

Commission on Disabilities 2022 Update

October 4, 2022

Presentation to the Board of Supervisors

By Angela Piazza, CoD President

CoD 2022 Strategic Plan Vision

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

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

Create

1. Create a structure that allows the CoD to operate at optimum levels.
2. Create an environment within the County that is fully inclusive and accessible.
3. Create opportunities for the disabled community to participate and influence public policy within the County.
4. Create a dialogue with leaders within the County to increase greater awareness of issues impacting the disabled community in San Mateo County.

Educate

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

Advocate

1. Advocate within the County for a fully inclusive and accessible environment.
2. Advocate across all-disabilities for better and improved programs and services serving the disabled community.
3. Advocate within the County and beyond to empower the disabled community to have a voice on what happens to them (“Not about us without us!”).
4. Advocate to address systemic issues/problems that negatively impact the disabled community in San Mateo County and beyond.

Agenda

1. ADA Committee Goals and Objectives
2. Legislative, Advocacy, and Outreach Committee
3. Youth and Family Committee
4. Accessible Transportation Committee
5. Special Events Committee
6. 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 update the County's ADA Transition Plan which included **81** facilities and **160 miles** of public sidewalks in unincorporated San Mateo County.
- The County recently surveyed the public and county staff as a method to collect input for the Transition Plan

ADA

2021-2022
Updates

Summary of Work Year-to-Date

- June 2021 – January 2022 - ADA Staff and Public Surveys were revised by the committee and distributed through Risk Management to help advise the Transition Plan
- October 2021 – Site visit was conducted by the committee for Memorial Park facilities renovations, including three new restroom renovations by the Parks Department
- February – March 2022 – Committee provided input to DPW for Safe Harbor Shelter site concept to improve accessibility

ADA

2021-2022
Updates

Summary of Work Year-to-Date

- August 2022 – Committee began preparations for establishing a county-wide priority list for barrier removal
- September 2022 – Committee recommended that “Our Place” and “Pal Care” childcare centers be added 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.
2. 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).
3. Work to monitor and update the Transition Plan
4. Help educate County employees about the ADA.

ADA

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
 5. County Executive Office (including Chief Equity Officer)
 6. County Parks
2. Establish a countywide priority list for removal of barriers
3. Continue to advocate for a full-time Title II coordinator position moving forward

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Hate Crimes & Abuse Against People with Disabilities

2021-2022 Updates:

- Abuse Roundtable Group, created in 2019 to address abuse against individuals with disabilities, established a workgroup to explore creating a statewide Caregiver Abuse Registry
- Workgroup includes representatives from the CoD, Disability Rights California (DRC), regional centers, Aging and Adult Services, State Independent Living Council, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Public Authority Advisory Committee, California Department of Social Services/APS, CID, and other offices. Workgroup participants are an advisory group for DRC
- DRC would be the lead sponsor if a proposal is created and are looking for a co-sponsor.
- Workgroup has met 7 times since Dec. 2021 and anticipates another year of exploratory work on this issue before reaching a proposal stage

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Committee Goals

1. Empower the disabled community through first responder training, supporting victims and allies in reporting abuse, & continuing to educate direct service providers about signs of abuse and mandated reporting.
2. Continue to advocate for programs and policies that increase safety for individuals with disabilities.

Legislation Advocacy Outreach

Committee Objectives

1. Coordinate Monthly Presentations at CoD General Meetings
2. Continue to identify gaps in services for the disabled community
3. Continue monitoring and advocating for legislation impacting the disabled community
4. Collaborate with members of the Abuse Roundtable Group to create a statewide caregiver abuse registry

Youth and Family

2021-2022
Updates

- The Youth and Family Committee, along with several Transition Coordinators from various school districts planned and hosted a series of virtual webinars
- Each webinar discussed the important topics students transitioning out of high school must learn about, such as housing, higher education, and employment
- Webinars held on November 4th, December 2nd, February 28th
- The CoD reassumed its leadership role as the coordinator of the Transition to Independence Fair

Youth and Family

Committee Goals and Objectives

Goal #1

Create engaging and culturally responsive social media messaging and committee programming to increase awareness of County resources and opportunities for youth and families with disabilities in support of self-advocacy, independence, and wellness.

Youth and Family

Committee Goals and Objectives

Goal #2

Plan the Annual Transition to Independence Fair (TIF) in coordination with County school districts and community-based organizations to bring together resources to support students with disabilities, age 14-22, and their families in successful life and educational transitions.

Youth and Family

Committee Goals and Objectives

Goal #3

Research and identify potential barriers and best practices for access, participation, and inclusion of students with disabilities in middle school and high school clubs, leadership programs, and extracurricular activities in San Mateo County school districts.

Goal #4

Advocate for the voices of youth with disabilities to be included in diversity, equity, inclusion and access initiatives, programs, and partnerships in San Mateo County.

Accessible Transportation

Meeting the Transportation Needs of the Disability Community

2021-2022 Updates

1. Committee developed and distributed a Redi-Wheels & Redi-Coast Riders Survey
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CoDParatransitSurvey>
2. Committee developed a fixed route survey and will be distributing it soon
3. Feedback has been slow due to ridership's slow rebound from pre-pandemic numbers

Accessible Transportation

Committee Goals and Objectives

Goal

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

Objectives

1. Assess public transportation programs serving individuals with disabilities
2. Provide input on ways to improve services
3. Educating the community on accessing transportation during emergencies
4. Supporting the MTC Blue Ribbon Committee by advocating for local needs

Special Events

CoD Inclusion Festival

Disabilities Awareness in the Community

3rd Annual Inclusion Festival!

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



Free Lunch for the first 400 people
Free entertainment, resources and interactive events
Design courtesy of Chloe Sanossian, SZS Engineering Access Inc.

Partnered with the City of Redwood City and Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation:

- The opening ceremony was conducted by the Indigenous People's Initiative
- Participants included 57 vendors and over 475 attendees
- A presentation on the County's Equity initiative was provided by the Chief Equity Officer
- Food was provided by VRS Catering Connection

CoD Inclusion Festival

Celebrate!



August 11th, 2022
Photos by Susie Castoria



Special Events

Art Showcase

- Showcase will be held from October 3rd – 31st at County Center
- Unfortunately not all art programs are up and running again, but there are still many talented artists showcasing their work
- Exhibit shown at the Caldwell Gallery in the Hall of Justice
- Featuring artwork of artists with disabilities who live in San Mateo County

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


1. Host the 4th Annual Inclusion Festival in July or August of 2023
2. Host the Annual Art Showcase again in October 2023
3. Assist in planning the Transition to Independence Fair

Other Work: 2021-2022 Recap

- In July 2022, the CoD officially launched its Instagram (@sanmateocounty_CoD) and Twitter (@smcCoD)
- Released a Call for Artists to design a new commission logo, anyone interested may contact Andrew Eng at aeng@smcgov.org, winner receives a \$200 VISA gift card

Other Work to consider:

- Recruiting new commissioners, currently there are 5 vacancies
- Addressing issues that fall outside of regular committees via ad-hoc
- Accessibility of meetings for commissioners
 - Enable more people to participate by making meetings more accessible to the public
 - Make materials and information more accessible



Thank you to Supervisor Groom
14 years of partnership with the CoD