

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

January 28, 2013 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monterey County Administration Building

Monterey Room (2092), Second Floor

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901

- I. ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS** – Chair Alma Almanza called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Commissioners Present – Alma Almanza, Olivia Quezada, Mario Salazar, Stella Lauerma, Lew Bauman, Michael Bennett, Steve Matarazzo, Henry Bergstresser Tom Hicks, Lilia Chagolla, and Jose Vasquez.

Commissioners Not Present – Steve McCullough, Carmelita Garcia, Robert Greene, George Molano and Gabriel Camacho.

Guest and Staff Present – Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Equal Opportunity Associate Analyst Sonje Dayries and Deputy County Counsel Janet Holmes.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Almanza mentioned that she wanted to acknowledge Commissioner John Pinio, who recently retired, for his commitment and years of service on the Commission on Disabilities. The Commission would like to present him with a plaque; unfortunately he has not been able to make it to Salinas.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Vasquez made a motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 seconded by Commissioner Bennett; Commissioner Chagolla abstained; motion carried.

IV. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER BERGSTRESSER TO THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair Almanza announced that she was appointing Commissioner Bergstresser to the Outreach Committee. Commissioner Bergstresser accepted the appointment.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT/ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Lauerman reported that the Nominating Committee met and their nominees are: Commissioner Henry Bergstresser for Chair and Commissioner Michael Bennett for Vice Chair. Chair Almanza entertained other nominees, seeing none, Commissioner Henry Bergstresser was elected Chair. Chair Almanza entertained nominees for Vice Chair; Commissioner Vasquez nominated Commissioner Chagolla. Chair Almanza asked for the vote; Commissioner Bennett was elected Vice Chair. Commissioner Almanza thanked the Commission for their hard work and handed the meeting over to Commissioner Bergstresser.

VI. PRESENTATION BY WAYNE JOHNSON – DEAF & HARD OF HEARING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Mr. Wayne Johnson gave a presentation on “effective communication” as used in ADA. It does not specify any single accommodation, it varies on the person and their disability. Mr. Johnson reported that in some cases, staff is not aware of ADA requirements, especially in doctor’s office, hospitals and government entities. Mr. Johnson commented on the consequences of not having the appropriate sign language interpreters. Mr. Johnson reported that Monterey County has 36,238 deaf and hard of hearing residents. He believes the number is higher based on the number

of veterans and field workers in Monterey County. Commissioner Hicks asked if there were exemptions on accommodations. Mr. Johnson stated the only exemptions are “undue burden” and “changing the entity’s type of business.”

VII. COMMISSIONER BENNETT’S REPORT

a. Fort Ord Council

Commissioner Bennett reported that the situation at Fort Ord was not as difficult as he thought. Apparently the buildings being built are mostly government agencies and the others are slated for demolition.

b. In Home Supportive Service Advisory Committee

Commissioner Bennett reported that one of his concerns is that there is no way of knowing which homes are IHSS. This is something he will be addressing at their next meeting.

VI. OUTREACH REPORT

Commissioner Lauerma reported that she does not have the matrix completed as she had hoped. She has had few replies from the cities. She will contact them again by email and report at the March meeting.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Ethics Training – Deputy County Counsel Jan Holmes reported that County Counsel recommends that the new Commissioners and those who have not taken the Ethics training, take the on-line training provided by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

Reports from Commissioner Bennett
Outreach Committee Report
Report from Commissioner Chagolla

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Commissioner Almanza reminded the Commissioners of the Hearing Loop Conference being held on February 11, 2013 at the Monterey Public Library.

Commissioner Bauman thanked Commissioner Almanza for her work and dedication as Chair of the Commission.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.