



ADPA Bulletin

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



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Recovery Month Special Issue

September is the 20th Anniversary of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month! Please join us in celebrating the individuals who work hard to overcome alcohol and other drug problems and the staff, counselors, and administrators who teach them to have hope and lead drug-free lives. Drug and alcohol treatment works! The following accounts of individuals' recovery show that hard work and dedication can lead to happy, productive lives.

♦ My name is Diedra and I am a 42-year-old single parent of a 2-year-old little boy. I've been doing drugs off and on for 9½ years. I am forever grateful to CalWORKs for

sponsoring my treatment. Since I've gone through treatment, I was able to dig deep within myself to find out that I was my problem. I thank God for giving me an open mind to receive the help I've been longing for. During my time in residential treatment, I was able to take parenting classes, therapy, and also life skills. I completed each and every one of them. Even though I am a grown woman, I had to be taught how to live my life and be a mother all over again because I had lost myself. After four months of treatment, I was able to seek employment. I was hired and am now a taxpayer and productive member of society. Today I am a good provider for my son and a very good mother. Without the help of God, the CalWORKs program sponsoring my stay, and the staff at my program, I don't know where I would've ended up. I completed treatment on October 22, 2008, and never look back. I wouldn't trade the way I feel for nothing in the world.

As Recounted by Providers:

♦ Michael, a 38-year-old male, had been using drugs since he was 14. He was a high-school dropout with a ninth grade education. Michael had various convictions and parole violations that landed him in jail or prison while he was homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. In 2002, Michael was arrested again and was offered the Sentence Offender's Drug Court program. He displayed a positive attitude and commitment to recovery, which gave him the stability to remain drug-free.

Michael attended and completed the 18-month Drug Court program in 2003 and was discharged from probation a few years later. He learned through the program to save his money and eventually started his own business as a restaurant owner; he has been in business for four years. He is now married and has two children. Michael has a passion for helping others and often spends time with newcomers to the Drug Court program, serving as a sponsor. He is an example for others on how the Drug Court program can help individuals become productive members of society. Michael remains grateful for his sobriety and success in the Drug Court program. To view more testimonials, please click [here](#).

Commissions' Corner

On behalf of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission (NDDC), we are pleased to join in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. We at the NDDC recognize the importance of treatment and recovery support for thousands of citizens, families, friends and loved ones residing here in Los Angeles County.

During the past 20 years, I have been witness to many new therapies, such as medication assistance and evidence-based interventions, which have helped to strengthen the toolbox to repair the damage caused by addiction. This year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal," underscores the need for all of us to continue to educate, support, and avail ourselves of any and all assistance found in our communities.

Sincerely,

John L. Moriarity, Chairman
County of Los Angeles
Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
Commission

Provider Meetings

Please join us for the **second Quarterly Provider Meeting**. This meeting will be held at the Santa Fe Springs Town Center Hall, located at 11740 Telegraph Rd., in Santa Fe Springs. The meeting will run from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

ADPA is conducting these meetings on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the County. Specifically, this meeting will focus on ADPA's divisional updates and the Regional Planning Meeting key recommendation reports. Information from the first quarterly meeting held on July 17, 2009, is posted on ADPA's website and can be accessed [here](#).

Inside this issue:

<i>Recovery Testimonials</i>	1
<i>Commissions' Corner</i>	1
<i>Provider Meetings</i>	1
<i>ADPA Staff News</i>	2
<i>Provider News and Resources</i>	2
<i>Collaborative Projects</i>	2
<i>State News</i>	2
<i>Federal News</i>	2

SAVE THE DATE!

- **September 10:** SPA 7 Recovery Rally; Mulberry Park (South Whittier), 11:00am-2:00pm.
- **September 23-25:** [15th Annual Latino Behavioral Health Conference](#); Universal City.
- **September 29:** Drug/Medi-Cal Provider Meeting (Mandatory for all agencies that have ONLY DMC contracts with ADPA); Alhambra Auditorium. 9:00am-11:00am.
- **October 7:** Drug Medi-Cal Certification Training; Alhambra Auditorium. 9:00am-4:00pm. [Registration](#).
- **October 9, 10, 23, & 24:** Binational Health Week; Mexican Consulate, 2401 W. 6th St., Los Angeles 90057. 8:30am-1:00pm.
- **October 16:** 2nd Quarterly Provider Meeting, Santa Fe Springs Town Center Hall. 1:00pm-3:00pm.
- **October 23:** ADPA/UCLA/PSATTC Lecture Series, *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*; Alhambra Auditorium, 10:00am-1:00pm.



The Al-Impics kicks off with a parade of banners designed by program participants. About 4,000 individuals in recovery and their families attend the annual event for a day of competitive sports and games.



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Please consider the environment before printing this e-bulletin.

