

**Contra Costa County**  
**Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board**  
**2016 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:** Anne Sutherland M.D.

**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 adopted new goals and priorities which were the following: (1) Support the Reduction of Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana, (2) Assess AOD-Related Reentry Resources and Needs. (3) Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA), (4) Advocate for More Affordable Sober Living Housing, and (5) Strengthen our Relationships with Existing Committees and Associated Boards and Commissions. We continued the following Priority Areas: (1) Raise Awareness about 55+ AOD related needs; (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. Our Board recognized two advocates as this year's "Recovery Champions." On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors recognized three individuals, two organizations and three Youth Leadership efforts with our "People Who Make a Difference Awards." The Community Awareness Committee organized 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 received approval to its County Implementation Plan (IP) DMC Waiver. The County has also submitted a Fiscal Plan and when approved Contra Costa will be able to expand services for our residents. The Board remained active participants in the ODS-DMC Waiver process through participation in work sessions specifically related to the development of Guidelines for Recovery Residences and Recovery Support Specialists, both of which will be new services under the Waiver. During the work sessions, the recovering community, other advocates and Board members provided positive feedback towards the development of each service component.

**Accomplishments:**

**Reduce Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana.** In February we started the Board sponsored *Marijuana Lecture Series* with a presentation regarding Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain, followed by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office presentation about the effects of legalization in Colorado. We also heard from Oaksterdam University regarding the benefits of Cannabis Use. The *Speaker Series* concluded with the Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) discussion on the fiscal impact of legalization. We supported the Alcohol Awareness Month in April and the annual Red Ribbon Week Proclamation in October led by AOD Prevention programs.

**Assess AOD-Related Reentry Resources and Needs.** The Programs and Services Committee heard a presentation from the Reentry Coordinator in October. This presentation was an opportunity to learn about Reentry resources in Contra Costa.

**Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA).** Prescription drug abuse is still a matter of concern to the Board. Concerted activities to increase awareness regarding prescription drug abuse have included: attending CC MEDS Coalition monthly coalitions meetings, and supporting local Take Back Days sponsored by the CCC MEDS coalition and local law enforcement.

**Strengthen our Relationships with Existing Committees and Associated Boards and Commissions.** The Advisory Board has had a representative attend the Contra Costa County Inter-jurisdictional Council on Homelessness, Mental Health Commission, and CCC MEDS Coalition. Members of the Advisory Board also attended the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Strategic Planning community forums.

**Promote and Support More Interactions between the Board and its Constituents:** We held a table at the Dose of Awareness Walk in March that was held in San Ramon which promoted positive interactions with community members.

**Prepare Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors Legislative Platform as they Relate to AOD:** The Board requested a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors pertaining to AB 2121 which would require Responsible Beverage Training for anyone who is involved in the sale and/or distribution of Alcohol. During this calendar year, the Board tracked three additional Senate and Assembly bills

**Advisory Board Challenges:** We met during eight months in 2016 and canceled four meetings due to lack of quorum. This year we faced leadership challenges that impacted member's engagement in Board activities. We also experienced a significant number of vacancies which affected the Board's ability to make quorum at meetings.

**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 2017:** We plan to update our goals and priorities for 2017 next year, which will include tracking the impact of any of the initiatives on the November ballot and continue 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.