

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

September 30, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Monterey County Administration Building

Monterey Room (2092), Second Floor

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901

Retreat Minutes

I. ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS

Chair Henry Bergstresser called the Retreat meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Commissioners Present – Henry Bergstresser, Stella Lauerman, Wayne Johnson, Jose Vasquez, Lilia Chagolla, Olivia Quezada, George Molano, Mario Salazar and Michael Bennett.

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

Guest and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Equal Opportunity Specialist-Confidential Michelle Gomez, Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonje Dayries and Deputy County Counsel Jan Holmes, Resource Management Director Benny Young, Gail Kemp and Laura Keen Interpreters, John Boulanger and John Duke representatives of Gulf Coast Enterprises.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

III. ADA TRANSITION PLAN

Ms. Ramirez-Bough reported that she invited Benny Young, Resource Management Agency Director to provide the Commission with a status update of the County's ADA Transition Plan. Mr. Young reported that about a year ago he attended one of the Commission's

meeting and it was pointed out that the current ADA Transition Plan out of date. Mr. Young stated that he and Mario Salazar are pursuing an update for the County's ADA Transition Plan which relates to the county facilities. They selected a firm out of Sacramento, who did a comprehensive study of the 21 more highly accessed facilities; 17 of those were public buildings. The firm used the following criteria in its evaluation accessible parking, public counters, clearance areas, signage and etc. Mr. Young indicated that the Consultants set in place a format that can be used for tracking and the continuing update of the Plan. Mr. Young reported that Mario Salazar will be attending the meeting and will have the Executive Summary available for the Commission to review. Mr. Young explained that the Plan will require the review the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee and the Commission, with final approval from the Board of Supervisors. He also indicated the he will provide the Equal Opportunity Office the date and time when the matter will be heard before the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee, so that Commissioners may attend.

Commissioner Molano asked if the consultants were looking at the facilities and employment or just the facilities accessibility. Mr. Young replied that that their focus was oriented towards facilities access and program barriers. Mr. Young stated that the departments recognize that we have an obligation to make sure that our citizens can avail themselves of our programs and services without barriers. He stated that there is a process for people that have complaints; they can bring them to the attention of the Equal Opportunity Officer. We have to work together to make sure that our citizens can access the programs without any barriers and at the same time comply with the Federal and State requirements.

Ms. Ramirez-Bough stated that employment is covered in the Equal Opportunity Plan. She also stated the Transition Plan is designed to address disability access compliance of Current County programs, services, activities and facilities with the American with Disabilities Act, California Government Codes and California Code of Regulations, Title 24 (California Building Codes) and provides recommendations for future corrective actions. Ms. Ramirez-Bough stated that she is working with two County Counsel attorneys, Jesse Avila and Jan Holmes, Mr. Benny Young, Commissioner Salazar and various other department heads on updating the County's ADA

Transition Plan. She indicated that the Commission will have the opportunity to provide their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the Transition Plan.

County Counsel Jan Holmes reported that Michael Ferry had asked her to share with the Commission his commitment as Director of Parks, to improving access to the county parks. Ms. Holmes stated Mr. Young's employees, through Public Works, have done a really extraordinary job with accommodating special needs that face facilities and the people we serve. We are going to continue to augment those programs and services.

Commissioner Johnson said he would be very interested in serving in those programs and services especially, in services provided to the deaf and hard of hearing as that is one area that is often not seen as an access issue and I have some ideas that can make that more accessible across the board. Often times, when customers request a sign language interpreter, they are told "bring a family member, bring your own, or you have to pay for one." The person will then turn around and leave. I think this is an area that needs focus.

County Counsel Jan Holmes stated that this is an opportunity to learn through the efforts of others, engage all the departments to work together. Commissioner Lauerman asked if there was a time line. Mr. Young stated that this will be a systematic process; he hopes to have all 1 and 2's deficiencies completed in five years. Commissioner Salazar reported that the copies of the Executive Summary were in the process of being printed. He will provide them to Ms. Ramirez-Bough when ready.

The Chair thanked Mr. Young for taking the time to come before the Commission.

GOALS

The Commission revisited and made changes and additions to their goals. They also agreed to make them a two-year plan for 2013-15. The goals will be edited with recommendations and brought back to the Commission for their review and approval.

The Commission discussed updating the COD website and the Brochure. Ms. Ramirez-Bough volunteered Michelle Gomez to work on the website with the assistance of Sonje Dayries. Commissioner Lauerman volunteered to help with the design and translation of the revised COD Brochure.

ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Ramirez-Bough stated that she will submit the report on behalf of the Commission. She would like to highlight the outreach accomplishments. If businesses and/or individuals are recognized that could be included in the report. She would do a separate report for recommendations on the County's ADA Transition Plan.

BOARD RESOLUTION

Ms. Ramirez-Bough indicated that the Resolution was a sample for the Commissioners to consider. Ms. Ramirez-Bough asked the Commissioners to provide us with any other Resolutions they would like to submit to the Board and to provide to staff.

- IV. Due to lack of time, the scheduled Commissioners were unable to give their presentation. Commissioners Chagolla and Quezada requested to be placed on the agenda for the November meeting.
- V. Closing and Recess
The Retreat was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.