

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

February 27, 2009 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monterey County Administration Building

Board of Supervisors' Chambers, First Floor

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901

- I. **ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS** – Chair Almanza called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Commissioners Present – James Bogan, Debra Bolger, Carmelita Garcia, Eric Heckman, Carolyn Hinds, Candise Pratt, Robert Greene, John Pinio, Mario Salazar and Jose Vasquez.

Commissioners Not Present – George Molano.

Guests and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, and Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Bonita Monarque.

- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Almanza made a correction to the minutes on Page 2, Paragraph V. last line should read as follows: *Chair Almanza removed herself from the Committee.* The minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Election of Officers - Commissioner Garcia stated the Committee would like to submit for nomination the following Commissioners: Alma Almanza for Chair and James Bogan for Vice Chair. Commissioner Alma Almanza was elected Chair and Commissioner James Bogan as Vice Chair for 2009.

- B. Declare April as Traumatic Brain Injury Month - Commissioner Bolger stated that traumatic brain injury is the number one killer of young people. Commissioner Bolger said there are over 3,000 people in California with traumatic brain injury. Commissioner Bolger would like staff to submit a Resolution to the Board declaring April as Traumatic Brain Injury month. Commissioner Almanza stated that CCCIL now has a support group that provides services to people who suffer from traumatic injury. She stated that there were no services available in Monterey County prior to April of last year. Commissioner Bogan stated there are a lot of veterans who suffer from TBI and suggested that the Resolution come before the Board on the same day that they hold the "Troop Homecoming." Mr. Medrano stated he will work with Commissioners Bogan and Bolger to come up with the appropriate language for the Resolution.
- C. Approve Endorsement of the Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County Cultural Competency Conference and County-Wide Initiative - Chair Almanza stated that she was contacted by the agency who is working on the initiative and is requesting the Commission's endorsement. Commissioner Bogan suggested the request be reviewed by County Counsel first, as the Commission may not have that authority. Commissioner Garcia suggested that a representative be invited to address the Commission on the initiative. The Chair appointed Commissioners Pinio and Heckman to look into this issue and report back to the Commission. Mr. Medrano stated that before the Committee moves forward, he and the Chair should meet first.

D. Strategies for Conducting Commission Business in an Environmentally Responsible Manner – Chair Almanza stated that in the spirit of caring for the environment, all mailings to the Commissioners should be provided via email. Mr. Medrano stated that Staff is already providing the Equal Opportunity Advisory Commission materials via email. However, this may not be possible for this Commission because the Monterey Room is not equipped with the proper equipment to view the materials and some Commissioners may not want to print the documents from home. After some discussion, it was decided that Commissioners notify Staff as to their preference. Commissioner Garcia suggested that those that prefer email, notify Staff of their current email address. Mr. Medrano stated that Staff will be happy to continue to provide hard copies to those Commissioners who request them.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Work Plan Ad Hoc Committee Report – Commissioner Garcia stated the Committee had drafted an Accessibility Audit. She stated that if HR can answer these questions, the audit would provide the Commission an opportunity to follow-up with actual department heads or the ADA Coordinator. Commissioner Heckman stated that video phones should be included in No. 16 since video phones are used in a much higher percentage than what is listed. Commissioner Mario Salazar stated that he may be able to address operational issues directly; other issues he may refer to County personnel. Mr. Medrano stated that he would like to meet with the Committee first before presenting it to HR Links. HR Links consists of County analysts and staff who report to

department heads. Commissioner Garcia would like to continue this item for next meeting. Commissioner Almanza commented that it would be better received if it read "Accessibility Survey" and not "Audit."

B. Approve 2008 goals

This item was not discussed.

C. Outreach Committee Report

No report.

D. COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATION TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Commissioner Hinds stated that the Committee met and discussed the probability of cuts to In Home Supportive Services. Commissioner Hinds also announced the arrival of 2-1-1. This is a program that will be managed by United Way.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT AND EVENTS

Commissioner Garcia announced that Commissioner Robin Whitley moved to Florida and suggested we send her a thank you letter. Mr. Medrano stated Staff will take care of this. Commissioner Garcia provided Staff with the name of a potential Commissioner. Commissioner Garcia suggested that the Commission take a trip to Pacific Grove to visit the museum and acknowledge Pacific Grove for their outstanding participation. Commissioner Garcia announced that this is Lewis Braille's bicentennial birthday and gave a brief history on Mr. Braille.

Commissioner Hinds announced the MCCEPD Spring Luncheon for March 19, 2009. Commissioners will be provided with a flyer.

Commissioner Pratt would like to recognize Commissioner Vasquez for his work on the Greenfield Bridge. Chair Almanza stated she would like this item to be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA

**Greenfield Bridge
Survey**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Almanza declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.