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, please write to Alexandra Bruehl at abruehl@ph.lacounty.gov

Provider News and Resources

Mid-Valley Recovery Services and the El Monte Superior Court celebrated the 15th anniversary of their Drug Court on July 24, 2009. A graduation ceremony was held on that day and the 800th client graduated from Mid-Valley Recovery Services. John Viernes, Jr. spoke to commemorate the event.

The Los Angeles County Housing Resource Center is a great resource for case managers and substance abuse counselors who assist clients in finding housing. The Housing Resource Center provides information on diverse housing stock and resources and tools for obtaining housing. For more information go to housing.lacounty.gov.

Collaborative Projects

It is estimated that persons with chronic mental health conditions and/or substance abuse constitute 22% of the United States population, yet consume approximately 44% of all cigarettes sold in the country. Tobacco use has a profound economic impact on persons with mental health conditions – they spend 27% of their income purchasing tobacco products. Recognizing the need for smoking cessation services, public health leaders and tobacco control advocates developed the "It's Quitting Time, LA!" program, which aims to reduce the number of smokers in LA County by 200,000 by the year 2010. To ensure that the developed program

ADPA Staff News

On August 11, 2009, ADPA Director, John Viernes, Jr. presented three employees with a special letter of recognition and a pin for their 20 years of County Service. These were awarded to: Wayne K. Sugita, Chief Deputy Director, Yolanda Cordero, Prevention Coordinator, and Baba Yates, Head of Fiscal Operations.

Rico Cruz, Michelle Gibson, and Yanira Lima were all accepted to the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center's Leadership Institute. This program cultivates new leaders in the addiction field through the enhancement of knowledge and development of leadership competencies. Kudos!

Steven Reyes joined the Adult Services Division and will serve as the CASC Services Supervisor. Steven is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Coun-

selor with more than 10 years of experience as a direct service provider. He worked at ADPA before as a Contract Program Auditor (CPA).

Michael St. Jean, Monica Lewis, Bobby Blanks, Daniel Deniz, and Michelle Palmer joined ADPA as CPAs for the Contract Services and Quality Assurance Division. Michael came from the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, where he served as the Director of the Rehabilitation Division, Alcohol and Drug Programs. Monica previously worked for Physician Associates of the Greater San Gabriel Valley as a Contract Manager. Bobby came to ADPA from Congresswoman Maxine Waters' office, where he was a Field Deputy. Daniel joined us from the Whittier-Rio Hondo AIDS Project, where he served as the Director of Prevention. Michelle returned to ADPA from the Department of Public

was based on best practices and had strong community linkages, the Tobacco Control and Prevention Program created a workgroup comprised of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), ADPA, the Center for Tobacco Cessation, and the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at the University of California, San Francisco. This group developed a survey to understand mental health and substance abuse treatment providers' beliefs about smoking cessation. The survey findings indicate that mental health and substance abuse treatment providers believe that consumers and people with substance use issues can quit smoking. There is overwhelming support for mental health facilities and substance use treatment centers to provide smoking cessation services and become smoke-free. However,

smoking cessation services are currently scarce, which may be a result of limited information, resources, and tools.



Based on these findings, Los Angeles County is forging dynamic partnerships to increase access and utilization of smoking cessation services. County health officials are linking resources to integrate smoking cessation services in community mental health and substance use settings. Trainings were held in May to teach peer advocates to incorporate a new smoking cessation curriculum into their services. Four trainings on how to talk to clients about quitting smoking were recently held for treatment providers. Quit smoking materials are being delivered to treatment centers and additional trainings are being scheduled for both peer advocates and clinicians this coming fall. Be on the lookout for more training opportunities. View the full report [here](#).

Health Contracts and Grants Department.

Ronnie Thomas joined ADPA's Youth Services Unit, where he serves as a CPA. He came from the LA County Department of Mental Health Transition Age Youth Division.

Natalie Manns joined the Adult Services Division as a CPA. She came to us from Five Acres' Boys & Girls Society in Altadena where she served as a Quality Assurance Analyst for DCFCS, a Child Incident Investigator, and a Special Project Grant writer.

Holly McCravey and Alexandra Bruehl presented papers at the NIATx/SAAS National Conference in Tucson last month. Holly discussed the use of NIATx principles in improving residential services and Alex participated in a talk on the evolution of Process Improvement in California.

State News

On June 3, 2009, the State Alcohol and Drug Programs issued proposed Drug Medi-Cal rates for FY 2009-10. Please view them [here](#). The State Alcohol and Drug Program will hold a DMC orientation at the Alhambra Auditorium on October 7, 2009. Please view more information, including registration, [here](#).

Federal News

A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D. was sworn in as the Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy on August 10, 2009. He will serve under Director Gil Kerlikowske. Dr. McLellan has researched addiction treatment for 35 years, authoring over 400 articles and chapters. He was the lead author of an article describing substance dependence as a chronic medical condition that should be insured, treated, and evaluated like other chronic diseases. It is one of the most widely cited articles on substance abuse. In addition, Dr. McLellan served as the editor of the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment for nine years.