

**Contra Costa County
Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
2015 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: James Ryan

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 did not adopt new goals and priorities but carried over some items from 2014 which were the following: (1) Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana, and (2) Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). We continued the following Priority Areas: (1) Understand Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Related Services for 55+; (2) Promote and support more interaction between the Board and its constituents and (3) Prepare recommendations for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) legislative platform as they relate to AOD.

As in previous years, we sponsored annual campaigns to celebrate recovery and recognize those who combat substance abuse. We supported a variety of National Recovery Month Activities in Contra Costa County. We supported Support4Recovery's resolution from the BOS recognizing September as National Recovery Month and supported their 11th Annual Recovery Walk. After the success of last year, the Youth and Family Committee conducted the 2nd Recovery Walk in West County. Our Board recognized Dr. Stephen Ericksen and Maria Rigazio as this year's "Recovery Champions." We joined the Contra Costa County Prescription Drug Coalition efforts in support of March as Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Month. On June 9th, the BOS recognized four individuals, one organization and Youth Leadership efforts with our "People Who Make a Difference Awards." The Community Awareness Committee proposed a preliminary timetable for the *Marijuana Speaker Series* to understand and educate the community in anticipation of the *Marijuana Initiative in the 2016 November Ballot*.

Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Organized Delivery System (ODS) for Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

Currently, the AOD Administration has undertaken the development of a County Implementation Plan (IP) in response to the approval of the DMC Waiver. When approved, the IP will expand service delivery in Contra Costa. We were active participants in the planning process providing feedback to the plan required elements at

Town Hall meetings and in our regular monthly meeting were issues related to SUD treatment, dual diagnosis and peer counseling services were discussed.

Accomplishments:

1)Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana. Last February, following recommendations of a local coalition, we reviewed the issuing of an alcohol license in the Byron area and in a movie theater in Blackhawk. In April, we participated in the process of adding stronger language to the Deemed Approved Ordinance to include Alcopops. In October, we supported AOD prevention youth led programs in the annual Red Ribbon Week Proclamation. Likewise, we monitored State and Local legislation intended to support the needs of youth, such as SB 564, SB140 and SB 24.

2)Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). Prescription drug abuse is still a matter of concern to the Board because deaths by prescription drugs now exceed deaths by illegal drugs across the nation. Concerted activities to increase awareness regarding prescription drug abuse have included: attending CC Prescription Drug Abuse Coalition monthly coalitions meetings, and participating in Local Take Back Days sponsored by the coalition and local law enforcement.

Understand AOD-Related Services for 55+ and BH Integration. We participated in the County's Behavioral Health (BH) Integration SPIDD meetings which focused on current services for older adults; participated in Laura's Law Workgroup and assisted in the selection of the BH Deputy Director and AOD Chief.

Promote and Support More Interactions between the Board and its Constituents: We held a booth at the Safe City Summer Crime Prevention Expo West County, participated in Recovery Month activities and through some Board members' involvement the community event *Soulful Softball Sunday* that promote positive interactions in the community was supported.

Prepare Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors Legislative Platform as they Relate to AOD: The Public Policy Committee prepared AOD related policy recommendations, reviewed and analyzed bills that were consistent with the BOS Adopted Platforms. Of the 23 State Senate and Assembly bills tracked 10 were supported by the Policy Committee and two were not supported.

Advisory Board Challenges: We met during eleven months in 2015 and canceled one meeting due to lack of quorum. This year we faced leadership challenges that impacted member's engagement in Board activities; however, we held two Board Retreats.

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 2016: We plan to address new goals and priorities for 2016 next year, which will include a focus preparing for possible State legislation of recreational marijuana and full participation in the DMC-ODS Implementation Plan. The members of AOD Advisory Board are grateful to be of service to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Contra Costa County.