

Disability Awareness Month Presentation

To
The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Presented by the San Mateo County
Commission on Disabilities

CoD 2021 Strategic Plan Vision

- *Create*
- *Educate*
- *Advocate*
- *Celebrate!*

Each CoD goal or objectives fall under at least one of these actions.

CoD 2021 Challenges

- Due to the pandemic, several events which usually help educate, advocate and celebrate the disabilities community were cancelled, including the Annual Inclusion Festival, Art Showcase, and ADA Anniversary Celebration.
- Due to health and safety protocols, the ADA Compliance Commission was unable to perform its usually site visits of Transition Plan Projects.
- Many of the CoD's initiatives which involve public participation were put on hold due the shelter in place mandate

ADA

Compliance Committee

ADA Title II Coordinator

- In May 2019 –The CoD approved a model job description (as a full-time position in the County Manager's Office).
- In January 2020 County HR was ready to begin recruitment for the ADA Title II Coordinator Position when the Pandemic essentially put on hold on this indefinitely
- Currently County HR is in the process or re-opening recruitment
- Much of the work related to the County Transition Plan hinges on the filling of this position

ADA

2021 Committee Goals

1. Advise the County's Commission on Disabilities and the Board of Supervisors on the accessibility needs of County-owned, or leased property and facilities. To work with all the departments within the County to assure equal public access to facilities and programs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
2. Work to monitor and update the Transition Plan
3. Help educate County employees about the ADA.

ADA

2021 Committee Objectives

1. Continue partnering with the various County divisions in removing barriers throughout the County, these divisions include but are not limited to:
 1. Department of Public Works
 2. Health System
 3. Human Services
 4. Elections Office
2. Establish a priority list for removal of barriers
3. Continue to monitor the new Title II coordinator position moving forward

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Committee Area of Focus:

Hate Crimes &
Abuse Against
People with
Disabilities

2020-2021 Updates

- Created Abuse Roundtable Group (ARG) in partnership with DA's Office Victim Services Division; focus on prevention and reporting of abuse & prosecution of abusers
- ARG met five times since February 2020; most recently on September 29, 2021
- This group involved over 30 agencies, offices and organizations representing law enforcement, non-profits, legislative officials, government and direct service providers

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Hate Crimes &
Abuse Against
People with
Disabilities

2020-2021 Updates continued:

- ARG workgroup on Training for Law Enforcement collaborated with a local Crisis Intervention Team training group and expanded time focused on disabilities to 2 hours
- An article on the ARG was published in a local newspaper
- Several commissioners and other ARG participants were featured in a panel for a San Mateo Police Department YouTube series titled *Real Talk San Mateo*. This episode focused on law enforcement interactions with the disabilities community and was mentioned in a local newspaper.

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Committee Goal

Empower the disabilities community through awareness training, supporting victims and allies in reporting abuse, & continuing to educate direct service providers about signs of abuse and mandated reporting

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Committee Objectives

1. Coordinate Monthly Presentations at CoD General Meetings
2. Continue to advocate regarding gaps in services for the disabilities community
3. Continued review of legislation impacting disability community
4. Work with members of the ARG in finding ways to educate the public and bring justice to victims

Youth and Family

Committee 2020 Updates and Accomplishments

- Focused on 0-5 age groups by gathering program information and resources
- Compiled resources for families to assist in addressing special education and support services, especially during COVID (and ongoing impacts)
- Created resource material to distribute and share with families
- Resource material is available to the community through the San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities webpage

Youth and Family

2021

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1

Continue community outreach and support to address educational impacts & transitions (Ages 3-22) resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic, including creation of website posts & social media messaging to build stakeholders' self-advocacy & awareness of resources and opportunities.

Youth and Family

2021

Goals and Objectives

Goal #2

Coordinate with the Transition to Independence Fair (TIF) organizers to implement year-round engagement with the community of persons with disabilities aged 14-22 in order to share resources

Goal #3

Create space for youth with disabilities and their families & allies to develop messaging around a *shared presumption of competency, high expectations for success, person-centered planning and strengths-based practices* in school and community settings to promote greater success of all persons with disabilities.

Youth and Family

2021 Goals and Objectives

Goal #4

Advocate for the voices of youth and persons with disabilities to be included in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (“DEI”) initiatives, programs, and partnerships in San Mateo County.

Accessible Transportation

Meeting the
Transportation
Needs of the
Disability
Community

- Developed a Redi-Wheels & Redi-Coast Riders Survey
- Developed a fixed route survey
- Currently waiting for SamTrans and Redi-wheel ridership to trend back up before further distributing the survey

Accessible Transportation

Goals and Objectives

Goal

- Ensure public transit is safe and accessible to all with disabilities

Objectives

- Assess public transportation programs serving individuals with disabilities
- Provide input on ways to improve services
- Ensuring access to emergency transportation

Special Events

ADA 31st Anniversary Celebration

- Celebration held on July 26, 2021 via Zoom
- Over 50 in attendance
- Provided a presentation on the various titles of the ADA and quizzed attendees
- An open discussion was held on the importance of the ADA to the daily lives of the attendees

Special Events

CoD Inclusion
Festival

Disabilities
Awareness in
the Community

- Due to the pandemic, the CoD was unable to host this event in August of 2020 and 2021
- Currently there are plans to host this event in Redwood City on August 11th 2022

Special Events

Committee Goal and Objectives

Goal

- To bring visibility to the Commission on Disabilities by hosting public events and promote inclusion of the disabilities community.

Objectives

- Host the Annual Inclusion Festival in August 2022
- Host the Annual Art Showcase in October 2022

Thank You!

The CoD thanks Supervisor Groom and the Board of Supervisors for your ongoing and continued support.