

ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

Advisory Board Name: Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board

Advisory Board Meeting Time and Location: Fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:45 to 6:15pm in Concord; however, each quarter the Advisory Board meets at different supervisorial districts locations to outreach to those residents.

Chair: Katy-Ann S. Kelley

Staff Person: Fatima Matal Sol

Activities:

The following goals were identified during the Board's Annual Retreat for prioritization during the calendar year 2009: 1) Educate the community about the dangers of alcohol and drugs and underage drinking, 2) Continue advocacy for constituents, 3) Strengthen the organizational structure of the Board, and 4) Support Health Services Department's Initiative to Reduce Health Disparities

Accomplishments:

Goal 1.

Educate the community about the dangers of alcohol and drugs and underage drinking

Our efforts to raise parental awareness regarding youth access to alcohol through social venues was extremely successful. Not only we supported the passage of the Social Host Ordinance, but we also co-sponsored three Town Hall Meetings on Underage Drinking and the Social Host Ordinance.

Goal 2.

Increase Advocacy for Constituents

The Board advocated for additional resources for the Juvenile Drug Court and received \$1000 in donation from a local church, towards the purchase of bus passes and alcohol tests. Likewise, to continue the work related to older adults, we participated in the Mental Health Prevention and Intervention Services Act process for Older Adults. Like in previous years, we had a visible presence at Health Fairs and community events. Finally in September, we celebrated National Recovery Month and participated in the Recovery Walk by bringing various health resources for clients and their families.

Goal 3.

Strengthen the Internal Organization of the Board

While this remains a continuous effort, the Board operates more efficiently and has resolved the definition of a quorum. As such, it has increased our ability to hold regular and productive meetings. We continued positive relations with many county departments, divisions and community coalitions. In July, the Board held its Annual Strategic Retreat to develop an Action Plan with realistic goals and objectives. During September, the Advisory Board as well as the Board of Supervisors recognized two Board members for their outstanding accomplishments during their tenure on the Board. As a result, the language in our by-laws were changed to reflect that upon resignation Board members who have served in good standing for at least a five year period will be honored. We have instituted new strategies to outreach, recruit and educate new members as they join the Board.

The Community Awareness Committee:

The Committee continued its mission to increase public awareness related to alcohol and other drug issues through outreach in the community and advocated for prevention, treatment and recovery support for all age groups. To accomplish its goal, the committee conducted the 13th Annual “**People Who Make a Difference Awards**,” recognizing individuals and groups in the community for their leadership and dedication to reducing the use of alcohol and other drugs. Through the participation in the Underage Drinking Town Hall meetings, new collaborations were developed with the Miramonte High School parents in Orinda and other prevention programs. For the first time, we participated in the Pulmonary Health Fair sponsored by the John Muir Health Foundation and visited the St. Mary’s 55+ program in Oakland to further understand the specific needs of older adults in regards to alcohol and other drugs services. We prepared two resolutions to the Board of Supervisors for Alcohol Awareness Month focusing on “Women and Alcohol” and recognized community coalition efforts in Richmond to prevent youth access to alcohol during Red Ribbon Week in October.

The Public Policy Committee was relatively inactive during 2009 primarily due to internal transition factors. However, some members took initial steps towards the development of a blueprint for action in regards to the reduction of health disparities in alcohol and drugs services. (Goal 4)

The Youth and Family Committee successfully conducted one Diaper Drive with the assistance and collaboration of the Board of Supervisors District Offices. Local community churches far exceeded our expectations helping us collect 60 boxes of diapers, which were delivered to women’s AOD residential programs. Because there is so much need for diapers, women and staff at the programs were extremely grateful with our efforts. The diaper distribution was an opportunity to reconnect with programs and to learn more about unmet needs.

ATTENDANCE AND REPRESENTATION:

Meetings were held at two different locations in Concord. Adequate representation within all five districts is a continuous challenge; however, we strive to make every effort to diversify the Board. In 2010 with promising new members, the Board will reorganize committees with clear action plans. A tremendous amount of effort was devoted to maintain all seats filled; however, we struggled in some Districts more than in others.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Upon appointment to the Board, new members received an orientation by staff, which included information about the internal functioning of the Board, Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance, confidentiality laws, alcohol and other drugs services, etc. New members were advised to view the Brown Act information video prepared by County Counsel.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN/OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR: The Board will continue to work on most of the areas that were selected in 2009 until a new Retreat takes place during 2010. Additionally, the Board will increase efforts to reconnect with alcohol and other drugs providers to solicit their input, will advocate against further funding reductions within Alcohol and Other Drug Services, and will maintain ongoing recruitment.