

**Contra Costa County  
Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Meeting Time and Location:** Generally on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 4:00 to 6:15 pm 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 by the Board of Supervisors.

**Chair:** Guita Bahramipour

**Staff:** Fatima Matal Sol

**Mission** (as approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 28, 2012): *The mission of the Contra Costa County Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board is to assess family and community needs regarding prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug-related problems. Resultant findings and recommendations are forwarded to the Health Services Department and the Board of Supervisors. The Board also serves as an advocate for these findings and recommendations to the communities that we serve.*

**Activities:**

During this calendar year, our Board identified the following goals and priorities of (1) Understand Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Related Services for 55+; (2) Reduce Youth Use and Access for Alcohol, Marijuana and Other Drugs, ; (3) Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA); and (4) Assess AOD Related Reentry Resources and Needs.

As in previous years, we sponsored annual campaigns to celebrate recovery and recognize those who combat substance abuse. On May 14, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) recognized nine individuals and two organizations with our “People Who Make a Difference Awards.” In September we supported Support4Recovery’s resolution from the BOS recognizing September as National Recovery Month and we staffed a booth at their 9th Annual Recovery Walk. The month concluded with our Board recognizing Men and Women of Purpose as “Recovery Champion Organization”. In 2013, we continued our liaison with the Tobacco Prevention Coalition, the Mental Health Commission and the Inter-jurisdictional Council on Homelessness. We remained involved in the Behavioral Health (BH) Division Integration process. A Board member has been appointed to represent the AODAB at the BH’ Steering Committee, who provides regular updates in our agendas. In August, in collaboration with other stakeholders we recommended the naming of the new county operated Transitional Housing facility adjacent to Discovery House in honor of former Supervisor Gayle Uilkema. The Public Policy Committee was able to be more active this year in reviewing and analyzing primarily State Bills which were consistent with the BOS Adopted Platforms. The Committee Chair represented the AODAB at the Legislative Committee of the BOS.

**Accomplishments:**

**Goal 1. Understand AOD-Related Services for 55+.** Our assessment efforts to study the needs of this population involved a presentation by the Senior Peer Counseling Behavioral Health’s Mental Health Program which provides mental health counseling services to older adults.

**Goal 2. Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol, Marijuana and Other Drugs.** As in previous years, we continued to monitor alcohol licensing. Last August, following recommendations of a local coalition and law enforcement, we protested the “99 Cents Only” store in Concord application for a Type 20 alcohol license. Before formulating the letter of protest, Board members joined prevention staff, youth and local law enforcement to canvass the community and assess the impact of the application on the overall community. In October, we received the annual Red Ribbon Week Proclamation from the BOS, in recognition of on-going prevention efforts focusing on the dangers inherent to prescription drug abuse. Lastly in September, the Youth and Family Committee sponsored a panel presentation “*Join the Voices of Recovery: Together on Pathways to Wellness- Eliminating Stigma*” in celebration of National Recovery Month.

**Goal 3. Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA).** In March, we cosponsored the showing of “*Behind the Orange Curtain*” film in the City of Concord to heighten awareness about the prescription drug abuse epidemic, which prompted a closer collaboration with the County Materials Hazardous Commission and the Public Health Environmental Board (PEHAB). The film was followed by a Safe Medicine Disposal Forum at JFK University in July, where we bridged the partnership with the County Commission on Aging as well as with all the collection agencies in the County. As in previous years, we have been actively participating in the DEA’s semi-annual National Take Back Initiative event. Our efforts to increase awareness about prescription drugs abuse, has become a catalyst to promote further coordination and collaboration with multiple County Boards and Commissions. The AODAB actively supports the Contra Costa County Prescription drug Abuse Coalition, also sponsored by AODS.

**Goal 4. Assess AOD-Related Reentry Resources and Needs.** We received regular updates regarding Reentry efforts through staff, the public, or other Board members involved in assisting AB109 individuals in West CC County.

**Advisory Board Challenges:** Prior to the preparation of this report which excludes December, we met during eleven months this year. While we always reached quorum; several Committees were not able to meet regularly. Keeping Board and Committee seats filled has been a challenge. We have been working with County staff to ensure that the Maddy Book reflects accurate membership and expiration dates of appointments. We are also concerned about the inconsistency of the length of the appointed terms.

**Training and Certification:** Upon appointment, new members received an orientation, which included internal functioning of the Board, the Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance, confidentiality laws, and AOD services, etc. Last April, staff along with new and some old members, attended the annual training sponsored by County Counsel and the Clerk of the Board. All members certified viewing the available Brown Act information video.

**Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for 2014:** We plan to proactively pursue our current goals and priorities under guidance provided by the Board of Supervisors. The members of AOD Advisory Board are grateful to be of service to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Contra Costa County.