

# Disability Awareness Month Presentation

To

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Presented by the San Mateo County

Commission on Disabilities (CoD)

## CoD Strategic Plan Vision

- Create
- Educate
- Advocate
- Celebrate

Each CoD goal or objective falls under one of these actions.

## CoD 2020 challenges.

- We started 2019 with 21 Commissioners
  - Then we lost five Commissioners in 2020.
- When Shelter in Place was ordered in March, 2020 we missed one meeting.
  - Started virtual meetings in April with Microsoft Teams, Google Meet and settled on Zoom
  - We are still struggling with getting good captioning of meetings, but this is an ongoing issue in the industry.

## ADA Accessible County Facilities and Programs

- The ADA Committee has been working with County Staff to set up a plan for which buildings need to be ADA compliant to meet the needs of the disabled in San Mateo County and who will keep track of the changes on DacTrak.
- Another task is to work with County Website managers to make the County website accessible to all users. This will be an ongoing project.
- Physical site visit to the Tunitas Creek project to review plans for disability access.
- A job description was written for a Title II Coordinator, but recruitment was paused because of financial demands of the Pandemic

# Legislation, Advocacy and Outreach (LOA)

- Hate Crimes and Abuse Against People with Disabilities
  - We worked with the District Attorney's Office and Victim Services Division to have a round table discussion of how to recognize, and intervene to reduce abuse of the Developmentally Disabled and the Elderly.
  - The Round Table included Police Departments, public agencies that work with the Developmental Disabled and Abuse.
  - As a result of the ARG's work, the County's Crisis Intervention Training program Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities curriculum is being revised and enhanced with the goal of improving training for all law enforcement in the county.
  - Other plan is to provide Cognitive Behavioral Training of Developmental Disabled persons in recognizing potential danger, and how to seek help. The goal is to start this by February 2021

# Legislation, Advocacy and Outreach (LOA)

- Continuous Outreach and Education
  - LAO seeks out persons in the County who can tell the Commission about their activities in behalf of the disabled.
  - We look for gaps in services and unmet needs
  - We keep track and review legislation in the State and Nation that impact the disabled.
- Two Commissioners of the COD attend the San Mateo Legal Aid Town Hall for IHSS recipients. The goal is to have a safe place where recipients can voice their concerns about the program.

# Youth and Family

- The Youth and Family Committee has been revitalized with great leadership and committee members
- Their present goals include:
  - Shifting from a medical diagnostic model to a person centered approach.
  - Encouraging self-advocacy, agency, initiative, independence and life skills for long term success.
  - Reviewing & creating a consolidated resource of active programs and resources (2020: Ages 0-5; 2021: Ages 5-11; 2022: Ages 11-14, etc...)
  - Re COVID-19: Identify and share shifting practices for conducting student evaluations for services, especially for preschool and kindergarten transitions.

# Accessible Transportation

- The Committee developed surveys for Redi-Wheels and Fix Route Buses and how disabled persons found it accessible to their needs.
- These surveys have been paused, as the pandemic has greatly decreased ridership in both categories.



# Special Events Committee

- CoD Inclusion Festival – Disability Awareness in the Community
  - Was very successful in August 2019
  - The Event has been cancelled in 2020 and will not likely be resumed until the Covid Pandemic has declined to a level where people can safely gather in large groups.
- Angela Piazza, COD Vice President led a virtual meeting in July to talk with participants about how the ADA had affected their lives.
- Since almost all Special Events are gathering of many people the Special Events Committee ceased its meetings in July.

## CoD Executive Committee

- Assist Committees in carrying out their objectives
- Provide direction, guidance and oversight for Commission activities
- Monitor and evaluating progress of the CoD Strategic Plan.
- Worked with the County Counsel to develop a Board Resolution to eliminate the use of the word “handicap” in all county business. That initiative presented at a Board meeting in July when we also recognized the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA.

## Thank You

- We thank Supervisor Groom and the Board of Supervisors for your ongoing and continued support.