



ADPA Bulletin

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Alcohol and Drug Program Administration



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ADPA News

◆ The 7th Annual Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders, "Transforming Challenges into Opportunities" will be held on March 31-April 1 at the Long Beach Convention Center. For a registration packet and brochure visit [the ADPA website](#).

◆ The USC Community Seminar, as part of the ongoing ADPA lecture series, will be held on April 3, 2009 at the Alhambra Auditorium, 1000 S. Fremont. The seminar, titled "Health Effects of Alcohol: What Your Patients and Clients Need to Know," will feature a panel of expert presentations on alcohol and its effects on the liver and health. For more information & registration, contact Alex Bruehl at abruehl@ph.lacounty.gov.

◆ ADPA is participating in an inter-departmental Tobacco Cessation Collaborative to educate and reduce

the smoking rates of alcohol and drug and mental health program participants. During the first two months of the year, the Tobacco Control Program conducted a survey with mental health and alcohol and drug programs to establish a baseline for education and resources needed to make an impact on the health risks associated with smoking for these populations. The Program will conduct peer advocate training during summer 2009. For resources to help your clients quit smoking, please click here to visit [the California Smokers' Helpline](#):



◆ ADPA is involved in several programs which aim to provide services for the homeless population in Los Angeles County. The 2009 Project

grams on various outcome projects, and produced the Annual Review of Clients of ADPA-contracted programs.

◆ **Holly McCravery** joined ADPA as the Director of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers in February 2009. AVRC is a county-operated network, which includes the Warm Springs and Acton Residential Treatment Centers, with over 200 beds, and the High Desert outpatient facility, which serves more than 3,000 participants annually. Ms. McCravery has over 20 years of professional experience in the addiction and mental health field. Prior to her present position, Ms. McCravery was a program director at Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center.

◆ **Gregg Murakami** has been assigned as the Compliance Coordinator to the Contract Services and Quality Assurance Division. His responsibilities include acting as the Americans with Disabilities Act liaison for ADPA.

Homeless Connect Day served to unite homeless individuals with social services providers downtown. In addition, ADPA, in concert with key service contractors, assists clients participating in Project 50. This project provides permanent housing and supportive services to the 50 most vulnerable adults living on Skid Row. Having had great success in its first year, Supervisor Yaroslavsky has indicated his interest in expanding toward Project 500. This project has been replicated in Santa Monica and is expected to begin in West Hollywood and expand to South Central Los Angeles as well.

Commissions' Corner

The Commission on Alcoholism (COA) and the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission (NDDC) are advisory boards in Los Angeles County whose members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Newly appointed NDDC members include Marsha Temple, Esq., Richard M. Ciampa, and Jozef T. Essavi.

The COA meets at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. The NDDC meets at 1:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public. For meeting locations or more information, contact the NDDC at (626) 299-4105 or the COA at (626) 299-3248.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Kenneth Schonlau, a former member of the Commission on Alcoholism. Comm. Schonlau served on the Commission for over two decades and passed away January 22. Comm. Schonlau was the founder and director of the CLARE Foundation Community Recovery Program. He also founded the Los Angeles County Sober Living Coalition.

As the Disability Access Coordinator, Mr. Murakami has the responsibility for ensuring that alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services are accessible to people with disabilities, as required by State and Federal law.

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SAVE THE DATE!

- March 8-10: 10th Annual California Prevention Summit; Napa County
- March 11: Commission on Alcoholism Meeting, 1:00 pm
- March 18: Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission Meeting, 1:00 pm
- March 31– April 1: 7th Annual Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders, "Transforming Challenges into Opportunities"; Long Beach Convention Center
- April 3: USC/ADPA Community Seminar, "Health Effects of Alcohol: What Your Patients and Clients Need to Know"; Alhambra Auditorium
- April 6-12: Public Health Week. Look for Local Health-Related Activities by visiting lapublichealth.org
- April 8: Commission on Alcoholism Meeting, 1:00 pm
- April 15: Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission Meeting, 1:00
- May 16: 36th Annual Los Angeles AI-Impics; El Camino College Compton Center

ADPA Staff Changes

◆ **John Viernes Jr.** was appointed as ADPA's Director in December 2008. He has over 30 years of experience in health management. Prior to his appointment to ADPA, Mr. Viernes was Deputy Director for the Indiana Family and Social Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction. As the ADPA director, Mr. Viernes oversees over 200 employees, a budget of more than \$200 million, the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC), and over 150 contracts with community-based organizations.

◆ After more than 30 years of County service, **John Bacon**, ADPA's head of the Research and Evaluation section, retired last month. Mr. Bacon administered the Los Angeles County Evaluation Study (LACES), collaborated with UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Pro-



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The ADPA Bulletin is an electronic publication aimed at informing ADPA's network of contracted alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, and recovery service providers of relevant AOD news at the local, State, and Federal levels.

