

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.

September 9, 2013

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Mr. John Viernes, Director

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

1000 S. Fremont Ave, Building A-9 East, 3rd Floor

Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Viernes:

I am writing you on behalf of the Los Angeles County members of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE). The purpose of this letter is to express our concerns over what appears to be the poor administration of AB 109 funding for Substance Use Disorders (SUD) services. It is unclear to us where this poor administration stems from. We have heard the issues are with Contract and Grants, County Counsel, SAPC and other places.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) authorized additional funding for SUD services to AB 109 eligible probationers approximately a year ago. This was based on increased funding for such services from the state under the AB 109 realignment.

Also, approximately one year ago, the Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Office (SAPC) announced a new competitive bid process for community providers that was touted as a new system which would allow SAPC to move funding to the community providers much faster than the current system. Given that a year has now passed and this new system still is not finalized, it is clear what was publicized is anything but accurate.

We are aware that this fiscal year there is another increase from the state for AB 109 SUD services. However, we have no idea where last year's BOS approved allocation sits; and we have no idea how this will impact this year's allocation; or when any of either allocations will be made available for needed services. We are extremely concerned about the delays and how they impact needed services. It is no secret there is a high no-show rate of those screened and sent to assessment and a high no-show rate of those assessed and referred to treatment. It is also no secret many of these no-shows, return later to one treatment provider or another seeking care. However, they often knock on provider doors that are not funded to treat AB 109 probationers. This is largely because SAPC has been unable to expand the treatment system to meet probationer needs. They are then either referred elsewhere, with no indication the referral is appropriate or if they make it to the referred site; and if they are admitted, they take a treatment slot intended for non-eligible AB 109 individuals.

We are all aware of the recent report released by the Los Angeles Police Department indicating more than 50% of AB 109 probationers either reoffend or commit new crimes. It should be of no surprise that one big reason for the high recidivism rate is the failure of the system to provide the needed services to this

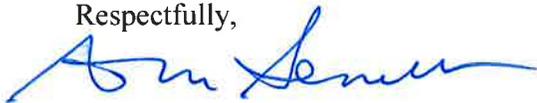
population, which to a large extent includes the lack of SUD treatment and treatment related services.

With proper funding we can collectively improve the no-show rates from screening to assessment, from assessment to treatment and the rates of those who get appropriate care. We know this population needs intensive care and we know we need better expanded services than what is currently in place, to include, but not limited to: improved geographic coverage, expanded treatment services, increased funding focused on no-show rates, expanded medication assisted treatment, expanded aftercare and case management, sober/transitional housing in connection with treatment.

We are requesting a clear written explanation for the extensive delays, and a clear explanation when previously BOS approved funding will be made available to provide the needed services. Additionally, if there have been expenditures of last year's approved funding we would like a written explanation where these funds were allocated and when and how they were used.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 818-654-3815 or via e-mail at asenella@tarzanatc.org should you have any questions. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Albert Senella
President

cc: Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH, Director, County of LA Dept. of Public Health
Ms. Cynthia Harding, Chief Deputy Director, County of LA Dept. of Public Health
Mr. William Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, County of Los Angeles
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