

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board of Contra Costa County
PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2024

VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL

District V – Supervisor Federal Glover

Delano Johnson

Delano Johnson has been an instrumental community member in the Pittsburg and Bay Point communities for over 15 years. He has helped hundreds of people struggling with substance use disorders by helping them seek and receive treatment as well as assisting with housing, employment, health insurance, and enrolling in school. Delano has worked directly with food banks, local churches and organizations to facilitate resident access to food, clothes, and hot showers. Throughout his years of volunteering, he has mobilized the community to come together to advocate for resources and support annual events.

VOLUNTEER GROUP

District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson

Contra Costa Crisis Center Volunteers

The Contra Costa Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization that provides 24/7 services throughout the County to help people through crises by providing resources and connecting them to services. The services are available via phone call, text, and an online database of resources. The Contra Costa Crisis Center consists of a multidisciplinary team that also includes volunteers who are an instrumental part in supporting callers by providing emotional support and encouragement. By utilizing motivational interviewing techniques, volunteers assist many of the callers as they struggle with addiction issues. Volunteers make referrals to local resources, such as to Contra Costa County's Behavioral Health Access Line to link individuals to a broad variety of Behavioral Health services.

NON-VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL

District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson

Justin Phillips

Justin Phillips is the Options Recovery Services' Executive Director who has expanded Options' Outpatient Substance Use Treatment from Alameda County to Contra Costa. Located in Concord, since its opening in 2022, Options has served over 373 clients. In 2023, the first group of clients who graduated from Options' celebrated their recovery with over twelve months of continuous drug and alcohol-free lives. During the pandemic, Options delivered in-person outpatient services for clients. Mr. Phillips went above and beyond by offering the unhoused population necessary resources such as hygiene supplies, clothing and food embodying a full scope continuum of care. In addition, Options hired bilingual staff to remove barriers and expand services to the Spanish-speaking population. Mr. Phillips has been a catalyst in expanding services in Contra Costa and going above and beyond in the community.

NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP

District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson

Pueblos Del Sol

Pueblos Del Sol is a substance use treatment facility that offers detox and residential treatment for men in Concord, CA. Pueblos Del Sol offers Spanish-Speaking and culturally diverse services to clients, previous alumni, and incorporates family members and friends as an integral component to recovery services. Testimonies submitted by clients, alumni, and family members and friends share that the program and staff go above and beyond to create a safe, successful, and inclusive environment. Pueblos Del Sol is an exceptional example that it takes a multidisciplinary approach and team to provide high-level care in a substance use treatment program.

NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP

District II - Supervisor Candace Andersen

Discovery Counseling Center

Discovery Counseling Center is located in South County and has been serving the community for over 50 years providing mental health and substance use services. One school-based program that Discovery Counseling Center operates is the Alternative to Suspension Program (ASP) that is designed to support students and families in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) for students who are caught on campus or at school activities using substances. Students are then referred to the ASP where students participate in sessions that are aimed to identify and intervene in youth's substance use. ASP has been viable to SRVUSD students in raising awareness and empowering youth to

make informed decisions. Furthermore, ASP provides various resources such as emotional support and educational that are essential to combating substance use in the community.

NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP

Countywide

Operation Dawn

Operation Dawn is a faith-based organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area that provides recovery programs and support to the individual and to the family. Operation Dawn helps Asian Pacific Islander residents and their families to understand what drugs are, the harms associated, and provides education on the concept of health and treatment. There are numerous testimonies that share about youth and young adults' experiences with the rehabilitation services provided by Operation Dawn that were instrumental in their recovery journey.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL

District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson

Ronak Sharawagi

Ronak Sharawagi is a youth leader who is active in the Contra Costa CourAGE Youth Health Coalition, which is a youth-led and directed group focused on addressing substance use related issues in Contra Costa. Ronak is a member of CourAGE subgroup referred to as the "cannabis team." He has presented at different middle schools throughout the County serving as a role model to his peers. Ronak has been a presenter at conferences including a statewide Annual Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Conference and most recently helped lead a countywide Fentanyl Awareness and Overdose Rescue Training webinar.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP

District III – Supervisor Diane Burgis

Antioch Youth Development

Antioch Youth Development (AYD) is a peer-to-peer model program that focuses on youth development and substance use prevention by equipping high schoolers with leadership skills to mentor middle schoolers on underage cannabis use and prevention education. In addition to mentorship, the program hosts quarterly parent and community education nights to raise awareness of substance use and provide various resources to attendees. This year, AYD conducted a youth-led presentation where youth used the knowledge and skills learned in the program to highlight the importance of underage cannabis prevention education. AYD presentations allow youth to practice what they are being taught to raise awareness in their community.