



County of Monterey
Valerie Ralph
CLERK OF THE BOARD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Community Restorative Justice Commission

Application

Angie Ortega

District: 1
Initialed Application: Yes

Applicant

First Name: **Angie**
Middle Initial:
Last Name: **Ortega**

Employment

Occupation: **Risk Management Safety and Health**
Job Title: **Risk Management Environmental Services, Health & Safety Services**
Employer: **AOC Consultants Risk Management Services**

Interests and Experiences

Able to attend meetings regularly and devote the time necessary to fulfill duties as a member?

Yes

Currently serving on a County of Monterey Board, Commission, Committee or other Community Advisory Group?

Yes

Monterey County Restorative Justice Partner

Has served on an advisory group before?

Yes

I was also appointed to the Police Commission Advisory Committee 6 years ago, I assisted in interviewing providing my support with my Human Resources background. My interest is continuing as a Restorative Justice Partner, speaking at youth centers, continuing the approach that benefits everyone, victims, community, and public safety.

Please tell us about yourself and why you want serve:

I suffered a devastating loss in 1993, lost my youngest daughter to homicide. She left a young baby by of 2 years and 10 months old. Throughout the investigation and

trial, no assistance was provided. We navigated through the nightmare scared, and alone. Cheryl Ward-Kaiser and Astrid Lang, came to my aid. I soon discovered that through my pain and grief, plus my Human Resources background I could assist and help others, who've lost their loved ones through violence. I first joined Parents of Murdered Children, and I became interested in Restorative Justice and found healing, plus I have been able to impact the youth, and men and women who are in an institution. To me Restorative Justice has become a medicine that I can extend to others in the community. For victims, this approach is incredibly powerful. Otherwise a victim of a tragic loss may not find an outlet, or an opportunity to express how an incident affected their lives, or find that avenue for healing. I have also found it gives us a voice through the ordeal, sometimes it takes awhile to get to this healing place. Restorative Justice plays an important role in strengthening partnerships between the justice system and the community. It took me awhile to get this understanding. My goal is to make sure victims become survivors and give their victims a voice, and become a voice in the community to help others. Last week was National Crime Victims Week, I attended the Victim Dedication Ceremony two weeks before, left me depressed, I prepared for an event at Soledad Correctional Training Facility. The speaking group was coached on restorative principles, I held conversations with the speakers, and have a strong impact and gear our focus in healing and give the men at CTF an understanding of how crime changed our lives, and explain the journey from loss, justice, and healing, even including forgiveness if it applied. We have classes Tues, April 21st, 23rd, and 24th. I created circles to review and allow the inmates to speak to bring understanding, giving them an outlet to become accountable for their crime, also heal, from their crime and also understand their victims' perspective. Ultimately Restorative Justice goal is to bring accountability, some of these inmates could end up released, they need this type of training to heal. I now started a new group, that I rebranded, Parents of Murdered Children wasn't about healing, we couldn't pray, include God in our quest, I ended that chapter I had founded for 20 years, the new group, Justice For Victims, Survivor Voices, I need to apply for a Non Profit status. I include survivors who have lost loved ones through homicide, DUI, domestic violence, suicide, and type of loss. I want to continue making a difference.

Please state the reason you would like to be a member of this board committee/commission/district:

I want to continue my work, helping heal others. Partner up with the programs provided by the community, have an impact on the youth! I respectfully ask to continue supporting my work, to help build a safer and stronger community.

How did you hear about the position?:

I have been part of the Restorative Justice Partner team for over 15 years.