To submit stories, suggestions, or comments for the next edition, please write to Alexandra Bruehl at: abruehl@ph.lacounty.gov

ADPA Collaborative Projects

As part of ADPA's ongoing lecture series with UCLA, we presented data and experiences from Phase II of our **Process Improvement Pilot Project (PIPP)** on February 6. The PIPP uses principles from the Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) to improve clients' experiences in, and success with, AOD treatment. Agencies participating in Phase II include the **Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers** (Warm Springs and Acton), **Behavioral Health Services** (Hollywood and American Recovery Center), **California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** (Latino Family Center), **Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center** (Culver Palms and Metro), **House of Hope, MELA,**

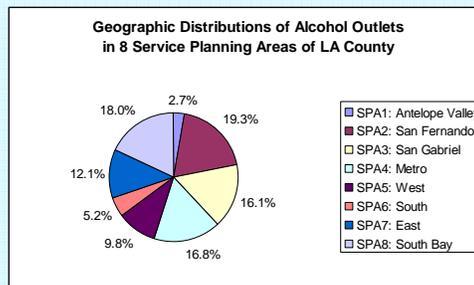
New Research

The RAND Institute has released a study, titled "The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine in the United States, 2005," that estimates the cost of methamphetamine use nationwide. The economic burden is appraised to be \$23.4 billion, including costs for drug treatment, other health costs, the burden of addiction and premature death, lost productivity, crime and criminal justice costs, child endangerment, and harms resulting from production. For the full report, please [click here](#).

The ADPA Prevention Unit conducted a study about alcohol availability by analyzing data from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control. The results indicate that there are 16,417

alcohol outlets in Los Angeles County, which account for about one-fifth of the total number of alcohol outlets in California.

Among the eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs) in Los Angeles County, San Fernando (SPA2) has the largest number of alcohol outlets; Metro (SPA4) has the highest land-based alcohol outlet density, defined as the number of alcohol outlets within a square mile; and West (SPA5) has the highest population-based alcohol outlet density, defined as the number of alcohol outlets among 10,000 people.



SHIELDS for Families, and Tarzana Treatment Centers (Tarzana and Lancaster). Agencies worked hard to make small changes in their everyday operating procedures—without any additional funding—with great results! Client wait time from first contact to admission decreased by 42%. No-shows to assessment or admission decreased by 43%. 30-day continuation in treatment for residential clients increased by 6% and session-by-session attendance for outpatient clients increased by 21%. Participating agencies reported increased staff and client morale and an increase in billing. Equally important, participants learned crucial quality improvement skills that will serve them well when performance-based contracting

becomes standard. ADPA is currently in the planning stage for Phase III of PIPP. To view this and past lectures online, please [click here](#) to visit the lecture

series section of our website.

The **Second Chance Re-entry Court Program** was established to provide services for 25 female offenders who are paroled from a California Department of Corrections (CDC) institution, are facing a new, non-violent, non-serious felony charge, and are at a high risk of being sentenced to State prison. Clients complete a four-phase treatment plan. The program allows incentives and sanctions. On December 15, 2008 the first graduates of the Second Chance team appeared in front of Judge Michael Tynan's court for a celebration. The CDC's director of rehabilitation, Kathy Jett, joined the many partners on this special day of this collaborative effort.

ADPA became a recent **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)** grantee. The SBIRT Initiative represents a shift in the provision of treatment for substance use. The services are designed to work with specialized or traditional treatment. The focus is on those with nondependent substance use and provides effective strategies for intervention prior to the need or extensive or specialized treatment. Unlike other SBIRT projects targeting medical settings, the Los Angeles County grant will in-

State/Federal Update

Renée Zito, State Alcohol and Drug Program Director, invites the public and stakeholders to comment on a draft version of the Counselors Licensing & Certification Law. To view, and respond to the draft language, visit [the State ADP site](#).

The White House has confirmed that Seattle Police Chief R. Gil Kerlikowske is the Obama administration's nominee for the new director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), more commonly referred to as the "drug czar." Kerlikowske has been the chief of police in Seattle for nine years. He previously served as police commissioner in Buffalo, NY and police chief in Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, FL. Kerlikowske has a record of support of community-policing activities, human services, chemical-dependency programs, and drug diversion programs.

volve the implementation of SBIRT in two jail settings and will collaborate with the Los Angeles Police Department and the County Sheriff Department.

The **36th Annual Los Angeles AI-Impics** will be held Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the El Camino College Compton Center. Over 3,000 individuals participate in the all-day event of competitive sports and social games. It starts with the colorful and musical parade of agencies and their representative athletes. A new Teen Zone will be added this year. If you're interested in volunteering, contact rwilliams@ssgmain.org or (213) 236-9399.

The **10th Annual California Prevention Summit** will be held March 8-10, 2009 in Napa County. The event will strengthen the alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention field by providing Californians the opportunity to showcase evidence-based and innovative practices, and discuss and make recommendations on key and emerging prevention issues. For more information, please visit the [California Prevention Collaborative](#).

