



Major Positive Incident



Rubin is pictured with (L-R) Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein, Commissioner Judy Dodge, Administrator Debbie Feldman, Commissioner Debbie Lieberman and Commissioner Dan Foley.

Program Participant Addresses County Commissioners Meeting

Rubin Garcia, a self-advocate and program participant, addressed County Commissioners concerning the need for the Board name change, at their weekly open meeting, Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

He stated that the name, Board of Developmental Disabilities Services, is "a fairly neutral term to describe a catch-all of conditions" covered by state and county agencies.

Rubin told the commissioners about two incidents of discrimination while he was growing up. One was a refusal of service because he had a disability and the other was a seating issue at a sports-related event while accompanying his brother who was part of the team. Ruben finished with the thought that "people should not be labeled."

He was introduced by Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein who initiated the briefing. Mark shared that "the name change was only a small part of the problem. We need to change what is in people's hearts. Without that, we will have to change the name again in 20 years."

Rubin is presently employed at the Kuntz Adult Services Center and works for MONCO Enterprises.