

SNDAAC Drug Abuse Program Effective

By Ed Brown

Law enforcement officials, the medical profession, concerned community groups and families are faced constantly with the growing problem of drugs and alcoholism.

In the school system, for example, these problem areas grew at unbelievable proportions. Now that school is out, there's increasing concern about its usage getting alarmingly out of hand.

The SENTINEL recently visited one of the local agencies charged with the responsibility of providing programs and treatment to somewhat alleviate the problem among many. It was the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse and Alcoholism Council (SNDAAC) located at 201 No. 8th Street, directly behind the Fitzsimmons House complex.

SNDAAC is the successor to the old Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council. When the State abandoned the SNDAC umbrella concept for Southern Nevada, SNDAAC was formed to con-

tinue providing treatment in those programs operating under the direction of SNDAC.

The whole concept was developed by a group of concerned citizens, July 1972 and has, to date, reached over 6,000 in all BETA sponsored programs. BETA is a State agency who administers funds for such allied programs.

SNDAAC offers outpatient drug and alcohol treatment programs to include detoxification, methadone treatment, drug free counseling and after-care.

Detoxification is a 21-day program using methadone to accomplish a slow withdrawal from opiate addiction.

Methadone treatment is a long-term program (24 months) using methadone as one of a number of treatment tools to help the opiate addict function without drugs. Methadone without treatment is worthless and a mere trading of one addiction for another. According to Arden Solomon, who processes the intake clients for treatment and who was at one time a heavy drug user, "heavy

emphasis is placed on various counseling experiences each week, and ancillary services for family, legal, medical and vocational needs."

Drug Free Counseling, handled by Clonie Gay, is a short term (6 months) intensive counseling program designed to give the addict insight into the physiological and psychological aspects of addiction bringing significant change in life style, attitude and behavior. Clients in this program have problem with a variety of drugs, including alcohol, many times in combination with each other (barbituates, amphetamines, cocaine, quaaludes, marijuana, PCP, etc.). Heavy emphasis is placed on treatment with group and individual counseling required each week.

Aftercare is the newest SNDAAC program. It tracks and maintains contact with all clients leaving the other programs for at least 90 days following discharge. Its purpose is to reduce recidivism. It also provides such services as employment counseling, vocational and

educational referral, social readjustment counseling, etc.

"A variety of treatment modalities are attempted to help people live effectively without drugs," said Mike Campana who maintains statistical data for the agency plus working with the aftercare program. "Unlike residential programs, we attempt to do this in the environment in which the addict/abuser lives. I was once a user of drugs but was never really strung out. It has provided for me a better understanding of the problems encountered in the treatment process," he continued.

"Upon entry into our program, the addict/abuser takes a significant step not only to help himself, but also for the community and society in which he lives."

Norm Hewlett, assistant director with SNDAAC, feels very strongly that the program goal is to have the clients in a job or enrolled in a training program or school within the first 90 days on the program. "Thus, the addict/user turns from a negative, non-producer to a positive contributor in the community," Hewlett continued. "As the client progresses through various program levels this becomes more significant as he realizes the goal of drug free existence and enters more and more into the main stream of the community."

There is a fee assessed those participating in the

methadone program. There's a fee, maintenance to abstinence component at \$70.00 a month and a fee of \$45.00 for the twenty-one day detoxification component plus a \$13.00 fee for the physical examination.

The out-patient drug free program has a fee of \$75.00 — this includes the physical.

There is no fee for the follow-up and aftercare program.

SNDAAC requires that the client bear some of the cost for their treatment. Help is received from the State and such funds are allocated on a 60 percent and 40 percent basis. For every \$60 received the program must match it with \$40. The budget for the year

runs about \$260,000.

SNDAAC has a paid staff of 20 employees, plus medical personnel, etc. The treatment programs are usually very high plus they have a substantial budget for personnel. The administration is less than 8 percent of the total.

Drug abuse, drug addiction is a community problem. Ignoring it will not make it go away.

Everyone must face it because everyone in our community is touched in some way by it. Each must do what they can to help solve the problem and treat the victimized. SNDAAC has viable and successful programs. LET'S SUPPORT SNDAAC fully.

Did You Know

The new Country Rebel Restaurant, flying the rebel flag on Desert Inn Road, is co-owned by the Las Vegas Commissioner Roy Woofler.

executive director of the NAACP. Informed sources say that the NAACP will be receiving a \$500.00 donation from NLVCC after the carnival completes its schedule there.

★★★

★★★

The big carnival now located on the Golden West Shopping Center

Parking Lot, West Owens Ave., is really sponsored by The North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

The TV commercials aired on Monday showed the Las Vegas chapter,

NAACP as the sponsor. Not so, said Alice Key,

The restaurant now open at the corner of "H" and Lake Mead is proudly known as the Allen Restaurant. Operated by the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, it's new concept is "you get fed whether you are able to pay or not." The church is pastored by Rev. Albert Dunn.

Mr. Willie La Fleur

Attended School
at Ponci College of Beauty
in Reno, Nevada

Advanced Cutting Classes with
Peter Haunce of London, England
Platform Work for 1½ years
Backstage at Miss Black America
Beauty Pageant in 1977 in Los Angeles

Formerly of MGM in Reno
Now at

BARBARA McNAIR'S
TRAINED IN ENGLAND BY VIDAL SASOON

Artistry in Hair

2917 WEST WASHINGTON
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89106

648-4190 648-9870

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!



**PHIL'S SALVAGE
BUILDERS EMPORIUM**
1131 SO. MAIN • 382-7528

**PSYCHIC TO
THE STARS...**

*Your Business
IS
His Business*

LICENSED
BUSINESS CONSULTANT

DAVID GUARDINO
Formerly Operated As
"JAMIL"

*Can Bewitch, Mesmerize
Loved Ones, Enemies
To Do Your Bidding*

**ONE OF THE
WORLD'S FOREMOST
PSYCHICS**

*Advice in Business,
Love and Personal
Direction*

DAVID GUARDINO
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
INTERNATIONAL CASINO
300 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 520
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101

TELEPHONE:
(702) 878-3000
If No Answer, Phone:
(702) 385-1500
Ext. 518, 520 or 522