li> <li>4. Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Bulletin 11-02.</li> </ol> <p>The Following Announcements were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Lima reminded those in attendance that if they have any questions regarding the Standards and Practices (2011), SAPC Bulletins, sliding fee scale policy, to please feel free to call the SAPC Helpline at: 1-888-742-7900.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Drug Testing:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agencies were reminded of the July 2011 LabCorp close-out letter, a SAPC letter sent to all PC 1210 programs providing information that the LabCorp contract would be ending on September 30, 2011.</li> <li>• Linda Dyer reminded the agencies that as they select a lab or drug testing company, the agency is responsible for checking the quality-controls of the company and determine that the appropriate protocols are in-place.</li> <li>• The ending date of the LabCorp contract was questioned by one of the agencies. The letters that were sent out on two occasions (July and a second time in September) to all PC 1210 agency Executive Directors announcing the September 30, 2011 end of the LabCorp contract.</li> <li>• Those who wish to continue with LabCorp must establish a new agreement privately between their agency and LabCorp.</li> </ul>
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II. Approval of Discussion Notes/ Announcements (Cont'd.)

- The cost of laboratory drug testing and LabCorp? Can we bill for drug testing? LabCorp is still picking up our specimens.
- Can the agency utilize an office-based drug test or their own. The agency needs to be certain of the quality of the services or the validity of their in-house test results.

**CASCs Referrals Announcement-**

- All referrals to the agencies will continue to be referred to the PC 1210 programs by the Community Assessment Service Centers (CASCs) (including out-of-County referrals and those from CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation). If residential treatment or detoxification services are needed, the CASC will provide a list of referrals to the participant

**Fees-**

- Fees as listed in the PC 1210 Standards and Practices are to be considered as "maximums." The sliding fee scale does not apply to the Ancillary Service Fees, which are left to the agency's discretion.

**Sliding Fee Scale-**

- SAPC continues to move towards incorporating the Rate Study as a basis for the sliding fee scale or recommending the fee structure. At present agencies are guided by SAPC Bulletin 04-08 Sliding Fee Scale, and SAPC Bulletin 11-02.

**TCPX-**

- Ms. Lima reminded everyone that all PC 1210 participants must be entered into the TCPX, this includes all drug testing results, progress reports, all updates and discharges.

**Administrative Fee Payment-**

- Please refer to the PC 1210 Standards and Practices. Payments to SAPC are not due until 45 days after the close of the month in which the intake occurred. (Page 13 Standards).
- Regarding the Administrative Fee (\$50.00 for each participant, unless the person is deemed to be "indigent"), the form and the

II. Approval of Discussion Notes/ Announcements (Cont'd.)

instructions will be distributed to all PC 1210 agencies once it receives final approval. The first payment is not due to SAPC until December 15, 2011, and no later than December 20, 2011 to avoid being delinquent.

- Ms. Lima provided a definition for the term "indigent." The agency is to make the determination as to who is deemed as indigent, which is defined as, "Any person who is at 100 % of the federal poverty level."
- A comprehensive presentation was made by Jimmy Singh (SAPC) which covered: the Revised Services Matrix, an overview of the different sections of the PC 1210 Standards and Practices, Administrative Fees, and the Sliding Fee System.
- Linda Dyer and Yanira Lima presented a brief overview of the PC 1210 program. This program is re-designed along the lines of the State's PC 1000 system.

Audits:

- An agency asked if the PC 1210 programs "will be audited."  
Answer: Yes. Audits may begin in 2012.

Question- For agencies that opted-in, did that also involve an agreement by the agency to utilize it's sliding fee scales?

Answer- Yes, all opt-in agencies are to utilize their sliding fee schedules.

Issue: An agency feels that not all the agencies are abiding by this, and while attempting to do so, this agency has become a "dumping ground" for the low-income participants as other agencies pass on these participants, who are being passed from agency to agency. Participants are being referred back to the CASC by certain agencies if they cannot pay. That last agency becomes a repository and receives case after case that are low income or who cannot pay.

Issue: An agency asked is there a mechanism in place to ensure that all agencies are accepting all types of participants in the fee-range?

II. Approval of Discussion Notes/ Announcements (Cont'd.)

QUESTION: Can a cap be set on the number of indigent participants an agency is to receive?

