

# Minutes for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities



## Minutes

**MONDAY, June 26, 2006 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM**

MINUTES FOR THE  
MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Hartnell College Main Campus  
Board Room (CAB 112)  
156 Homestead Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901

**I. ROLL CALL AND GREETING OF VISITORS** - Chair John Pinio called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Commissioners Present – Amy Allard, Alma Almanza, MaryLea Almeida, James Bogan, James Cromarty, Carolyn Hinds, James M. Krossa, John Pinio, Manuel Ramos and Charlene Wiseman.

Commissioners Not Present – Robert Davis, and Anna Foglia.

Guests and Staff Present – Hartnell College Lead Counselor Wayne Davis, Assistant County Counsel Lee Blankenship; Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonjé Dayries; and Administrative Secretary Elisa Cantu.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of May 22, 2006 were approved. Chair Pinio abstained.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Pinio thanked Wayne Davis for assisting Dr. Stanley Crane in giving the commissioners a tour of the Hartnell College Library prior to the commission meeting. The commissioners made positive comments and gave a few suggestions.

**A. Wayne Davis, Lead Counselor at Hartnell College**

Wayne Davis recounted how when he began at Hartnell College (Hartnell) 30 years ago, the biggest challenge he encountered was attitudinal barriers. Staff questioned the need for accommodations because there weren't any disabled students. However, over the course of 30 years, attitudes have changed and now

the campus is accessible so that disabled students can attend Hartnell.

Mr. Davis discussed the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) which offers a full range of support services and instruction. He said that the number one goal of the program is for the DSP&S students to engage in self advocacy when they leave Hartnell. He stated that 40 DSP&S students a year graduate from Hartnell and there are many success stories. Bill Freeman is a Board Member of the Hartnell Community College District Board of Trustees; Justin Patterson was just selected to the 2006 U.S. Wheelchair Rugby Team, the sport and several of the team players were chronicled in the 2005 Oscar nominated movie Murderball; Lynette Whitfield used her knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act to seek improvements in access at the train depot; and Commissioner Ramos is a recent Hartnell graduate. According to Mr. Davis, about 3% of students in the California community college system have disabilities. He estimated that DSP&S serves 540 students per year which is about 7% of the Hartnell students. He stated that information about DSP&S is advertised in the Hartnell class schedule, Hartnell recruits from its 13 feeder schools, and staff at DSP&S work closely with student services counseling programs.

**B. Action Item – Vote on amendments to the bylaws**

Commissioner Almanza made a motion to approve the recommended amendments to the bylaws; motion seconded and carried. Chair Pinio stated that he will work with Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano and Assistant County Counsel Lee Blankenship to prepare the Board Report for approval of the amended bylaws by the Board of Supervisors.

**C. Disabled Access at Monterey Municipal Harbor**

Commissioner Bogan announced that divers have requested that the Breakwater Launching Ramp at the Monterey Municipal Harbor be closed to fishing. The ramp which has a fully wheelchair accessible gangway is the only location that is accessible for the disabled to fish. He requested that the commission draft a letter in support of keeping the ramp open to fishing.

Assistant County Counsel Lee Blankenship informed the commissioners that they could authorize the drafting of a letter to go to the Harbormaster or they could prepare a letter for the Board of Supervisors to review. He said that he would review the bylaws to determine if the commission has the authority to send a letter to the Harbormaster without approval from the Board of Supervisors. Assistant County Counsel Lee Blankenship suggested Equal Opportunity Officer David Medrano contact Harbormaster Steve Scheiblaue to get additional information on this item.

Commissioner Allard suggested that each commissioner write a letter to the Harbormaster on behalf of the organizations they represent.

**D. Equal Opportunity Officer Remarks**

Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonjé Dayries reported on the June 27, 2006 meeting held by the Planning Committee of the Workforce Investment Board Recognition Event.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Outreach Committee Report - Commissioner Bogan presented a report, from the May 31, 2006 committee meeting, which identifies the committee's objectives and a plan of action. Chair Pinio recommended that the Outreach Committee seek assistance from the County Public Information Officer Maia Carroll to develop the

media plan and distribute it to the media. Commissioner Krossa made a motion to receive the report; motion seconded and carried.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENT AND EVENTS**

**A.** Commissioner Hinds announced that on July 13, 2006 the Monterey County Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities is hosting a summer luncheon and raffle at Chapala Restaurant. The presenter will be Disability Program Navigator Maria Castillo.

**B.** Commissioner Bogan announced that on July 4, 2006 the Monterey Bay Veterans is hosting a barbecue at the Breakwater Cove.

## **VII. FUTURE AGENDA**

**A.** Discuss the proposed Commission on Disabilities Annual Report.

**B.** The September 25, 2006 commission meeting will be held at Royal Oaks. Chair Pinio announced that since September marks the 40th Anniversary of the parks system he is going to invite the Board of Supervisors, and the current and former Park Commissioners to the barbecue scheduled after the commission meeting.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Pinio declared the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.