

**Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
of Contra Costa County**

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Meeting Time and Location: Generally on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:45 to 6:15pm in Concord or Martinez; except when the Board meets within each supervisorial district to outreach to those residents.

Board: 18 members; 3 from each supervisorial district plus 3 at large. Each member is appointed for a three-year term by the Board of Supervisors.

Chair: Katy-Ann S. Kelley

Staff: Fatima Matal Sol

Mission:

The mission of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board of Contra Costa County is to assess family and community needs regarding treatment and prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse problems and report our findings and recommendations to the Health Services Department, the Board of Supervisors, and the communities that we serve.

Activities:

The 2009 goals were continued through 2010: 1) Educate the community about alcohol and other drugs and underage drinking; 2) Continue and increase public education via advocacy; 3) Strengthen the organizational structure of the Board; 4) Support the work of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Division towards reducing health disparities. These goals were supported through the various activities of each Committee. One lengthy project was our Marijuana Legalization Educational Series, May – August, with speakers from various fields related to the subject. We concluded with a presentation of a RAND report, [“Altered State? Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets”](#), Beau Kilmer, Ph.D., Co-Director, RAND Drug Policy Research Center. This presentation was followed by our vote in September and recommendations were presented to the Board of Supervisors in our letter of October 20, 2010.

Accomplishments:

Goal 1) Educate the community about alcohol and drugs and underage drinking.

(a) The Board continued supporting and sponsoring additional town hall meetings intended to increase awareness about the enforcement of the County’s 2008 Social Host Ordinance. (b) The highlight of our work in regards to increasing awareness however, took place during the Marijuana Legalization Educational Series in response to Proposition 19 on the November 2010 ballot. Although Marijuana Legalization was politically charged, we were keenly aware that we had a major role to play in educating the community. We invited members of the public and invited a wide range of selected speakers who were knowledgeable about the most important aspects and implications of the proposed law. Hence, our presenters shared a balanced view of all sides of the proposition. Our speakers included: Contra Costa’s District Attorney, a deputy sheriff, medical doctors, the president of Oakland University in Oakland, a local NAACP chapter president, various local citizens, and the primary author of the RAND research study. The presentations were an opportunity to directly engage with the public and openly establish dialogue regarding a highly complex and controversial issue. (c) Other

activities of the Board included participating in the Pulmonary Health Fair sponsored by the John Muir Health Foundation in October by the Community Awareness committee. (d) The Public Policy Committee played a major role in ensuring that our presentations were balanced in addition to keeping us informed of various proposals in Sacramento to tax alcohol.

2) Continue and increase advocacy for constituents. (a) Continued positive relations with many county departments including the Tobacco Prevention Coalition (b) A very successful "People who Make a Difference Awards" ceremony was conducted by the Community Awareness Committee which aided in maintaining the visibility of our Board and directly interact with constituents. (c) Once again, we advocated for additional resources for the Juvenile Drug Court and received \$1000 in donations from a local church, which helped towards the purchase of bus passes and alcohol tests. (d) As we do every year, the Board prepared resolutions to the Board of Supervisors concerning Alcohol Awareness Month in April and Red Ribbon Week in October. (e) The youth and family committee continued its tradition of participating on the Recovery Walk activities by mobilizing other Health Services Department Divisions and joined consumers on the 2010 Recovery Walk. The Youth and Family committee began to connect with AOD System of Care community-based providers to better understand the needs of the clients under decimated budgets. (f) Finally, in October the youth and family/community awareness committee coordinated a site visit to Discovery House a county operated residential facility for men.

3) Strengthen the organizational structure of the Advisory Board. Perhaps the single best accomplishment on this goal was the production of a 5-minute recruitment video that informs the public of the purpose of the Board. Our Bylaws are in the process of being revised.

4) Support the work of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Division towards reducing health disparities. Because of the amount of time and effort invested on the Marijuana Legalization Series, we had little time to devote to goal 4. We hope to continue the work done by previous members during 2011.

Training and Certification Upon appointment to the Board, new members received an orientation by staff, which included internal functioning of the Board, the Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance, confidentiality laws, alcohol and other drugs services, etc. New members certified viewing the Brown Act information video prepared by County Counsel or attended a live class in the Board of Supervisors chambers.

Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for 2011: The AODAB will continue to pursue our current goals unless; a new direction is requested by the Board of Supervisors or as a result from updated priorities during our annual retreat.