



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

Department on Disability

Joan Palevsky Center Conference Room, 281 S. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera
Myrna Cabanban
Iran Hopkins
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

David E. Wolf (excused)
Robert Williams (excused)
Robert Bitonte (excused)
Betty Wilson (on conference
call, not a voting member)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability
Lourdes Sinibaldi, Community Outreach Referrals and Education (CORE)
Deisy Gonzalez, Disability Access and Services (DASD)
Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinators Office (ACO)
Sergio Samayoa, Administrative Service Division (ASD)

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

*AUDIO TAPE(S) and CAPTIONING NOTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

GUESTS:

Krystal Gunn, Accessible Housing Program

ITEM NO. (1): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (2): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY REPORT

Presentation from the AIDS Coordinators Office (ACO), Community Outreach Referrals and Education (CORE), the Administration team, and the Disability Access and Services (DASD). Brief updates, introductions to new staff, and key accomplishments will be presented by Ricki Rosales, Lourdes Sinibaldi, Sergio Samayoa, and Deisy Gonzalez.

- I. The ACO division is committed to developing and supporting programs and policies that prevent the transmission and acquisition of HIV and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in the City of Los Angeles through community based programs, HIV prevention programs, research programs, summits, workshops, and technical assistance for community providers. In the past fiscal year, ACO has served 15,000 individuals and provided 10,000 HIV tests. Through the Syringe Collection Program, including the new backpack syringe exchange, ACO has assisted in the collection and disposal of two million syringes. The ACO division has also provided 19 technical assistance grants to organizations. ACO is currently working toward expanding the HIV and Homelessness program and increasing the Department on Disability's role at the Unified Homelessness Response Center. A future project involves creating a new HIV and Disability Legal Services Partnership to provide pro-bono legal services in collaboration with the LA County Bar Association.
- II. The CORE division conducts the Department on Disability's community outreach and education functions. This past fiscal year, CORE has provided 992 constituents with information and referrals and attended 36

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outreach events, 14 of which they sponsored or co-sponsored. The division has also expanded efforts to address homelessness and designated a full-time liaison for the Unified Homeless Response Center and a part-time staff to focus on A Bridge Home sites. CORE has remediated 1,959 pages to ensure that they are readable/accessible across multiple assistive technologies. Furthermore, 70 City employees have been trained on digital accessibility. CORE aims to expand digital accessibility training and the use of assistive technologies and telecommunications within City departments. Another future goal of the division is to prioritize specialized referrals for people with disabilities and increase comprehensive links to services and information.

- III. The Administration Division's mission is to provide support and tools for the department to reach the optimum level of capability. The division processed 19 sponsorships for the ReelAbilities Film Festival that took place October of 2019, totaling over \$117,000. Administration facilitated staff participation in 11 technical trainings to maintain subject matter expertise on issues related to disability. In the past year, the division has implemented a comprehensive departmental Budget development process and improved accounting processes. Future goals include resolving pending recommendations from the 2018 Controller's Audit, establishing more effective customer service protocols, and formalizing standard operating procedures to improve internal controls.
- IV. The DASD coordinates and monitors the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, provides technical advisement for accessibility, as well as auxiliary aids and services. This fiscal year, DASD processed and fulfilled 490 Sign Language Interpreter, Communication Real-time Translation, and Video Remote Interpreting requests. The online ADA Accessibility training has been completed by 750 City employees, Additionally, all 15 City Council district offices hosted on-side presentations on the Sidewalk Program and Accessible Parking Zone Blue Curb (APZ-BC) Program. DASD has processed 975 APZ-BC requests, and they have been opened as Service Requests by LADOT. The division is focused on increasing online ADA and Accessibility training throughout all City departments and expanding Disability Etiquette training for private businesses and Los Angeles County departments to better serve our shared constituents.

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No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): CONFIRMATION OF JULIA MOCKERIDGE TO LAWA DAAC

The Commission on Disability will confirm Julia Mockeridge to the LAWA DAAC.

Action Taken, Commission on Disability confirmed Julia Mockeridge to LAWA DAAC.

ITEM NO. (4): COMMISSION CALENDAR, PRIORITIES, AND BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

The Commission discussed upcoming topics and the possibility of combining future meeting topics or adding sub-topics. Some priority items are addressing the City's homelessness issue, improving digital accessibility across City departments, and addressing access issues related to docked and dockless vehicles. The Commission requested that DOD touch base on issues mentioned during the meeting two weeks following the Retreat to determine the next steps to take regarding matters discussed.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion of items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. Stephen David Simon deferred this Executive Director's Report for the guest speaker. Krystal Gunn works with the Accessible Housing Program within the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID). The program began two years ago and is currently focused on the development of an accessible housing website. This would provide information on all housing units that have accessible units, either in development, wait-

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listed, or open for applications. The website will also be helpful for case managers working with individuals who need mobility, hearing, and vision features. The City is doing outreach as part of this program to discover what specific needs individuals in the community have. HCID has reached out to the Department on Disability to assist in promoting the survey to receive more responses. The COD recommended partnering with ACCESS and placing surveys in their vehicles, as well as improving the graphics of the flyer to make it more visually engaging.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting. The DOD would like to announce that Abilities Expo will take place from Friday, February 21st to Sunday, February 23rd.

No Action Taken: Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 1:50 P.M.