

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

July 29, 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 Henry Bergstresser called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. The Chair welcomed our new Commissioner Michael Ferry, Director of Parks.

Commissioners Present – Henry Bergstresser, Alma Almanza, Stella Lauerman, Tom Hicks, Wayne Johnson, Jose Vasquez, Lilia Chagolla, Steve McCullough, Olivia Quezada, George Molano, Mario Salazar and Michael Ferry.

Commissioners Not Present – Gabriel Camacho, Steve Matarazzo, and Michael Bennett.

Guest and Staff Present – Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Equal Opportunity Specialist-Confidential Michelle Gomez and Deputy County Counsel Janet Holmes.

- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Almanza amended the minutes as follows: Paragraph IV., fourth line after “handicapped.” To read, *Commissioner Almanza stated that the term “handicapped” is offensive to people with disabilities.*

Commissioner Vasquez moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2013 as amended; seconded by Commissioner Hicks motion carried.

IV. MAIA CARROLL, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Ms. Carroll addressed the Commission and inquired as to what they wish to accomplish and how she can assist the Commission. The consensus of the Commissioners is that they want the public to be aware that this Commission exists, they want to be more visible in the community. Commissioner Lauerman stated they would like for Ms. Carroll to help in getting the word out by accessing the PSA in English and Spanish. The Commission can come up with a script, that the meetings are open to the public, that anybody can attend the meetings, whether or not they have a disability. Ms. Carroll suggested the Commission come up with a catchphrase that will make the public want to come to the meetings, that describes what the Commission is about. Ms. Carroll stated she can assist in getting out the agenda, public release or events. She also stated if they want to do outreach through the media, someone has to be in charge of taking the calls. Someone needs to be available to take the call, to articulate the advocacy of the Commission. Ms. Carroll suggested that they discuss this among themselves and come up with volunteers to take the calls. Another suggestion was making presentations to the Rotary club, Lions Club and to other agencies that assist people with disabilities.

Ms. Carroll asked if the Commission takes positions on national issues. Jan Holmes County Counsel replied that she would have to review the Bylaws; I see the Commission as having a two-fold scope of influence and responsibility. One is as a resource service for the disabled community; if an individual wants to know what resources are available for people with disabilities, the Commission has an assortment of resources that can be available. The other area is that the Commission also serves as a resource for the public to find out how better to serve the needs for people who happen to have different disabilities. I think that there are store owners and business people and public entities who would want to know how they can do a better job serving people who have different disabilities. Commissioner Almanza indicated that if people come with issues that are affecting them or even businesses, the fact that the Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors is very important, because many people don't have the time to come to the Board of Supervisors meetings. Attending our meetings is a little more friendly and some of us represent the Supervisors and we can take their concerns to the Supervisors.

The Commission thanked Ms. Carroll for her assistance and will be providing her with information requested.

V. REVIEW UNHANDYCAPPING LANGUAGE

Commissioner Almanza directed the Commissioners to look at the handout in their binders regarding “Unhandycapping Our Language” Commissioner Almanza stated Commissioners should be aware of the proper language especially since this Commission advocates for people with disabilities, know what is appropriate and what is not. She asked the Commissioners to take a few minutes to review the handout. Commissioner Quezada echoed Commissioner Almanza’s sentiment; she stated “we are trying to change people’s attitudes about how disabilities are viewed, our disabilities do not define us as to who we are.” Commissioner Molano pointed out that mental retardation is no longer appropriate, it is now referred to as intellectual disability.

VI. COMMISSIONER BENNET’S REPORT

Commissioner Bennett was not present.

VII. OUTREACH REPORT

Commissioner Lauerman thanked Commissioner Almanza for assisting in making the phone calls to the cities. Commissioner Lauerman provided the Commissioners with an updated spread sheet of scheduled presentations to the cities. Commissioner Lauerman reported that Commissioner Bergstresser made a presentation to the City of Carmel on June 4th; and she made a presentation on July 23rd to the City of Salinas. Commissioner Vasquez volunteered to present to the City of Greenfield. Commissioner McCullough will present to the City of Monterey and Chambers of Commerce and Big Sur. There was also discussion in going out and presenting to other groups, e.g., parent groups, Special Kids Crusade, I.H.S.S.

VIII. RETREAT – TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

The Commissioners suggested the following topics for the retreat:

- Public Service – how to get the word out that this Commission exists
- Acknowledgment of entities
- Goals – revisit goals and making them two-year plan

IX. DISCUSS THE REMOVAL OF COMMISSIONERS

This was deferred to next meeting.

X. COMMISSIONER CHAGOLLA’S REPORT

Commissioner Chagolla stated she had no report at this time.

Commissioner Hicks stated that he had received a request from Sherrie Collins to give a presentation on the Commission. Commissioner Chagolla will look into this.

XI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Report from Commissioner Bennett
Report from Commissioner Chagolla
Removal of Commissioners

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Commissioner Quezada reported she will invite Alliance on Aging as guest speaker for next meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.