

**COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2022**

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

The Commission on Disabilities (COD) was established by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on February 20, 2001. The COD is subject to the Brown Act and serves as an advisor to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors regarding matters relating to equal access to employment, public services, communications, and public accommodations for persons with disabilities.

The Commission's jurisdiction is County-wide, including unincorporated areas and areas within cities and special districts. The Commission's scope of activities is to inquire, listen, and engage in discussion with any persons or entities for the purpose of gathering information of potential interest to the Board of Supervisors in matters within the Commission's jurisdiction.

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, is to: 1) hold public meetings per 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.

The Commission meets on the last Monday of every other month. The Commission serves people with disabilities in Monterey County, such as those with sight, hearing, mobility, cognitive, and other disabilities.

The current Chairperson is Nona Childress, representing the City of Salinas, and the Vice-Chairperson is Cristy Sugabo from the Monterey-Salinas Transit District.

STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission is composed of representatives whose total number shall not exceed twenty-three (23):

- One representative from each of the five Supervisorial districts
- One representative from each city in Monterey County
- One representative from the County's Housing and Community Development, who serves ex-officio as a member of the Commission
- Up to eight representatives from various community-based organizations located in Monterey County that represent the interest and concerns of people with a variety of disabilities or actively advocate for civil rights of individuals with disabilities
- One representative from the Monterey County Department Heads Council.

Current membership is composed of the following individuals:

Monterey County Board of Supervisors:

	Representative
Supervisor Luis Alejo – District 1	John Gay
Supervisor John Phillips – District 2	Vacant
Supervisor Chris Lopez – District 3	Vacant
Supervisor Wendy Root Askew – District 4	Henry Bergstresser
Supervisor Mary Adams – District 5	Vacant

City Representatives:

City of Sand City	Libby Sofer
City of Salinas	Nona Childress
City of Marina	Vacant
City of Pacific Grove	Vacant

Housing and Community Development:

Vacant

Monterey County Department Heads Council:

Military & Veterans Affairs Office	Jason Cameron
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Community-Based Organizations:

Hope Services	Vacant
Central Coast Center for Independent Living	Juan Morales
Easter Seals Central California	Vacant
Central California Alliance for Health	Lilia Chagolla
Monterey-Salinas Transit District	Cristy Sugabo
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center	Vacant
The United Veterans Council	Vacant
Special Kids Crusade	Vacant
Gateway Center of Monterey County	Vacant
The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County	Vacant

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On March 29, 2021, the Commission on Disabilities met to discuss strategic planning for the Commission. At its meeting, the Commission decided to hold public and open strategic planning sessions during regularly scheduled meetings. On November 29, 2021, the Commission adopted a 2022-2024 strategic plan that includes a revised mission, a vision, and a set of values, goals, and objectives to align with the duties directed by the Commission.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The Commission on Disabilities is dedicated to removing barriers to healthcare, safety, and access to everyday life challenges for Monterey County communities with disabilities.

Vision

Build a community that values and promotes equal access, opportunities, and inclusion for all.

Values

- **Advocacy:** we advocate for public policies that support the rights of all people with disabilities
- **Communication:** we aim to identify and use educational tools to build public awareness of needs
- **Inclusion:** we promote an environment where all individuals, regardless of their disability, have the opportunity to excel in all facets of their lives

Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1

Expand visibility of the Commission in the community and County of Monterey organization.

Objective 1.1:

Launch social media platform Facebook with over 50 followers.

Objective 1.2:

Develop an engaging and interactive website that is accessible to the public.

Objective 1.3:

Design and distribute flyers, announcements, and brochures that promote COD goals and initiatives.

GOAL #2

Develop ongoing partnerships with organizations that serve communities with disabilities.

Objective 2.1:

Create a service provider list that identifies current partners and potential new partners.

Objective 2.2:

Recruit three local partners that advocate for improved public safety services for communities with disabilities.

Objective 2.3: Invite two community partners to present at COD meetings.
Objective 2.4: Advocate for communities with disabilities by presenting at two partner meetings.
Objective 2.5: Revise the service provider list to ensure partnerships align with the mission of COD and the needs of communities with disabilities.
Objective 2.6: Work with service providers to collect local stats on communities with disabilities.

GOAL #3 Improve engagement efforts with communities with disabilities.
Objective 3.1: Develop and implement a survey that solicits community input on how to increase advocacy and services for communities with disabilities in Monterey County.
Objective 3.2: Advocate for equitable services for communities with disabilities by presenting/participating at local community events and parades.
Objective 3.3: Invite members of the public to present at COD meetings on infrastructures and services impacting communities with disabilities.

GOAL #4 Regularly provide reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors
Objective 4.1: Identify the authority of COD to report periodically at Board of Supervisor meetings.
Objective 4.2: Invite members of the Board to attend a COD meeting.

The Commission is currently working on implementing the following objectives this year:

Objective 1.1: Launch social media platform Facebook with over 50 followers.

Objective 1.2: Develop an engaging and interactive website that is accessible to the public.

Objective 1.3: Design and distribute flyers, announcements, and brochures that promote COD goals and initiatives.

Objective 2.1: Create a service provider list that identifies current partners and potential new partners.

Objective 2.3: Invite two community partners to present at COD meetings.

Objective 2.6: Work with service providers to collect local stats on communities with disabilities.

Objective 4.1: Identify the authority of COD to report periodically at Board of Supervisor meetings.

Objective 4.2: Invite members of the Board to attend a COD meeting.

STAFF CONTACT

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Department: Civil Rights Office

The COD Commission approved this 2022 Annual Report on September 30, 2022.