

**Contra Costa County
Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
2017 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, the Board adopted goals and priorities which were the following: (1) Advocate for More Affordable Sober Living Housing, (2) Assess Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) related Reentry Resources and Needs. (3) Support the Reduction of Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana. The Board continued the following Priority Areas: (1) Promote and Support more Interaction between the Board and its Constituents; (2) Prepare Recommendations for the Board of Supervisor's Legislative Platform as they Relate to AOD (3) Raise Awareness about 55+ AOD Related Needs; and (4) Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse.

As in previous years, the Board sponsored annual campaigns to celebrate recovery and recognize those who combat substance use. Our Board recognized three advocates as this year's "Recovery Champions." On July 18th, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) recognized six individuals, three organizations and one Youth Leader for their efforts with the "People Who Make a Difference Awards." The Executive Committee organized two presentations to discuss Medication Assisted Treatment in order to educate the community about available pharmacotherapy to support substance use disorder treatment along with its risks and benefits as viewed by two different sides.

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

On July 1, 2017 Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Administration Alcohol and Other Drugs Services (AODS) began implementing services covered under the DMC-ODS Waiver. Prior to implementation, the Board participated actively during the planning process and now we receive monthly updates to monitor the progress of implementation. The Programs and Services Committee is finalizing a survey to elicit client feedback on treatment accessibility under the Waiver.

Accomplishments:

Advocate for More Affordable Sober Living Housing.

The Advisory Board participated in the development of the Recovery Residences Guidelines which were approved in (month) and the Recovery Support Specialist Services outline that was developed with input from the Board and consumers. The Board sent a letter recommending the adoption of the Recovery Residence Guidelines to the Director of the Behavioral Health Division, which included advocating for the use of Substance Abuse

Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT-BG) funds towards Recovery Residences once Drug Medi-Cal frees SAPT-BG funding. Towards this end, the Programs and Services Committee visited Ulikema House to learn about Sober Living Housing. The Board believes that Ulikema House is a model program and should be replicated across the county.

Assess AOD-Related Reentry Resources and Needs

The Programs and Services Committee is updating the Client Satisfaction Survey to be conducted with incarcerated clients. The survey should provide valuable information regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the SUD treatment received by clients who recidivated.

Support the Reduction of Youth Use and Access of Alcohol and Marijuana

The Board attended three (3) Strategic Planning Community Forums through which they listened to community members, who shared their thoughts about what goals should be the focus of AOD primary prevention. The Community Awareness Committee did an inventory of AOD Prevention Programs to help prevent duplication of efforts. Members of the Board have increased the community's knowledge of Alcohol and Marijuana by supporting a proclamation for Alcohol Awareness Month, taking part in the Wellness4Recovery, and tabling at Soulful Softball Sunday and the 3rd Annual Sobriety Walk. The Advisory Board has also attended two (2) Board of Supervisors meetings to speak in reference of the regulatory framework related to Marijuana legalization.

Increase Awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). Prescription drug use is still a matter of concern for the Board. Our members have taken part in multiple events which include: supporting the implementation of the Prescription Drug Stewardship Ordinance, distribution of Naloxone kits, and the Dose of Awareness 5K Walk and Health Expo.

Strengthen our Relationships with Existing Committees and Associated Boards and Commissions. The Board has had a representative attend the Contra Costa County Inter-jurisdictional Council on Homelessness, Mental Health Commission, CCC MEDS Coalition, the Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup (CPAW), and the Tobacco Prevention Coalition.

Prepare Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors Legislative Platform as they Relate to AOD: The Board requested a letter of support from the BOS pertaining to SB 378 (Portantino) which would give emergency powers to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to temporarily condition or close a business. The Board also requested a letter of opposition from the Board of Supervisors pertaining to SB 384 (Wiener) which would allow bars and restaurants to remain open and serve alcohol until 4am.

Advisory Board Challenges: We met during ten months in 2017 and canceled two meetings due to lack of quorum. This year we 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 2018: We plan to update our goals and priorities for 2018 next year, which will include community outreach and education as well as continued participation in the DMC-ODS Plan Implementation. The members of AOD Advisory Board are grateful to be of service to the BOS and the people of Contra Costa.