



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Alisa Schlesinger

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Robert Williams

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Jaime Pacheco Orozco, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

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Lourdes Sinibadi, Sr. Project Coordinator, Department on Disability
Sergio Samayoa, Sr. Management Analyst, Department on Disability
Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

GUESTS:

Dr. Paul Simon, MD, MPH, Chief Science Officer, Los Angeles County
Department on Public Health

**ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS
PURSUANT TO AB 361**

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability approved the teleconference meetings pursuant to AB361.

**ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the April 2022 and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for April 13, 2022.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): COVID UPDATE – LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON PUBLIC HEALTH (LADPH)

Guest speakers provided the Commission on Disability with a highlight on the current and on-going COVID-19 pandemic as it impacts the Greater Los Angeles area and its Disability Community.

- I. Presentation is Dr. Paul Simon MD, MPH, Chief Science Officer, Los Angeles County Department on Public Health on the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the Greater Los Angeles area and the Disability Community. COVID-related deaths that accelerated noticeably at the end of 2020, with a dramatic impact on mortality in Los Angeles County among all racial and ethnic group. In 2021, rates did not return baseline and remained elevated, especially in the Latino population. In communities where less than 10% of the population is living in living in poverty, the case and the death rate are about four times higher. Over the course of the pandemic there have been distinct waves: spring of 2020, summer of 2020, early 2021, and the summer of 2021. There have been multiple studies that are studying disability and COVID. For disability and COVID, there now have been at multiple studies that have reported increased mortality among persons with disabilities and there are multiple potential pathways that would lead to more severe COVID outcomes among those with the disability. Some of those pathways for severe COVID outcomes are: co-occurring chronic conditions, older age, crowded living conditions, and reduced quality and access to services. Currently, there are some therapeutics that can help prevent a more severe outcome. LADPH is also providing a connection to these therapeutics for people. Additional information available at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/inhomevaccination/>

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT ADVISEMENT

LETTER TEMPLATES

The Commission will review, discuss, and make any recommendations on the various letter drafts which will be utilized to streamline the recommendation process from the Commission to the City.

- I. Discussion on any recommendation letters will be postpone to the next meetings.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

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

Ongoing update 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 and/or other department staff. Lourdes presented on Durable Medical Equipment and has gotten many referrals request. Applications can be made by going through agencies but must be low income and have a disability. The majority of requests are for lightweight wheel chairs and the shower chairs. Information about the DME programs can be found on the Department on Disability website. They are also sharing the Disability Rights California survey that will set the priorities for the next three years and will be sent out to all of the Commissioners. Geoffrey presented to the Commission about the Summit on the Americas to promote inclusivity and bring together the leaders of the various nations and Los Angeles in June. He is conducting site assessments to ensure accessibility.

Sergio Samayoa presented on the budget for the Department on Disability. City council and the mayor are in the process of approving the budget for fiscal year 22-23 and asked DOD to write a budget response letter. The requests in the budget letter include asking for the full nine months funding and a 12-month authority to start looking for two full-time positions, to fully fund the student professional worker program, asked for parity pay for the American Sign Language interpreters to match the bilingual pay offered by the City, and asked for two additional positions. DOD informed the Commission on Disability that this Friday the legislative analyst is going to present a report with their recommendations and there will be a public comment. Commissioners are welcomed to speak about the budget process during public comment.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Commissioner Bitonte would like to remind the Commission that the Los Angeles County Bar program is willing to work with the Department on Disability at pro bono rates and invites Executive Director Stephen David Simon to their executive meeting. Commissioner Schlesinger wanted to get an update about the Senate Bills and to see if the COD will be able to act. Stephen David Simon suggested an ad-hoc meeting to discuss the Olympics and Paralympics.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:38 P.M.