

# MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

## Minutes of

March 23, 2012 - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Laguna Seca Recreation Area  
Red Bull Energy Center  
1025 Monterey-Salinas Highway 68  
Salinas, CA 93908

- I. **ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS** – Chair Alma Almanza called the meeting to order. She welcomed all Commissioners and thanked them for attending the Celebration.

Commissioners Present – Alma Almanza, Mario Salazar, Lilia Chagolla, Olivia Quezada, Jose Vasquez, Stella Lauerman, Steve McCullough, Henry Bergstresser, Eric Heckman, Michael Bennett and Carmelita Garcia.

Commissioners Not Present – John Pinio, Gabriel Camacho, George Molano, Bob Greene, and Steve Matarazzo.

Guest and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough, Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonje Dayries, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Equal Opportunity Specialist-Confidential Michelle Gomez, and Deputy County Counsel Heather Lenhardt. Guests: Executive Director Elsa Quezada of Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) and Denika Boardman.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Elsa Quezada from CCCIL stated that the Governor wants to have the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) go into Managed Care. Ms. Quezada suggested that the Commission invite Irene Cole and Robert Taniguchi from the IHSS Program to discuss the impact it will have on the community. Ms. Quezada also inquired about the Commission holding its meeting every other month instead of every month. She believes there are many issues that affect people with disabilities in our County that the Commission could address.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Vasquez moved to approve the minutes of January 30, 2012; seconded by Commissioner Chagolla. The minutes of January 30, 2012 were approved.

## **IV. DISCUSSION ON THE MARINA MT. CARMEL ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FIRE**

Commissioner Bennett stated that a Resolution has been passed by the City of Marina where residential facilities with 6 persons or less will require sprinklers. This will now become a law in the City of Marina. Commissioner Bennett said he has approached Supervisor Parker and other Supervisors to make this a county wide law. He is asking the Commissioners bring this issue to their

Supervisors. He is also asking that the people who operate these facilities be trained and demonstrate that they can evacuate the residents in emergency situations. Commissioner Bennett stated that he is trying to bring this issue to State level. Commissioner Bennett would like the Commission to draft a letter to the Board recommending that this become law within Monterey County. Commissioner Garcia stated that there was legislation submitted. However, it was veto by the Governor because he felt there would be a financial burden. Hopefully, Assemblyman Monning can pull it up and amend it accordingly. Commissioner Garcia stated she supports 100% the cities coming on board with resolutions. She suggested that the Commission review the legislation (which can be found online). Commissioner Garcia commented that the families of those who died, had no resources to turn to. She stated that maybe the Commission can make a recommendation that when there are situations like this, individuals can dial 2-1-1 and receive information on the type of resources available to them. It was suggested that the Commission contact the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and they might be able to help with resources. Commissioner Bergstresser commented that perhaps situations like this can be avoided by having regular fire drills to be better prepared; this could be another route to go along with Commissioner Bennett's plan.

Commissioner Vasquez suggested inviting Congressman Sam Farr. Commissioner Garcia stated that she recently met with Congressman Sam Farr and he was very when he found out that this Commission exists. She feels he would be willing to attend. Commissioner Garcia suggested that one of the Commissioners contact Sam Farr, Assemblymen Alejo and Monning to invite them to a meeting. The Commission can call a special meeting, if all three are able to attend. Commissioner McCullough stated he will contact them and inform Staff. It will either be April 12<sup>th</sup> or April 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff to book the Monterey Room. Commissioner Garcia will initiate the resolution for the City of Pacific Grove. Commissioner Vasquez will do South County. It was suggested that when making the pitch for these meetings, the Commission asked for a report as to the background of of legislation that was introduced, the reason for the veto, and state what the Commission wants as a remedy.

Ms. Quezada from CCCIL stated that this was a state issue and suggested to invite Assemblymen Monning and Alejo only, so that they could discuss the issue. She stated that Congressman Farr could be supportive but could not do anything at the Federal level. She also said that the Commission should ask the assemblymen to inquire about the status of legislation before requesting that they propose passage of legislation regarding this issue.

Denika Boardman, CCCIL System's Change Coordinator, offered to provide Commissioner McCullough the contact information for both Assemblymen's staff and any assistance she could provide.

## **VI. OUTREACH UPDATE**

Commissioner Lauerman asked if the Commission wanted the Outreach Committee to go out in to the community and other organizations and provide them with the power point presentation; so that the community is aware of the existence of this Commission. Also, this will help with filling the current vacancies.

Commissioner Quezada requested that copies of the power point presentation be provided to the Commissioners, so they can make changes and/or suggestions. Commissioner Garcia suggested that perhaps Commissioners can volunteer to give presentations to all city councils.

## **VII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Report on the progress of the legislation
- Invite Irene Cole and Robert Taniguchi to discuss IHSS and the impact it will have on the community
- Commission to have a disability awareness training
- Training on the Brown Act

- Discussion on amending the Bylaws to reflect holding monthly meetings and composition of Commission
- Recommendations and/or suggestions on resources for the people affected by the Marina fire

#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

Commissioner Lauerma handed out invitations to the Kernes Pool Anniversary Celebration on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Ms. Elsa Quezada reminded the Commissioners that March is Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month. She said there will be an exhibit on brain injury at the National Steinbeck Center from February 3 through the end of March.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to attend, meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.