

Santa Barbara County
Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program

ADDENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

County and Community Social Services

The County of Santa Barbara provides a variety of public assistance, protective, public health, mental health and substance abuse treatment services to qualified members of the public. Truancy is often a symptom of family or individual learning, safety, neglect, financial, mental health, physical health or substance abuse challenges. A key component of the restored truancy prevention program will be the inclusion of coordinated delivery of needed support services to increase the likelihood of successful school attendance.

Staff from Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Social Service and/or Public Health Departments can be available to provide appropriate support to individual young people or to families to aid in promoting consistent school attendance. Caseworkers already involved with truant young people or their families would be asked to be present at Truancy Mediation Team and School Attendance Review Board meetings. General consultations by county or community-based caseworkers may also be valuable to address physical health, mental health and substance abuse challenges to the Truancy Mediation Team and School Attendance Review Board meetings. Finally, California Welfare Reform Law requires verification of “regular attendance” of school-aged children of public assistance recipients as a condition for receiving some types of public assistance. Santa Barbara County defines regular attendance as not being or having been truant.

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

The Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) provides a broad continuum of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services. The mandated population for the department’s mental health services includes Medi-Cal beneficiaries who meet medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services. As resources permit, ADMHS also provides mental health services to people in crisis and to those with serious, persistent mental illness who have no insurance coverage. Mental health services available for the child/adolescent population include a broad continuum of services ranging from brief therapy with a network provider and school-based mental health to intensive in-home and wraparound services. Adult services range from brief therapy with a network provider to supportive housing and assertive community treatment services. The ADMHS Adult and Children’s Clinics offer medication management, assessment, therapy and case management services. Crisis services are available persons of all ages 24/7.

Alcohol and Drug (AOD) programs within the department serve CalWORKs recipients, court-ordered and grant eligible individuals, drug Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and self-pay (including DUI and Drug Diversion programs). Other AOD treatment services are based on a sliding fee scale.

The 24-Hour Toll Free Access Line at (888) 868-1649 will be available to determine individual need and eligibility for ADMHS services. If appropriate, access staff will refer callers to the proper clinical team for further assessment.

ADMHS supports the Santa Barbara County Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability program and will be available through our Access Line to determine eligibility to any available services within the department or offer referral to community resources when eligibility is not met.

The Public Health Department

The Public Health Department is committed to being a referral resource for the Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program for programs and services, such as medical appointments in Public Health Department Health Care Centers, health education and promotion activities, smoking cessation, nutrition programs, and home assessments for at risk families for those that meet individual program eligibility requirements for participation.

The Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services agrees to work collaboratively in support of the Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program. The agency, upon request will ascertain if the truant, their family, or the facility in which they reside are served by the department. If so, staff will respond as is legally permissible to assist in addressing barriers or obstacles that are adversely influencing the child's regular school attendance, and where permissible the department will communicate our interventions to the truancy program to the extent allowed by law.

The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

The mission of the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) is building a safer, healthier community by preventing and treating alcoholism and drug abuse. CADA will work in conjunction with Santa Barbara County's Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program by offering youth and adult services in the form of prevention, intervention and treatment programs. CADA will pledge to being a referral resource to the truancy program and communicating progress updates when necessary.

Youth services include the Daniel Bryant Youth and Family Treatment Center, the Youth Service System, Friday Night Live clubs, the Support Treatment Assessment Referral TEAM (START), the Fighting Back School-Based Mentor Program, Teen Court, the Substance Use Prevention Education Resource (SUPER) Program and the Fighting Back Parent Program. CADA also provides a range of adult services from prevention to treatment, including reducing stressors that can lead to substance abuse; providing information to professionals and the general public on substance abuse issues and resources; and providing residential detox and outpatient treatment services to adults who seek treatment on their own or are referred through the criminal justice system or social service agencies.

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