

**Work Group:** Health and Human Services (Human)  
**Consultant:** Juanita Fiorello  
**Organization:** Central California Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center  
**Quarter:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008  
**Phone:** 559.294.9772  
**Email:** jfiorello@csufresno.edu

#### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

1. Goal 3, Objective A, Methamphetamine Recovery Project:
  - a. Project Coordinators completing community meetings throughout the Valley.
  - b. The Advisory Council held two meetings in this quarter: July 27 and Sept. 12, 2008. In July, three prevention/treatment providers presented program information; at the September meeting, the Council reviewed a preliminary draft of the final report being prepared for submission to the Partnership Board.
  - c. Information from the public meeting is being entered into a database for demographic and content and analysis for the final deliverable, a report that includes community-informed recommendations for addressing methamphetamine issues in the region.
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. 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 San Joaquin Valley counties have expressed interest in applying. When the RFP is released, and if a Valley county is selected, the SWERT will serve in an advocacy and support role in the implementation process.
3. Goal 5, Objective A, Competitive funding application process:
  - a. As agreed by the work group and co-conveners, we are developing a document that provides baseline information about the Valley, particularly in underserved rural and unincorporated communities, that takes an informational approach to conditions in the region that should be considered when funding decisions are made.
  - b. Research and development of relevant descriptive and statistical data has been initiated.

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

1. Goal 3, Objective A: Project Coordinators will complete all community meetings by Oct. 17, 2008. A draft of the final report will be released on Nov. 7, 2008, to the Advisory Council and other interested parties for review and comment. The final report will be presented at the Advisory Council's final meeting on Dec. 5, 2008.
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. Assigned staff and key stakeholders in the region have extensive workloads and limited time to devote to work group activities
2. Significant delays in the efforts to develop a selection criteria and application process for the AB 340 legislation pilot process have suspended the SWERT's ability to engage in planned activities for 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.

#### **If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.**

Community outreach activities began in late April and will continue through Oct. 17, 2008.