



The City and County of San Francisco

**San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board**

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**UNAPPROVED AND UNADOPTED MEETING MINUTES**

**Full Board Meeting on June 11, 2003**

**Present:** Ms. Georgia Bates Creel, *President*, Mr. Richard Gee, *Secretary/Treasurer*, Mr. Brian Haley, Mr. Robert Wood; Ms. Dina Santana; Mr. Paul Kangas

**Absent:** Mr. Keith Fowler; Mr. Kevin Sharps; Ms. Vanessa Padilla

**CSAS Representative:** None

**Staff:** Mr. Mark Miller, Executive Officer

**Guests:** None

**I. Call To Order and Introductions**

President Georgia Bates Creel called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Roll call was taken, and quorum was later established. Congratulations were offered to Ms. Santana, who announced that she is expecting a baby.

**II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Minutes from the April and May 2003 meeting minutes were approved, with corrections from Mr. Wood. The agenda was also approved.

**III. CSAS Director's Report**

(No CSAS Representation)

#### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Gee provided a written monthly treasurer's report. We currently have a cash balance of approximately \$14,000, plus another \$3,000 for the April contract amount. Among the monies spent was \$100 for Mr. Gee to attend a conference in Sacramento hosted by the National Council of Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions.

#### **IV. President's Report / Discussion**

President Creel announced that the transcript of the May 16<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting is completed, and each member was provided a copy. The Boards committed to providing each attendee a copy of the transcript. This is going to be a very useful document – we heard some very real concerns from the attendees.

Later in the discussion, Mr. Gee suggested that the cover letter accompanying the Town Hall report be signed by every member of the both boards. Mr. Gee complimented Mr. Miller on the Town Hall Meeting report: the finished product looks fantastic. Ms. Creel said she was very pleased with the job – and that we spent far less than she had anticipated, finding a transcriber who did the job for about \$350.

Ms. Creel expressed concern that gathering everyone's signature might take an exorbitant amount of time. Mr. Gee said everyone should be able to do this. Mr. Miller stated it would be possible to get the signatures by means other than requiring members to come down to the office – by fax, for example. A discussion ensued, and it was voted unanimously that Mr. Miller would execute this, by whatever means possible.

Ms. Creel introduced discussion on starting a Planning & Evaluation effort. She suggested that instead of the usual evaluation focus, we concentrate on reporting how budget cuts are, or will be, effecting the programs and the clients. The resulting reports would be an extension of, or a follow-up to, the Town Hall Meeting. She also suggested that this be a joint CAAB/DAAB effort, and, because of the immediacy of the problem, that all DAAB and CAAB members who are available be invited to participate in the evaluation process.

Mr. Wood said he thought that the idea of having non-P&E board members taking part in site visits was mentioned at the CAAB – and that it didn't go over very well. Ms. Creel said "that's fine, but we can mention it to them. In the past when I've talked to Bill Bisesto and Stu Smith, they thought it would be very useful".

A discussion ensued on the subject of encouraging all members to participate in program visits. Ms. Creel emphasized that this is the main purpose of the Boards,

and that we are in a very critical time, in terms of assessment. This should be an activity that concerns every member of the board. Mr. Kangas stated that he is in regular contact with numerous programs, in the course of his professional work (recruiting chiropractors to work in addiction services, etc.), and that he would be glad to contribute in the P&E effort.

Ms. Santana said P&E has had several false-starts in its efforts recently – it would be good to get this accomplished. Ms. Creel asked if Ms. Santana could assist in this effort, as Ms. Padilla has had to resign as Chair of P&E. Ms. Santana agreed. It was agreed that P&E would meet on June 26, 3:30pm at 1663 Mission, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor TAP Conference Room. Ms. Creel agreed to talk with Bill Bisesto, Stu Smith and Gene Coleman, and to inform all CAAB members, proposing that all are invited to participate. Mr. Miller agreed to execute this. Mr. Gee polled the remaining members as to their willingness to participate in the P&E effort, all informally agreed.

Mr. Wood brought up the issue of the timing of the upcoming seat reappointments. Ms. Creel and Ms. Santana said that members can continue to serve in their seat until an appointment, or reappointment, is made.

