



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conferencing

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera
Myrna Cabanban
David Wolf
Robert Williams
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Richard Rothenberg
Iran Hopkins
Alisa Schlesinger

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

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

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

GUESTS:

Lane Janger, Student Program Organizer, Master of Art in Psychology
Candidate, Trainee Therapist, Antioch University Los Angeles

Grant Elliot, Director of Affiliated Graduate Psychology Programs, Antioch
University Los Angeles

Dennis Anderson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, (NAMI)

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

President de Vera called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. The Commission
had a quorum.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the following minutes: February 12,
2020, March 11, 2020, March 27, 2020, May 13, 2020.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): LAWA ACCESSIBILITY COMMISSION CONFIRMATION

The Commission on Disability will vote on the confirmation of Brandy Welch to
the LAWA Accessibility Commission.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability voted in favor of confirming
Brandy Welch to the LAWA Accessibility Commission.

ITEM NO. (4): MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19: HEALTH AND RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Presentation from various City Departments and organizations from the Greater Los Angeles area regarding mental health resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- I. Presentation is by Lane Janger, Student Program Organizer, Master of Art in Psychology Candidate, Trainee Therapist for Antioch University Los Angeles and Grand Elliot, Director of Affiliated Graduate Psychology Programs at Antioch University Los Angeles. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many counseling centers closed and access to mental health services decreased. As a result, the graduate psychology department at Antioch University Los Angeles created a program to offer free therapeutic services for marginalized communities, people with disabilities, transitioning youth, and other individuals who may be struggling during this time. The program currently has thirteen trainee therapists that are able to see up to 100 people, with eleven more being added within the next few weeks. These trainee therapists are all students pursuing a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology. The program now has a message line, which will be up and running after June 11th. This number may be shared on DOD's COVID-19 Resources page online. Antioch would like to work with the Commission on Disability on training for their therapists in order to learn more about addressing the needs of the disability community.

- II. Presentation is by Dennis Anderson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Antelope Valley. Antelope Valley has high rates of clinical depression, homelessness, hypertension, and high blood pressure. These issues are compounded by limited resources in the area. Nonprofit organizations in Antelope Valley have made mental health urgent care a top priority, and a facility that will have 30 beds is currently under construction. The facility will help individuals become stabilized, find a diagnosis, and assess what medication may be needed. Antelope Valley is an underserved section of Los Angeles County, and this urgent care center will provide some much needed services to the region.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): COMMISSION ELECTION - JULY

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

The Commission Election process will begin with Nominations and Self-Nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary. Open Election voting will be held at the next Commission Meeting on 07/08/2020.

Action Taken: Richard Rothenberg nominated Theresa de Vera for President. Theresa de Vera nominated Myrna Cabanban for President. Richard Rothenberg nominated David Wolf for 1st Vice President. David Wolf nominated Robert Bitonte for 2nd Vice President. Richard Rothenberg nominated Robert Williams for Secretary.

ITEM NO. (6): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability (DOD).

DOD has continued to run the Meals to Angelenos with Disabilities delivery program. Khalsa Care Foundation is providing meals from their kitchen in Pacoima. Meals are transported to the Los Angeles Zoo and loaded into Access Paratransit vans for delivery. The program will continue until the end of June. DOD is also organizing a digital event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which will take place in July. The Department is creating a website to host content contributed by local partners, which will include art and photography reflecting progress achieved since the passing of the ADA. DOD also collaborated with the Housing Community and Investment Department on a workshop for property owners and building managers to learn how to ensure their housing is accessible.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD Staff, and guests.

Commissioner de Vera announced that she will not be pursuing an executive position on the Commission, and will be stepping down as a Commissioner at the end of this meeting. She thanked the Commissioners, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero, Deputy Mayor of City Services Barbara Romero, and the disability community. Commissioner de Vera will continue to advocate for disability rights. The Department on Disability and the Commissioners thanked her for her service.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 P.M.