

# Commission on Disabilities (CoD) 2024 Work Plan Update

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Create, Educate, Advocate and Celebrate!

# CoD 2024 Work Plan Vision

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

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

# Create

- Create an environment within the County that is fully inclusive and accessible.
- Create opportunities for the disabled community to have a voice in public policy development within the County.
- Create a dialogue with leaders within the County to increase greater awareness of issues impacting the disabled community.

# Educate

- Educate ourselves about the issues and concerns of the disabled community.
- Educate the County and general public regarding issues and concerns of the disabled community.
- Educate the County and general public about programs and services that assist people with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community.
- Serve as a resource in the County and community.

# Advocate

- Advocate within the County for a fully inclusive and accessible environment.
- Advocate across all disabilities for high-quality programs and services for the disabled community.
- Advocate within the County and beyond to empower individuals with disabilities to have a voice in policy decisions that directly affect them (“Nothing about us without us!”).
- Advocate to address systemic barriers to accessibility within the County.

# Agenda

1. ADA Compliance Committee Goals and Objectives
2. Legislative, Advocacy, and Outreach Committee
3. Youth and Family Committee
4. Accessible Transportation Committee
5. Special Events Committee
6. Executive Committee
7. Other

# ADA

## Accessible County Facilities & Programs

- **Working on updating San Mateo County's ADA Transition Plan:**
- The County made a significant investment (approx. \$500,000) in 2018 to have Disability Access Consultants (DAC) update the County's ADA Transition Plan which included **81** facilities and **160 miles** of public sidewalks in unincorporated San Mateo County.
- In September, the ADA Compliance Committee agreed to recommend the following projects for prioritization on the Capital Improvements Project list: Elysian Center, Canyon Oaks, Youth Service Center, North Fair Oaks Library, El Granada sidewalk improvements

# ADA

## 2023-2024 Accomplishments

### Summary of Work Year-to-Date

- In November 2023 committee began review of county owned and leased property list and identifying projects of interest for prioritization on the CIP
- Criteria for selection of recommended projects for the CIP included elements such as the volume of use, type of services offered, and availability of services elsewhere in the County
- Site visits were conducted at COB3, Cordilleras, Elysian Center, and Youth Receiving Home to consider areas of prioritization
- In September 2024 committee made its formal recommendation for projects to the CIP



# ADA

## 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. Help educate County employees about the ADA.

# ADA

## Committee Objectives

1. Continue partnering and fostering a reciprocal relationship 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
  5. County Executive Office (including Chief Equity Officer)
  6. County Parks
2. Update the countywide priority list for removal of barriers
3. Continue partnering with the Title II coordinator to draft a Transition Plan

# Legislation Advocacy Outreach

## Hate Crimes & Abuse Against People with Disabilities

- Abuse Roundtable Group (ARG), created in 2019 to address abuse against individuals with disabilities, established a workgroup to explore creating a statewide Caregiver Abuse Registry
- Workgroup developed and reviewed slide deck outlining need for a Caregiver Abuse Registry and shared with the ARG at May meeting
- Slide deck shared with State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee at their June meeting
- San Mateo PD and Foster City PD presented updates on the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (CWCRT) program at May ARG meeting

# Legislation Advocacy Outreach

2023-2024  
Updates

- Committee focused its attention to the inclusion of disabled community in emergency services and response planning
- Coordinated Department of Emergency Management presentation to the entire Commission for June meeting
- Finalized disability needs survey to collect community input to share with DEM per their request
- Committee sent letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of CWCRT

## Legislation Advocacy Outreach

### Committee Goals

1. Continue to advocate for programs and policies that increase safety for individuals with disabilities.
2. Bringing people with disabilities to the forefront of DEIB efforts by the County.

# Legislation Advocacy Outreach

## Committee Objectives

1. Collaborate with members of the Abuse Roundtable Group to create a statewide caregiver abuse registry
2. Working collaboratively with the DEM and other organizations to educate emergency responders about unique needs of disabled community members.

# Youth and Family

## 2023-2024 Updates and Accomplishments

- The Youth and Family Committee, along with several Transition Coordinators from various school districts, non-profit agencies, and state government agencies planned the 2024 Transition to Independence Fair
- Included career training, higher education, and job placement workshops
- Held at the San Mateo County Office of Education on February 10, 2024
- Over 235 attendees
- Meetings are currently on hold until more members can be recruited

# Accessible Transportation

2023-2024  
Accomplishments

- Advocated for improved transportation needs of residents in the Colma Veteran's Village housing complex.
- Encouraged Department of Emergency Management to work with the Commission on its new strategic planning process



# Accessible Transportation

## Goals and Objectives

### Goal

- Educate and advocate for fully accessible transit systems for individuals with disabilities, including during disasters

### Objectives

- Organize an online forum inviting various members of the disabled community to provide input on the All-Hazards Evacuation Plan
- Compile disabled community input and needs to share with the Department of Emergency Management to aid in their development of their All-Hazards Evacuation Plan
- Provide input on the SamTrans ADA Transition Plan

# Special Events

2023-2024  
Accomplishments

Celebrated the Disabled Community during two major events of the year:

- 1) October 2023– Celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month through the County’s Disabilities Art Showcase
- 2) July 2024- Celebrated National Disability Pride Month through the 5th Annual Inclusion Festival

Due to these events being seasonal, this work has been re-classified as ad-hoc.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Festival

## 5th Annual Inclusion Festival!

Red Morton Park, Magical Bridge Playground  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City

**Inclusive Fun for All!**



Thursday, July 25th  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Celebrate  
Disability Pride  
Month!

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/smcinclusionfestival2024>

Free Lunch for the first 400 people  
Free entertainment, resources, and  
interactive booths

## Event Summary

- Held on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at Red Morton Park in Redwood City
- Partnered once again with the City of Redwood City and Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation
- Opening blessing ceremony provided by the Native Indigenous People's Initiative
- President of the Board of Supervisors Warren Slocum attended to welcome the attendees
- 50+ vendors providing resources and information the public were present
- Over 400 attendees received free food and family-friendly entertainment
- Food provided by VRS Catering Connection

# Special Events

## 2024 Art Showcase

- Showcase will be held from October 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> at 400 County Center
- Exhibit shown at the Caldwell Gallery in the Hall of Justice
- Exhibit is open and free to the public Monday-Friday from 8AM-5PM
- Featuring artwork of artists with disabilities who live in San Mateo County or work for the County of San Mateo

# Special Events

## Committee Goal and Objectives

### **Goal**

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

### **Objectives**

- Host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Festival on July 24, 2025 at Red Morton Park, Redwood City CA
- Host the Annual Art Showcase in October
- Assist in planning the Transition to Independence Fair

# Executive Committee

## Coordination & Oversight

Executive Committee is currently reviewing updates to the CoD bylaws with the County Attorney's Office.

Executive Committee will continue to:

- Assist committees in carrying out their objectives
- Provide direction, guidance and oversight regarding committee activities


## Other Work: 2023-2024 Recap

- During Disability Pride Month, the Commission worked with Redwood City Library to host an online panel featuring the following disability resources throughout the County:
  1. SMC Commission on Disabilities
  2. Aging and Adult Service Hotline
  3. Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
- All meetings are still available in hybrid format for the public to join virtually (dates and times can be found on the Commission website)

## Other Work

- Recruiting new commissioners
- Addressing issues that fall outside of regular committees via ad-hoc
- Improve accessibility of meetings for commissioners





Thank you to Supervisor Warren Slocum for your support as our liaison, and the rest of the Board of Supervisors for your continued support for individuals with disabilities in San Mateo County.