

**ALAMEDA COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Approved and Adopted - 11/27/2007 12:24 PM

The Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council values the background, experience and wealth of knowledge each member brings to the Board of Directors. However, the Council is only as effective as each individual. As elected members, all individuals are responsible to:

- ◆ Treat all fellow Board members with respect and dignity and come to the table with an open mind, ready to be informed and to participate in the activities and discussion at Board of Directors' meetings and Committee meetings
- ◆ Become familiar with the issues and topics that are being examined by the Council through reading of resources and materials provided at meetings, by mail, by email, on the internet or by any other means available
- ◆ Ask questions when information does not seem clear or is incomplete in order to reach a better understanding of the issues.
- ◆ Vote "abstain" on an issue if topic has been presented and discussed at previous meetings and Board member was unable to attend or adequately study the issue
- ◆ Follow the attendance guidelines provided in the Developmental Disabilities Council Bylaws
- ◆ Act on issues under the auspices of the Developmental Disabilities Council in the community but only on those issues that have the consent of the Council

Individual deliberation and collective discussion are essential before taking official action. Official action or voting will take place when:

- ◆ Both sides of an issue have been equally investigated and presented, knowing that this may require more than one Council meeting on the topic
- ◆ Board members have been given advance notice of the issue and resources have been distributed in advance of the Board of Directors' meeting

The Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council will consider requests for collaborating, sponsoring, co-sponsoring, endorsing, letters of support, forums, initiatives, policy statements or other requests if:

- ◆ The request aligns itself with the mission, purposes and goals of the Council
- ◆ The request impacts the lives of people with developmental disabilities and/or their families
- ◆ We have investigated and are well aware of the past history of the organization seeking our support.
- ◆ If circumstances do not allow adequate time for the next Board of Directors meeting to occur, the Executive Committee may take action on requests that are aligned with the goals and purposes of the Council through an emergency meeting.