

~~South Orange County~~ Southern California  
**Sober Living and Recovery Task Force (SOCSLAR)**

January 27, 2023, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Mission Viejo City Hall

200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

*Purpose: To collaborate on policy reforms that address resident concerns regarding the operation and existence of sober living and recovery treatment homes.*

## Meeting Highlights

**Welcome and Introductions** Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo  
Chair, SOCSLAR

### *Welcome existing task force members*

- *City of Mission Viejo*
- *City of Laguna Hills*
- *Assemblymember Laurie Davies, 74<sup>th</sup> District*
- *Advocates for Responsible Treatment*
- *Lisa Foto, Homeowner, Mission Viejo*
- *Connie Lanzisera, Homeowner, Mission Viejo*
- *Orange County Sheriff's Department/City Police Services Chiefs*

### *Welcome new task force members*

- *City of Laguna Niguel*
- *City of Rancho Santa Margarita*
- *City of Costa Mesa*
- *City of San Juan Capistrano (confirmed for future meetings)*
- *Assemblymember Kate Sanchez, 71<sup>st</sup> District*
- *Jennifer Beall, Chief of Staff, Assemblymember Sanchez*
- *Anne Figueroa, Mayor, City of Rancho Santa Margarita & District Director, Assemblymember Sanchez*

**Review of Sober Living and Recovery Task Force Mission and Initiatives** Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo  
Chair, SOCSLAR

- *The task force's mission is to combine expert education and research, public input, and regional ideas and initiatives to determine*

*critical pathways for possible short and long-term policy solutions.*

- *Encourage jurisdictions to file amicus briefs and provide support for the City of Costa Mesa who is in litigation and/or appealing unfavorable rulings*
- *Establishing a commonly accepted ordinance draft to protect cities and communities*
- *Supporting legislative proposals and reforms that protect cities and communities*

**Local Law Enforcement Update**

Capt. Chris McDonald, Chief, Police Services,  
City of Mission Viejo

- *Some local law enforcement agencies are establishing a point-of-contact for addressing specific complaints and ensuring real time enforcement within the confines of the law*

**Costa Mesa Litigation Update**

William Curley, Esq. – City Attorney,  
City of Mission Viejo

- *ADA protections seem prevalent in the Appellate Court’s ruling*
- *City is asking for support and amicus briefs from other jurisdictions that may be affected*
- *City of Costa Mesa is asking for a full ninth circuit review*

**Discussion of Local Ordinances**

Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo  
Chair, SOCSLAR  
Representatives from Participating Cities

- *The City of Mission Viejo adopted a local ordinance establishing a business registry for sober living and treatment homes to establish another reasonable method for accountability and enforcement*
- *A commonly accepted local ordinance template could be further developed with the support of the Association of California Cities and the California League of Cities*

**Discussion of State Legislative Opportunities**

Legislative Representatives

- *See attached legislative proposals being discussed and/or introduced by Assemblymembers Davies and Sanchez*
- *The task force discussed the importance of growing the membership and providing grassroots advocacy and testimony*

**Action Items & Closing Discussion**

Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo  
Chair, SOCSLAR

- *A calendar of task force meetings was adopted*
- *Advocates for Responsible Treatment and Laurie Girard submitted policy reform ideas for discussion (attached)*
- *The task force will remain in communication with state legislators regarding legislation, timelines, and advocacy opportunities*
- *The task force will work with the Association of California Cities and California League of Cities to develop a commonly accepted local ordinance template that establishes a guide for local reforms*