

**Contra Costa County
Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

Meeting Time and Location: Meetings are regularly scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 4:00 to 6:15 pm in Martinez; except when the Board meets in different supervisorial districts to effectively outreach to those residents.
Board: 11 members; 1 from each supervisorial district plus 6 at large. Each member is appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
Interim Chair: Tom Aswad **Staff:** Fatima Matal Sol

Mission (as approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on August 28, 2012): *The mission of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) is to assess family and community needs regarding prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug- related problems. Resultant findings and recommendations are forwarded to the Health Services Department and the Board of Supervisors. The Board also serves as an advocate for these findings and recommendations to the communities that we serve.*

Activities:

During this calendar year, the Board adopted two goals: (1) Advocate for affordable Recovery Residences based on the Alcohol and Other Drugs Services (AODS) Guidelines, and (2) Support the reduction of youth use and access of alcohol and marijuana. Likewise, the Board continued support of the following priority areas: (1) Promote more interaction between the Board and its constituents; (2) Prepare recommendations for the BOS Legislative Platform (3) Raise awareness about specific prevention and treatment needs of 55+; and (4) Increase awareness of Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse.

Accomplishments:

As in previous years, the Board sponsored annual campaigns to raise awareness about Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) prevention, treatment and recovery efforts in the community. On June 5th, the BOS recognized seven individuals, three organizations, and five youth leaders with the “People Who Make a Difference Awards,” and in September a longtime advocate was recognized as the 2018 Recovery Champion. Similarly, Board members joined local community activists to proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month and October 23rd-31st as Red Ribbon Week in October.

In the spirit of fulfilling our mission to assess community needs and promoting interaction with our constituents, we participated in Soulful Softball Sunday in Richmond and the Wellness4Recovery fair in Concord. On each occasion, we surveyed the community about their perception of AOD issues and knowledge of available resources. Early in the year, the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) solicited community input on the Proposed Framework for Regulating Cannabis in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa. To encourage greater public involvement, we held our monthly Board meeting at Diablo Valley College in conjunction with the Addiction Studies program. The comments resulting from this meeting were included in the report submitted to the BOS by DCD. Additionally, we maintained liaison with the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, Mental Health Commission and the CCC MEDS and Tobacco Prevention Coalitions.

The Board’s commitment to reduce youth access to alcohol and marijuana was reflected through

our presence at BOS meetings where the Framework for Regulating Cannabis was discussed and **by attending** the “Speak Up: A Young Person’s Town Hall on Marijuana Policies” and the “Marijuana Prevention Youth Summit.” Both, the Town Hall and the Summit were aimed at elevating youth voices in light of marijuana legalization. **The two events provided an** opportunity to learn firsthand the direct impact that marijuana legalization will have on youth **to help** inform our advocacy efforts. With regards to alcohol, the DCD forwarded two alcohol license applications for our review and consideration. Consistent with public convenience and necessity, alcohol density and alignment with the County’s Deemed Approved Ordinance, we advised approval of both applications with conditions. Furthermore, we requested a letter of opposition from the BOS for SB 905 (Wiener) which would have allowed on-sale alcohol licenses, such as bars or restaurants, to remain open until 4am in six (6) experimental cities thereby utilizing legislation as a tool to reduce alcohol availability and access.

As a way to address the Opioid Epidemic locally, we supported the Prescription Drug Stewardship Ordinance, promoted distribution of Naloxone, and participated in the Dose of Awareness 5K Walk and Health Expo. In partnership with CCTV, we assisted in the development of *A Dose of Awareness*, a five part video series which focuses on the Opioid Epidemic and Contra Costa’s response.

FY2017-2018 marked the first year of the implementation of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver. The AODAB received monthly informational reports from AODS and maintained informal communication with AOD providers. In April, we joined staff as they conducted focus groups at residential facilities to understand whether or not access to treatment under the waiver had improved. In general, we were pleased to learn that wait lists for treatment have been eliminated and that clients in jail can directly call the Behavioral Health Access Line using a speed dial number. Because, sober living housing remains a priority for clients who complete treatment, the Board has successfully advocated for the use of Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funding toward Recovery Residences. Last year, the AODAB participated in the development of the Recovery Residence Guidelines and we hope that by the end of 2018 the very first group of clients will benefit from this new program addition. Besides joining focus groups, we visited one AOD treatment program to learn about their services and met with staff and clients.

Advisory Board Challenges: The Board achieved quorum on nine meetings in 2018 and canceled three due to lack of quorum. As a result, the BOS changed the quorum structure of the AODAB from 18 to 11 seats to facilitate the achievement of quorum.

Training and Certification: All new members received an orientation on internal governance, the Ralph M. Brown Act and the County’s Better Government Ordinance, as well as confidentiality, AODS, etc. Other sponsored educational presentations included “*Employment Resources and SUD*” and “Pain Management Treatment and the Opioid Epidemic.”

Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for 2019: We anticipate updating the goals and priorities for 2019 at a Board retreat in January. Activities will include community outreach and education, and updating language in the county’s Social Host Ordinance to include marijuana. The members of the AODAB are grateful to be of service to the BOS and the people of Contra Costa.