

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

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Meeting Time and Location: Generally on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:45 to 6:00pm in 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: Doug Sibley

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:

During this calendar year, we updated goals and priorities which are (1) Improve Alcohol and Drug Services for 55+; (2) Reduce Underage Drinking and Youth Access to Alcohol; (3) Increase Awareness About Prescription Drug Abuse; and (4) Increase Understanding about Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Related Reentry Needs. Additionally, as part of our mission to better understand community needs in regards to alcohol and other drugs, the Community Awareness Committee organized tour visits to substance abuse recovery facilities including the Ozanam Center a residential facility for women and Thunder Road which serves adolescents.

As in previous years, we maintained our focus of raising awareness about alcohol and other drugs. We sponsored annual campaigns to celebrate recovery and recognize those who combat substance abuse. On May 17, the Board of Supervisors recognized six individuals and five organizations with our “People Who Make a Difference Awards.” Our Board then, formally presented 21 individuals and one organization with Certificates of Merit. Likewise, in September we joined local and national efforts to celebrate National Recovery month. We accepted a resolution from the City of Martinez, and in partnership with Support for Recovery, we joined the proclamation declaring September as National Recovery Month. The month concluded with our Board adopting a new tradition whereby every September, we will recognize a new champion to the Recovery Wall of Fame. In 2011, the Board devoted significant attention to strengthen efficiency and collaboration with other stakeholders. We are in the process of updating our bylaws and web page. Continued positive relations with the Tobacco Prevention Coalition and actively participated on the Behavioral Health Division Stakeholders meetings.

Accomplishments:

Goal 1. Improve AOD Services for 55+. Following last year’s visit to St Mary’s in Oakland, which is a facility that provides services for the 55+ population, the Community Awareness Committee convened a presentation on senior AOD recovery

issues that highlighted the importance of providing collocated behavioral health services.

Goal 2. Reduce Underage Drinking and Youth Access to Alcohol. In April, we invited the East County Alcohol Policy Coalition (ECAP) to present information regarding community efforts to monitor alcohol density and alcohol license compliance. Similarly, we wrote a letter to the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) regarding the application to serve alcoholic beverages in a portion of the Rheem Movie Theater. We expressed concern about the number of alcohol licenses in that particular census track which exceeds the maximum allowed. Additionally, we recommended limiting the sales and consumption of alcohol to the same restricted area in the building, to prevent access to underage youth. The Board's letter and position concerning this license received significant media coverage.

Goal 3. Increase Awareness about Prescription Drug Abuse. We received a Proclamation from the Board of Supervisors recognizing October 24-31 as Red Ribbon Week which heightened awareness on prescription drug abuse. On October 26, we held a panel discussion open and advertised to the public entitled **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE (PDM): "ADDICTION BY PRESCRIPTION."** Our distinguished panel consisted of Dr. Fred Von Stieff, M.D., John Muir Center for Recovery; Mr. Fred Wade, Weyland Consultation Services; Jill Chioino, ARCPOINT; Lt. Mike Burton, Investigation Division, Sheriff's Department; and Ms. April Rovero, executive director and founder of the local National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse. Besides sharing information, the purpose of this activity was to discuss proper disposal of unused prescriptions and to solicit input for community action. The panel presentation was recorded by Contra Costa Television (CCTV) and is currently broadcasted as a service to the community.

Goal 4. Increase Understanding about AOD-Related Reentry Needs. This is currently a work in progress, as the implementation of AB109 just started. We plan to remain involved assessing the impact on AOD related issues.

Legislative Activities We appeared before your Board's Legislation Committee to request that the full Board go on record to support H.R. 707, the Drug Testing Integrity Act of 2011, a bill which who make it a federal offense to tamper with and assist in provided a false urine or other drug test required by federal statutes for all projects containing federal funds, including highway and other transportation projects. This bill has not progressed.

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 2012: We plan to proactively pursue our current goals and priorities unless new guidance is provided by the Board of Supervisors. The members of Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board are grateful to be of service to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Contra Costa County.