

VOLUNTEER GROUP

District V - Supervisor Federal Glover Discovery House Alumni Association

Before the pandemic, the Discovery House Alumni Association worked tirelessly to assist those who are struggling with a substance use disorder. Throughout the course of the pandemic fellowship, generosity and compassion drove the alumni to donate electronic devices so that the clients could attend essential clinical services through a virtual platform. Because clients were unable to attend external self-help groups in person, the alumni moved its Friday community support meetings to online platforms to maintain the much-needed social support. The devices allowed the clients to participate in all self-help groups which are fundamental for people in treatment. The alumni have donated time, clothing, food and assisted with transition from Discovery House. Without the donation of tablet devices to the program, clients without cell phones were not able to join all clinical activities and maintain their sobriety. The clients at Discovery House have expressed their gratitude for the alumni and discussed how their support has been critical during the pandemic.

NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP

District V - Supervisor Federal Glover Nikki Francisco

Nikki joined Support4Recovery (S4R) about 4 years ago, and since then she has worked tirelessly to remove the stigma of addiction. Her compassion for those who suffer with addiction and their families is unparalleled. Nikki is responsible for coordinating the county's housing grants for recovery residences. From the start of the project and up to the present time, she has placed more than 150 men and women in sober living housing with the goal of keeping people in treatment longer. When clients complete residential treatment, they transition to a recovery residence and step down to outpatient treatment, thereby extending periods in remission. Nikki check-in with clients on an ongoing basis by building self-responsibility and providing support. She is well known by all counselors in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODS) programs and by the many clients whose lives have been impacted by her work.



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The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and The Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board present:



“People Who Make A Difference” Awards 2021

Join us on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 9 a.m.

for the announcement of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board's People Who Make A Difference Awards at the Board of Supervisors chamber in Martinez

The meeting will be broadcasted on CCTV and can also be accessed on the BOS webpage. To watch the meeting live, visit: www.contracosta.ca.gov/7289/Meeting-Agendas, where you can also obtain a call-in number and access code.

Once a year the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board acknowledges both volunteer and non-volunteer individuals and groups who have significantly contributed toward reducing substance use in our communities.

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..

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL

*District I – Supervisor John Gioia
Syed Ali*

Syed's interest in improving social norms toward substance use in his school community and his genuine dedication to Discovering the Reality of Our Community (DROC) has boosted participation in DROC by engaging young people. On top of his school responsibilities, Syed's ideas to rally his peers for virtual events helped to foster a sense of community among youth during were innovative, especially when the pandemic hit the hardest. He was one of the students to step up collaborations with other organizations to spread knowledge and encourage engagement in all virtual prevention initiatives. Without a doubt, Syed Ali exemplifies the meaning of youth leadership.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL

*District II - Supervisor Candace Andersen
Anika Gupta*

Anika is the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse's (NCAPDA) longest-tenured youth ambassador, having joined more than three years ago. She has been an exceptional representative for NCAPDA through a variety of outreach programs. As the secretary of the coalition, she has maintained the records of the organization and took the lead in assembling 360 Narcan overdose rescue kits for distribution in the community. Anika's stellar achievement is the development of a Youth Corner website where she provides educational information geared to youth. Education is key to prevention and since the launch of this website and blog, there have been 364 visits to Anika's Youth Corner, and 215 of those visits occurred without the support of the NCAPDA or MEDS Coalition. Anika's goal is to positively impact youth and prevent prescription drug misuse and abuse.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL

*District II - Supervisor Candace Andersen
National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse
(NCAPDA) Youth Ambassadors*

The NCAPDA Youth Ambassadors team consists of high school students who have worked extensively to prevent prescription drug misuse and abuse and prevent overdose deaths through community education among their teen peers and adults. A few of their accomplishments include the development of various videos highlighting interviews in the Zindagi Radio "Voices" program and participation in workshops in the Teens Tackling Tobacco Conference. Together, they created the Youth Blog which is the newest addition to the work of the NCAPDA and MEDS coalitions. The Ambassadors have been extremely effective at reaching out to the South Asian American community in Contra Costa and across the Bay Area.

NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP

*District III– Supervisor Diane Burgis
Diablo Valley Ranch (DVR)*

DVR has one of the most impressive reputations in the recovery community. Over the last 12 months of the pandemic, DVR implemented safety protocols that allowed the program to continue in-person services for an average of 30 clients per month. Program staff selflessly went above and beyond to provide Contra Costa residents with the support they needed, and in the face of its single COVID-19 outbreak, the staff managed to put the clients first, despite their own fears. DVR provided treatment to over 300 clients during the pandemic and worked extremely hard to further their recovery journey after leaving DVR. On top of COVID-19, DVR also experienced the 2020 fire season and PG&E outages, but was able to keep treatment running with minimal disruption. Day in and day out, DVR staff champion the values of quality, responsibility and resilience.