ANSWER: No. The CASC has to call your agency to set up the admission. You can refuse to take the participant at that time, set your own limit, whatever number that works for your agency.

QUESTION: Regarding out-of-County referrals to L. A. County and having access to services in L.A. County, are they still required to go through the CASCs if referred to L.A. County for services?  
(Agency: In outlying counties that do not use a CASC system, the participant goes directly to the treatment agency).

ANSWER: Yes. They must first be assessed by the CASC in L.A. County. That process has not changed.

**Administrative Fee-** An agency inquired about the procedures for submitting the \$50.00 Admin Fee.

Answer- The remittance form that is to be used by the agencies for the monthly submission of the Admin Fees is under development

Question: Regarding the five-drug panel, should the agencies still use it?

Answer: Yes, it is recommended that the agency is to test for the drugs that are most prominent in your particular region. The agency must decide which drugs to test for, although the five-drug panel is the drug test recommended by SAPC.

<p>III. Public Defender and District Attorney</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are over 212 Courts that are able to utilize PC 1210.</li> <li>• The DA reported that most of the defendants eligible for PC 1210, appear to be "indigent," which was supported by an account from the Public Defender's Office. It was reported that, for many, there seems to be a vicious cycle of participants "going-through" a succession of agencies and are repeatedly being referred back to the Court or the CASC by agencies that will not accept them due to an inability to pay.</li> <li>• It was reported that some of the Judges are becoming "frustrated" with the PC 1210 referral system where "weeks go by" and the person still has not begun treatment. Some of the Bench Officers are now resorting to "adjusting the Revised Services Matrix."</li> <li>• Representatives from the Public Defender and the District Attorney's offices were present from one of the Courts, and raised concerns involving a large portion of the low-income participants. The discussion entailed questions as to whether all of the PC 1210 network agencies are utilizing a sliding fee scale or are some agencies "hand-picking" their cases. Specific occurrences were discussed.</li> <li>• From the CASC's perspective, it was reported that some participants are also returning to the CASCs for a re-referral saying they are "not comfortable" at a particular agency, or there has been transportation issues or wait-list problems.</li> </ul>
<p>III. Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues relevant to the Airport Court were presented by the officers-of-the-Court (Airport Court-West District (Assistant District Attorney, and Deputy Public Defender). No other Court was represented at the meeting.</li> </ul>
<p>V. CASC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CASC made it clear that they contact the agencies and secure an appointment for each participant <u>prior</u> to sending the participant over to the agency. Conditions necessitating a re-referral are occurring after the participants are entering the treatment agencies.</li> <li>• Participant Initiated Re-Referrals- CASC stated that for a</li> </ul>

	percentage of the re-referrals it's not the agency that is rejecting them, but the participants do not connect with the agency of first referral, and it's the participant that is requesting the re-referral to another agency.	
VI. Corrections and Rehabilitation	Not present.	
VII. Probation	Not present.	
VIII. Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group of agencies, in attendance, expressed the position that a high percentage of the low-income participants are ending up at their agencies as they attempt to maintain a policy of not turning people away.</li> <li>• Some attendees reported that participants are also traveling to the other side of the County, after being rejected by 3-4 agencies due to inability-to-pay.</li> <li>• Although copies of the PC 1210 Standards were distributed to each PC 1210 agency, all were reminded that a copy of the "PC 1210 Standards and Practices- 2011," the Revised Services Matrix- September 2011, and the SAPC Bulletins 04-08 and 11-02 may be viewed on the SAPC website at: <a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PC1210/PC_1210.htm">http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PC1210/PC_1210.htm</a></li> <li>• Some of the agencies (and others) are having difficulty making the determination whether one is indigent or not. The majority of participants seem to be indigent. The amount of Administrative Fees collected may be adjusted.</li> <li>• Some agencies were encouraging other agencies that need to be more confrontive about assessing a participant's ability-to-pay, and suggested they work more closely with the officers-of-the-Court.</li> <li>• Alternative-Funding Sources- Most of the participating PC 1210 agencies seem to have alternative funding contracts onto which</li> </ul>	

	<p>participants can be transferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One agency discussed communication problems in trying to communicate with the Judges.</li> </ul>	
<b>IX. Public Comments</b>	There were no public comments.	
<b>X. Other Matters.</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday, January 19, 2012</p>	

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