

## County of Monterey

### Annual Report to Board of Supervisors

#### **ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

**Name of Organization:** COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

**Mailing Address:** 168 W. Alisal St., Third Floor, Salinas, CA 93901

**Officers (Name and Title)** Alma Almanza, Chair and Carmelita Garcia, Vice Chair

#### **Type of Organization**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board   | <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative |
| X Commission                     | X Subject to Maddy Act                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council | X Subject to Brown Act                 |

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

**Name:** Elisa Cantu, Administrative Secretary Confidential

**Phone/Email:** cantue@co.monterey.ca.us

**Department:** Equal Opportunity Office

#### **ORGANIZATION HISTORY and PURPOSE**

The Commission on Disabilities was established by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on February 20, 2001. The Commission serves as advisor to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors regarding matters relating to equal access to employment, public services, communications and public accommodations for person 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.

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.

The Commission serves people with disabilities in Monterey County such as those with sight, hearing, mobility and cognitive impairment.

## **GOALS**

On September 26, 2011 the Commission approved the following Goals for 2011-2012:

### 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

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Commission has been very proactive throughout the year and has addressed and accomplished many of their goals. The Commission would like to highlight the following three major accomplishments:

### Greenfield Pedestrian Walkway

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Disabilities consisting of Commissioners Vasquez, Garcia, and Salazar were 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 of Greenfield were ADA accessible and funding was received for the project.

### 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.

### Revision of the By-Laws

On May 23, 2011 the Commission revised their Bylaws, Article II to clarify their jurisdiction. The Bylaws now reads as “The Commission’s jurisdiction is county-wide, including unincorporated areas, and areas within cities and special districts; provided that it shall not have power to investigate, charge, or otherwise enforce legal mandates and guidelines. 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.”

### **POLICY ISSUES**

There are no policy issues at this time.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

The Commission on Disabilities has no budget. The Equal Opportunity Office’s budget is impacted every year for the expense of sign language interpretation services provided to the Commission.