

**Contra Costa County
Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
2014 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) Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana, (2) Assess AOD Related Reentry Resources and Needs, and (3) Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). We also selected the following Priority Areas: (1) Understand Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Related Services for 55+; and (2) Promote and support more interaction between the Board and its constituents.

As in previous years, we sponsored annual campaigns to celebrate recovery and recognize those who combat substance abuse. We supported Support4Recovery's resolution from the BOS recognizing September as National Recovery Month and staffed a booth at the 10th Annual Recovery Walk. For the very first time, the Youth and Family Committee conducted the 1st Recovery Walk in West County. The Recovery Month activities concluded with our Board recognizing Fredrick Von Stieff, M.D. as this year's "Recovery Champion." We joined local youth prevention efforts in support of April as Alcohol Awareness Month and partnered with the Department of Conservation and Development to clearly identify the presence of "alcopops" in the retail environment. On June 3rd, the BOS recognized five individuals, one organization and Youth Leadership efforts with our "People Who Make a Difference Awards." In August, we held our regular Board monthly meeting at the Richmond Brookside Shelter to help us understand the needs of the clients at the Shelter and participated in Homeless Connect. The Public Policy Committee prepared recommendations for the Board of Supervisors' 2014 State and Federal Legislative Platforms as they relate to AOD, reviewing and analyzing bills that were consistent with the BOS Adopted Platforms. Of the 24 State bills tracked (including two we opposed), 10 were chaptered, 13 died, and one was vetoed.

Accomplishments:

Goal 1. Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana. We continued to monitor alcohol density. Last February, following recommendations of a local coalition, we recommended the issuing of an alcohol license in the Brentwood area for a winery. 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 Alcopops, Marijuana and Prescription Drug Abuse. The Public Policy Committee submitted various recommendation letters regarding legislation and the committee chair has represented the AODAB at the Legislative and Public Protection Committees of the BOS to provide input regarding the revisions to the Deemed Approved Ordinance and alcopop-type products. The AOD Board also monitors State and Local legislation intended to support the needs of youth, such as AB12.

Goal 2. Assess AOD Related Re-entry Resources and Needs. According to a study commissioned by Californians for Safety and Justice, Contra Costa already had so many cultural and institutional elements in line that it has risen above other California counties and serves as a model for how realignment should be implemented. We received regular updates regarding Re-entry efforts through staff, the public, or other Board members involved in assisting AB109 individuals. The Youth and Family Committee invited a former AB109 consumer to attend our October Board meeting. Despite a few challenges, she is now successfully employed and a contributing member of her community, thanks to the support and services funded under Realignment.

Goal 3. Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). Prescription drug abuse has become a matter of increasing concern across the nation because deaths by prescription drugs now exceed deaths by illegal drugs. Concerted activities to increase awareness regarding prescription drugs abuse included: sponsoring RxSafe Contra Costa monthly coalitions meetings, and making presentations by the Community Awareness Committee along with RxSafe Contra Costa to the Concord City Council and the BOS regarding prescription drugs. In March, our members participated in the showing of “*Behind the Orange Curtain*,” a film which heightens awareness about the prescription drug abuse epidemic. In 2014, we participated in the DEA’s semi-annual National Take Back Initiative event. In addition, the AODAB recommended supporting Proposition 46, Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors.

Understand AOD-Related Services for 55+. During the year, the Board has also supported local, state and federal legislation intended to curb prescription drugs abuse among older adults.

Advisory Board Challenges: We met during eleven months in 2014 and canceled one meeting due to lack of quorum. Keeping Board and Committee seats filled remains a challenge. We worked with County staff to ensure that the Maddy Book reflects accurate membership and expiration dates of appointments. We remain 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.

Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for 2015: 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.