In response to a question by Mr. Kangas, Ms. Creel described the program site visit process. We have specific questions that are asked, and a release. We do talk directly to clients (but we do not name names in the reports), asking how the program's services are working for them. The first step is the program gives us a general overview (this would be a good time to ask about the impact of funding cuts; what effect this will be having on their services). Then, in talking to clients, we try to get an idea of 'what works for you? What doesn't work for you?'. The client interviews are confidential, and voluntary. Lastly, we ask for a 'wish list'. "What would you like added or changed in this program?" Most clients are very forthcoming. This is our main source of information, the primary way that our boards have of knowing what's going on in the field. Trends may emerge – and that forms the basis for our reporting.

Ms. Creel stated that the DAAB & CAAB are there to objectively report what program employees and clients tell us. We should not be there with 'an agenda'.. Mr. Kangas said "Oh... but I *have* an agenda. I'm trying to get acupuncture in all these programs." Ms. Creel said that when we go out, as a member of the DAAB, we have to put aside our agenda, and go as 'a generalist'.

Mr. Haley asked about getting together and developing specific questions to ask clients. Ms. Creel and Ms. Santana replied that a questionnaire already exists. It has 6 or 7 questions, and they are very simple and open-ended inquiries, and directly related to their experience with the program. Mr. Haley stated that he has done work that is similar to this in school – asking people, mostly in the street, about their experiences with recovery programs, 12 Steps, etc. Have they had any exposure to secular recovery groups, Rational Recovery, etc.

Ms. Creel stated that we're not looking to analyze one philosophy vs. another. We are simply trying to report on 'what's out there'. We're evaluating programs that are funded by the City and County of San Francisco.

Mr. Kangas asked if we have any input to the State level, because that State is going to be evaluating Prop. 36 next year. Ms. Creel said that in the past, we have only reported to City officials – that is our mandate. We have not ever forwarded a copy of our reports to the State (but we could, if we feel we've identified a strong trend). But the DAAB and CAAB have no official input into the State process. Mr. Kangas said "I do. I'm interested in directing Proposition 36 toward funding chiropractic. That's my promise to the Chiropractors..."

Ms. Creel stated that this would be going outside our borders. Mr. Kangas said, "but that's what I'm trained to do; I've been doing this for a long time.... that's why I'm on the board. Ms. Creel stated "...you're advocating for *one* thing; we're not supposed to be advocating..." Mr. Kangas restated that he has been doing this for years, and that's one of the reasons he's on the board... to see which direction it is going, because "I'm trying to figure out how to influence 36, so that 36 gets continued for another 5 years."

Ms. Creel said that many of the programs we evaluate are Prop 36 programs. Positive evaluations of these could indirectly influence the funding decisions of these.

Mr. Kangas said that where he went to school, he was taught that one of the questions to ask in assessing programs was their suicide rate. That is considered the 'gold standard', or negative gold standard, in assessing the success of a program. Ms. Creel stated that CSAS does that. Mr. Miller stated that it would be interesting to see how well this could really be reported. "It's one thing to keep track of how many people commit suicide while they're actually in a program... that would be easy. But..." Mr. Kangas stated "AA has a suicide rate of almost 30%". Mr. Miller said, "that's a horrendous figure to bandy about. What does that *mean*? That 30% of the people who go to AA commit suicide?" Mr. Haley stated "that's not saying it the right way... in all suicides, the ratio is a little bit higher for people who have been in treatment, vs. people who have never been to a recovery group. Some people are reviewing that and saying that because of the concepts that are learned in 12 Step programs, people become more depressed and suicidal after being exposed to that community.

Ms. Creel said that we may want to review our question list before we go on site visits. There's no reason why we could not add a question or two... something that we would ask all program staff.

**V. DAAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Executive Committee** – *None*

**B. Public Policy Committee** - *None*

**C. Planning and Evaluation** – *None (see discussion above)*

**VI. NEW BUSINESS** - *None*

**VII. OLD BUSINESS** - *None*

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** - *None*

**IX. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

*- Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Mark Miller*

**Next Full Board Meeting will be**  
**Wednesday, July 9, 2003**  
**1380 Howard Street**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor CSAS Conference Room**  
**From 4pm to 6pm**