

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

January 31, 2011 - 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 Almanza called the meeting to order.

Commissioners Present – Alma Almanza, James Bogan, Debra Bolger, Lilia Chagolla, Laura Harris, John Pinio, Carmelita Garcia, Eric Heckman, Steve McCullough, Jose Vasquez, and Stella Lauerman.

Commissioners Not Present – Carolyn Hinds, Mario Salazar, George Molano and Robert Greene.

Guest and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Bonita Monarque, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Deputy County Counsel Stacy Saetta, and Central Coast Center for Independent Living Program Manager Olivia Quesada.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Olivia Quesada introduced herself to the Commission.

Chair Almanza thanked Ms. Monarque for her work and commitment to the EO Office and to the Commission. The Commission wished her well in her new endeavor.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Almanza made a correction to the minutes, under Announcement and Events, Page 4, second paragraph second to last sentence should read “representative to the IHSS Advisory Committee.” Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the minutes of

November 5, 2010, as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Chagolla. The minutes of the November 5, 2010 meeting were approved as amended.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioners Pinio presented the slate of officer recommending that Commissioner Almanza be nominated as Chair and Commissioner Garcia as the Vice Chair. Commissioner Pinio open the floor for other nominations. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Chagolla made a motion that Alma Almanza be nominated for Chair and Carmelita Garcia for Vice Chair; motion seconded by Commissioner Bolger. Election was held by “show of hands”, Commissioner Almanza was voted as Chair and Commissioner Garcia as Vice Chair for 2011.

V. DISCUSSION ON DEFINING THE COMMISSION’S JURISDICTION

The Chair stated that while Supervisor Parker made a statement that the Commission has jurisdiction countywide at a Commission meeting, the City Councils have a different opinion. Chair Almanza pointed out that most of the cities do not have a representative on the Commission, by their own choosing. Commissioner Garcia stated that not knowing the Commission’s jurisdiction has always been an issue. Deputy County Counsel Saetta stated that everyone is a county resident whether living in the city or not; there shouldn’t be anything to prevent the Commission from working jointly with incorporated areas of the County. Commissioner Garcia suggested that the second WHEREAS of the Resolution be amended to include language that states “all of Monterey County inclusive.”

Ms. Saetta stated that if the Commission wants to clarify their role, they may have to amend the Bylaws.

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to direct staff to consult with Sonje and County Counsel to look at the Resolution particularly, the second WHEREAS to reword it to include authority countywide including unincorporated areas and also to review the Bylaws with regards to how that change fits the Bylaws, motion seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion carried. Ms. Saetta will meet with Deputy County Counsel Rob Shulman and ask him to make recommendations or revisions to language for the Resolution and Bylaws. Staff will agendize this matter for the March meeting.

VI. UPDATE ON GREENFIELD ADA RAMPS

Commissioner Garcia reported that she received an email from Hank Myers, stating the bid opening was delayed; but it has now gone out and it is anticipated the contract should be awarded within 30 days.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Speaker Robert Weber information on MST Services
- Outreach Committee report – Commissioner Bogan
- Discuss and approve changes made to Resolution and Bylaws
- Establish the Commission's goals
- Discussion on co-sponsoring the Ability Awareness Fair

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT AND EVENTS

Commissioner Bogan announced the AT&T Golf Tournament is next week. Anyone interested, please get in touch with Commissioner Bogan.

Commissioner Garcia announced that Pacific Grove has now designated all recreational areas as non-smoking. Commissioner Pinio inquired how they were going to enforce said policy. Commissioner Garcia stated it is a “self enforcement law.” She also announced that February is African American month and the theme for this year is African Americans in the Civil War.

Commissioner Harris stated she will compile an “awareness month” list. She asked that Commissioners email her their suggestions. She will prepare a calendar and email to Ms. Cantu. Commissioner Harris mentioned that March is Cerebral Palsy Awareness month and Mental Retardation month. Chair Almanza requested that she email the list to staff. April is National Autism Awareness month. Commissioner Harris announced that in October Special Kids Crusade will be holding its Ability Awareness Fair and asked if the Commission can be a co-sponsor. Deputy County Counsel Ms. Saetta will find out whether the Commission needs Board approval. Chair Almanza stated that the Commission had discussed with the previous EO Officer and Sonje including agencies’ information links on the Commission website. She added that she would also like all announcements and events to be posted. Ms. Ramirez-Bough stated she will be meeting with Information Technology to discuss updating the website. The Chair stated that Sonje was going to get information on how to get into the Commission’s website. Ms. Ramirez-Bough stated that we have an IT webmaster that makes all the changes. She will connect with Sonje on this. Commissioner Bolger will provide staff with a list of ADA Coordinators. This will also be posted on the Commission’s website.

The issue of vacancies was discussed again. Commissioner McCullough will write a letter asking the cities to appoint a representative. Commissioner Garcia mentioned that she can distribute the letter at the Mayors' luncheon that will be held this week. Commissioner Garcia invited Commissioner McCullough to speak at the luncheon about the Commission.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.