

# Interagency Collaboration Committee Report

Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board

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## **Background**

The Interagency Collaboration Committee was established in October 2022 with the mission to enhance cooperation between agencies in Marin County. Our primary goals are to:

1. Improve availability and access to services
2. Create seamless transitions between agencies
3. Provide continuity of care for individuals suffering from Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

## **Community Feedback**

Through community engagement and personal accounts from board members, we've identified several critical issues:

- Limited access and availability of care
- Lack of continuity in treatment
- Insufficient integration between the jail system and ongoing care services
- Inadequate transition support from jail to medical facilities and continued care

Specific examples include:

- Individuals with SUD being released from jail during late hours without service provision
- People turned away from the only public detox center and told to "call back"

- Patients discharged from hospital to the streets on holiday weekends, without access to further care or housing

### **Committee Actions**

Over the past 18 months, our committee has:

1. Invited representatives from various agencies to speak at our meetings
2. Conducted off-site meetings with additional stakeholders
3. Analyzed current practices and policies across agencies

### **Key Findings**

Our investigation has revealed:

1. Many programs are not aligned with current best practices for SUD treatment
2. Discrepancies exist between reported agency policies and actual practices

### **Next Steps**

1. Conduct further analysis of gathered information
2. Develop comprehensive recommendations
3. Present findings and proposals to the Board of Supervisors

Our goal is to illuminate these issues, promote county-wide improvements, and ensure those suffering from SUD receive evidence-based care through enhanced interagency collaboration and continuity of services.

## Interagency Collaboration Committee Report Findings

1. November 7, 2022: Pattie Williams from Bay Area Community Resources (BACR) presented on In-Custody Substance Use Services. BACR provides various programs to inmates, including Seeking Safety, MATRIX, Anger Management, Mindfulness Meditation, Thinking for a Change and Courage to Change.

The treatment is voluntary, and 106 inmates attended programming in the fiscal year. Data is not kept to measure program's success.

2. December 5, 2022: Sgt. Chris Gullet from Marin County Jail discussed release practices for DUI holds and support provided to released inmates. Issues were raised about nighttime releases and inconsistencies in providing services. Sgt. Gullet reported incomplete discharges are due to bed and staff shortages.

3. April 2023: Teresa Bowman from Helen Vine presented on their detox and residential treatment programs. Challenges were noted regarding the callback system, bed availability, and seamless connections to follow-up care.

4. April 2023: Rebekah Reali from Marin County Jail's Reentry team discussed their services. Challenges included limited access to inmate medical records due to privacy rules and difficulties in hiring recovery coaches due to stringent employment practices. She reported all discharges should happen at 7:00a.m. and 7:00p.m.

5. September 11, 2023: Marin Healthy Youth Coalitions representatives spoke about efforts to educate youth and parents on substance use disorders, noting the fragmented nature of current school programs.

6. April 2024: John Riley proposed a joint summit with BHB to address the need for seamless access to affordable mental health and substance use disorder treatment in Marin County.

7. May 6, 2024: Jonathan Parkhurst from Seekhaven presented on their transitional housing program, highlighting issues such as lack of standards for transitional housing, communication problems between sober living environments (SLEs) and referring agencies, and the need for better integration of essential services.

The report highlights ongoing efforts to address substance use issues in Marin County, particularly within the criminal justice system, for youth and for those seeking treatment. It also reveals persistent challenges in providing comprehensive, seamless care and support for individuals struggling with these issues.