

MONTEREY COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

September 27, 2010 - 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, Robert Greene, Laura Harris, Carolyn Hinds, Mario Salazar, John Pinio, Carmelita Garcia, Eric Heckman, Steve McCullough, Jose Vasquez, and Stella Lauerman.

Commissioners Not Present – George Molano.

Guest and Staff Present – Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough, Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Bonita Monarque, Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst Sonjé Dayries, Administrative Secretary-Confidential Elisa Cantu, Deputy County Counsel Robert Shulman, Management Specialist David Medrano, Andrea Dowdall and Theo Kosub, Executive Assistant to MST General Manager.

- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Almanza introduced our new Equal Opportunity Officer Irma Ramirez-Bough. She also welcomed our new Commissioner Stella Lauerman.

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 26, 2010 meeting were approved; Commissioners Pino, Garcia and McCullough abstained.

- IV. **SPEAKER – ANDREA DOWDALL**

Ms. Andrea Dowdall of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Quality of Life Project gave a brief presentation on the services offered by their organization.

In 2004 they developed the Pace Management Program as people with multiple sclerosis were not getting the help as others with chronic illnesses were receiving. Ms. Dowdall stated her main focus is to assess their clients' needs first. They have assisted over 200 clients since 2004. All services provided are free to their clients. They also assist them with legal issues, equipment and safety needs. Ms. Dowdall mentioned some of the issues they have encountered i.e. the restrooms in Fiesta Foods and some at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital were not ADA accessible. They have also encountered problems with MST Rides. Ms. Dowdall provided the Commission with their website www.msqip.org, telephone number (831) 333-9091.

The Commission thanked Ms. Dowdall for her presentation and commitment to people with disabilities.

Commissioner Harris suggested it would be helpful to have each of the Commissioners give a brief presentation on their organization. Commissioner Chagolla volunteered to give a presentation at the November meeting.

V. DISCUSS LETTER TO MAYOR CHUCK DELLA SALA

Commissioner Bogan would like a letter of support from the Commission to address the matter of the ADA dock, as stated in a letter to Mayor Della Sala. Commissioner Bogan stated people with disabilities have had to wait about 20 minutes because the boats were blocking their access. It was decided that Commissioner Bogan will draft a letter and bring it back for the full Commission's approval.

VIII. OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT – COMMISSIONER BOGAN

Commissioner Bogan said he is working on getting information out through the Monterey County Channel. He asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to work on this project. Commissioners Bogan, McCullough, Harris and Bolger volunteered.

Commissioner Bogan also discussed an issue they had with MST Rides. According to Commissioner Bogan, three disabled clients (veterans) traveled from Marina to attend the Salinas California Rodeo. After the rodeo, they called MST for a return ride and were refused to be picked up. After some discussion, Commissioner Garcia asked if the Commission has the authority to look into this issue. Deputy County Counsel Shulman advised that the Commission can ask questions on certain matters and then report back to the Board. Chair Almanza requested that Commissioner Bogan provide her with the date and names of the clients. She will contact the General Manager of MST and report back to the Commission

IX. REPORT ON IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – COMMISSIONER HINDS

Commissioner Hinds did not have a report at this time.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair Almanza will report back on her conversation with the General Manager of MST. Commissioner Harris announced she has two speakers for the November meeting; she can cancel one if there is not sufficient time. Other agenda items mentioned were the goals of the commission. Commissioners are to email one or two goals to Ms. Cantu. Commissioner Chagolla will give a brief presentation on her organization.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Theo Kosub, Executive Assistant to MST General Manager addressed the Commission on the Regional Taxi Authority. He stated they are attempting to form a Technical Advisory Committee and are looking for

advocates. He asked if Commissioners were interested, to give him a call.

Chair Almanza stated the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act. Chair Almanza said October is known as the month of people with disabilities. She would like a resolution to go before the Board acknowledging October as People With Disabilities Month. Commissioner Harris will prepare a list of events/anniversaries for the Commission. The Commission can select which ones should be recognized by the Board. Ms. Dayries stated she will prepare the resolution and arrange to have it go before the Board.

Commissioner Hinds announced the Awards Luncheon for the Employment of Individuals with Disabilities will be held at the Hyatt in Monterey on October 21, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Kathy Martinez, US Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy.

Commissioner Harris announced the Special Kids Crusade on October 9, 2010 at the Monterey Marriott.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.