

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
Commission on Disabilities
2011-12 Annual Report

1. Roles of the Commission

The Commission on Disabilities was established by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on February 20, 2001. The Commission is guided by the policies and procedures established by the Board of Supervisors in the performance of its duties. The duties of the Commission on Disabilities, in part, are to: 1) hold public meetings in accordance with the Brown Act at regular intervals regarding matters pertaining to persons with disabilities, and 2) review and advise the Board of Supervisors on matters relating to equal access to employment, public services, communication and public accommodations for people with disabilities, and 3) make appropriate appeals to the County's Disabilities Access Appeals Board.

II. Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Commission meets the last Monday of every other month from 2 pm – 4 pm. Meetings are held at the Monterey County Administration Building, 168 West Alisal Street, Monterey Conference Room, 2nd Floor in Salinas.

III. Structure of the Commission

The Commission shall consist of no more than 23 representatives:

- One representative from each of the five Supervisory districts
- One representative from each city in Monterey County that desires to do so may submit a request for representation
- The County's Resource Management Agency serves ex officio as a member of the Commission
- A combined total not to exceed eight representatives from various community based organizations located in Monterey County that represent the interests of persons with disabilities
- One member from the County Department Head Council

IV. Membership

Membership includes the following areas:

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1	Gabriel Camacho
District 2	Alma Almanza
District 3	Jose Vasquez
District 4	Henry Bergstresser
District 5	Steve McCullough

CITY REPRESENTATIVES

City of Pacific Grove	Carmelita Garcia
City of Salinas	Eric Heckman
City of Sand City	Steve Matarazzo
City of Marina	Michael Bennett

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY DEPARTMENT HEAD

Public Works	Mario Salazar
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MONTEREY CO DEPARTMENT HEADS COUNCIL

County Administration Office	Lew Bauman
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COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Easter Seals	Stella Lauerman
Hope Services	George Molano
Central California Alliance for Health	Lilia Chagolla
Monterey Bay Veterans	Robert Greene
Central Coast Center for Independent Living	Olivia Quezada
Special Kids Crusade	Vacant

Information regarding commission appointments and length of membership can be requested from the Monterey County Equal Opportunity Office.

V. Election

On January, 2011 the Commission conducted its election of officers. Commissioner Alma Almanza was elected Chair and Commissioner Carmelita Garcia was elected Vice Chair, to serve a two (2) year term.

VI. Summary of Goals and Accomplishments

A. Recognize Business that provide accessible services to people with disabilities.

The Commission at their meeting on January 30, 2012 recognized the following business:

- Monterey Salinas Transit
- Central Coast Center for Independent Living
- County of Monterey Health Department
- Sports Car Racing Assoc. of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP)
- County of Monterey Department of Employment and Social Services

- B. Revision of By-Laws
On May 23, 2011 the Commission revised their Bylaws, Article II to clarify their jurisdiction.
- C. Outreach Committee
The Outreach Committee has prepared a power point presentation that they will be presenting to the various City Councils to promote the existence of this Commission and at the same time recruit Commissioners. Other Commissioners will be presenting the power point to community organizations for educational purposes.
- D. Greenfield Pedestrian Walkway
An Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Commissioners Vasquez, Garcia, Salazar and former Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano was instrumental in meeting with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and Caltrans staff to help ensure that the Elm, Oak and Walnut Street walkways were ADA accessible and funding was received for the project. This project was completed on October, 2011.
- E. Zip Line Eco-tour System
The Commission accepted the Parks and Recreation staff's report that the Zip Line Eco-tour System at Jack's Peak park would not be accessible to people with certain mobility impairments for safety reasons.
- F. Advocacy
The Commission is a member of the Regional Taxi Authority Technical Advisory Committee (RTA TAC.) The Commission's Representative Advocated for the taxi cabs to be accessible for all disabilities, including wheelchairs.
- G. Commission's 10TH Year Anniversary Celebration
On March 23, 2012 the Commission Celebrated its 10th Anniversary. The Celebration was held at the Red Bull Energy Center, Laguna Seca. In attendance were all members of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, numerous Department Heads, Public Information Coordinator Mia Carroll, Commissioners, Ex-Commissioners and Representatives from Community Agencies. All members of the Board of Supervisors presented the Commission a Proclamation for their commitment and services to the disabled community.

The Commission presented Certificates of Recognition to the following businesses and County departments for their services provided to persons with disabilities:

Monterey Salinas Transit
Central Coast Center for Independent Living
County of Monterey Health Department
Sports Car Racing Assoc. of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP)
County of Monterey Department of Employment and Social Services
County of Monterey Parks Department
Monterey Peninsula Foundation
City of Salinas
Hartnell College
City of Pacific Grove
Monterey County Free Libraries
Salinas Valley Optometric Center
Monterey Regional Waste Management District

VII. Guest Speakers

The Commission on Disabilities continues to invite various agencies and advocates of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA issues to speak at our monthly meeting. Following is a sampling of speakers addressing the Commission.

- Francine Rodd, First Five of Monterey County
- Lilia Chagolla, Central California Alliance for Health
- Parks Historian Meg Clovis, County of Monterey Parks Department
- Jorge Ruiz, Central Coast Center for Independent Living Assistive Technology Coordinator.
- Margaret Keith, Manager California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Student Disability Resources Health & Wellness Services.
- Sandy Blackburn, Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Windmills Trainer.

VIII. Goals

The Commission, at their meeting on September 26, 2011 approved the following Goals for 2011-12:

Goal 1: ADA Transition Plan

- Commissioner Salazar stated survey to be distributed tentatively within 90 days

Goal 2: Recognize Businesses

- Staff to provide Commission with Nomination form and criteria for nomination
- Develop a Certificate of Recognition to reward business that meet ADA requirements (specially businesses located in the unincorporated areas of the County)

Goal 3: Identify and invite Organizations to Collaborate with the Commission on Disabilities

- To give their input on how to remove “barriers” to its clients.

Goal 4: Media Outreach

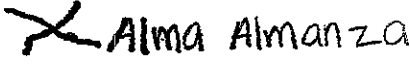
- Invite Public Information Coordinator Mia Carroll to provide information and/or Commission updates on the CAO weekly report
- Outreach to radio stations, to include bilingual radio stations
- Close captioning for Board of Supervisors meeting

Goal 5: Training

- Sensitivity Training to all Commissioners
- AB 1234 Ethics training (which is required for all Commissioners)
- Disabilities training

The Commission has been successful in meeting most of their goals and will strive to accomplish all of their goals by the end of the year.

The Commission approved the 2011-12 Annual Report on the 29th day of August, 2012.

By:  Alma Almanza
Alma Almanza, Chair