

Work Group: Health and Human Services (Human)
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Quarter: 1st 2009
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Description of Activity by Goal and Objective

1. Goal 3, Objective A, Methamphetamine Recovery Project:
 - a. Project Coordinators completed community meetings throughout the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) in October.
 - b. Information from the public meetings was entered into a database for demographic and content and analysis for the final deliverable, a report that included community-informed recommendations for addressing methamphetamine issues in the region.
 - c. The Advisory Council held its final meeting on Dec. 5, 2008. The meeting included two speakers and Council acceptance of the final Project report.
 - d. The final report has been posted on the Partnership Web site.
2. Goal 4, Objective A, Foster Care Prevention:
 - a. Continued partnership with California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), Children's Regional Committee, to address impact of substance abuse on foster care placements, including relative approvals.
 - b. David Foster, staff director at the Central California Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center (SWERT) at California State University, Fresno, presented data in December 2008 at the Partnership Annual Summit in Stockton regarding the rates at which children are placed with relatives in Valley counties.
 - c. Further activities are pending, to be based on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) release of pilot county selection criteria and an application process. A CWDA task force is monitoring the process, and several Valley counties have expressed interest in applying. At the point the RFP is released, and if a Valley county is selected, SWERT will serve in an advocacy and support role in the implementation process.
3. Goal 5, Objective A, Competitive funding application process:

As agreed by the [Health and] Human Services Work Group and Co-Conveners, research is under way to develop a document that provides baseline information about the Valley, particularly in underserved rural and unincorporated communities, which takes an informational approach to conditions in the region that should be considered when funding decisions are made. In particular, the report will describe the fiscal and social impact of those communities on the counties in which they are located, as well as the impact on small communities of decisions made based on data of large communities.

Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)

1. Goal 3, Objective A: Although seed grant funding for the Methamphetamine Recovery Project has ended, SWERT utilized work group consultant funding to host a final Advisory Council meeting in March and continues to seek resources to sustain and advance the Project's goals.
2. Goal 4, Objective A: Continue advocacy and support; provide input if requested by CDSS/CWDA for selection criteria development; serve in an advocacy and support role for participating Valley counties.
3. Goal 5, Objective A: Prepare a draft report for review by co-conveners and other stakeholders by March 2009.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

1. The loss of funding constitutes a severe limitation on SWERT's ability to move a Valleywide initiative forward to address methamphetamine and other substance abuse issues.
2. Significant delays in efforts to develop a selection criteria and application process for the AB340 legislation pilot process have suspended SWERT's ability to engage in planned activities for this goal. If the process for selection of pilot counties isn't completed soon, funding may no longer be available to support SWERT participation in this goal.
3. The modified deliverable for this goal is research-based and therefore more labor-intensive than anticipated; funding for support staff is very limited. With available resources, progress on the objective is exceeding the time line originally envisioned.