COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:00 P.M.
Department on Disability
Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Myrna Cabanban
David Wolf
Iran Hopkins
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Alisa Schlesinger
Candace Cable
Richard Rothenberg
Robert Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Betty Wilson

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability
Deisy Gonzalez, Emergency Management Coordinator, Department on Disability
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 AND SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the July 13th meeting.
ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Commission will hear from various organizations on emergency programs and from organizations serving the greater Los Angeles area.

I. Presentation is by Deisy Gonzalez, Emergency Management Coordinator, Department on Disability, Richard Pope, Emergency Management Coordinator, Emergency Management Department, and John Cvjetkovic, Senior Disaster Services Analyst, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services. The Department on Disability is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are being included in citywide planning and takes an active role in the planning phase during emergencies. The department also works with other City departments and partner agencies to provide any assistance and long-term accommodations when there is an active emergency. The Department on Disability hosted the Disability Access Coalition of Stakeholders meeting to share resources and improve communication when there is an emergency within the City. The Department on Disability participated in the Mass Care exercise at LAX to give our staff real hands on experience on potential needs during an emergency. Deisy Gonzalez invited the Commission on Disability to participate at the next stakeholder’s meeting and inform them of the Department on Disability’s Emergency Manual. The Emergency Management Department is pushing for the public to participate in the Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) Program designed to help designed to help individuals, families, and neighborhoods prepare for disaster prepare for disaster and provides the tools to prepare and organize your neighborhood to respond together in that first hour after a disaster to reduce injuries, protect your property and the environment, and most importantly, to save lives. Rick Pope also suggested that people with disabilities create kits with essential items and having back up copies of important documents either on a vertical data base or having copies with a trusted family member to be easily accessed during an emergency. Rick Pope also asked the Commission on Disability to participate in the RYLAN program to ensure that people with disabilities are not overlooked. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services wanted to highlight the Functional
Assessment Service Team (FAST) Program, which was started in 2007. It’s purpose is to train and deploy people who have a background in working with or caring for people with a disability or access and functional need. During disasters or emergencies, these trained FAST members can be deployed to emergency shelters or other areas, such as mass feeding operations or assistance centers to assist those in need. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services has trained 150 over the last eight years and continues to train people in their program.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): MONKEYPOX UPDATE

The Department on Disability AIDS Coordinator Office will provide a brief update on the Monkeypox outbreak impacting the greater Los Angeles area.

I. Presentation is by Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, who provided a brief update on the Monkeypox outbreak impacting the greater Los Angeles area. Currently, the data on Monkeypox show that cases have increased from 35 cases to 680 cases and 99 percent of those who are infected are among males, with the majority being bisexual and between 30 and 50 years of age. The groups that are impacted the most are the Latinos and White population with most of the cases in metro Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County has received about 43,000 vaccines and have distributed about 39,000 among their county clinics and community-based organizations. The federal government is working with the Center for Disease Control on new protocols on vaccine distribution that would increase the dosage from one to five dosed from a single vile and injecting into the skin instead of the muscle to get more vaccines into the community. Currently, Ricki is looking into how the City can help with getting more sites open and making them accessible.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Department on Disability Public Information Officer will discuss the importance of social media in emergency management and will share tools and
I. Presentation is by Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer, Department on Disability and discussed importance of social media in emergency management. Social media can be the most valuable tool to communicate with the public, especially during an emergency situation. The Department on Disability uses YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to get information out faster than a press conference and has a tool to get accurate details out to the community, such as safety tips, evacuation orders, or heat awareness. Social media best practices are to be personable and engaging, respond to messages and replies and to build trust with the audience. DOD follows best practices such as using plain language, including Alt-text, image descriptions, included caption on live videos, creating a hashtag for public and reporters to follow important information, and sharing posts from partner agencies. Over the past two years, the Department on Disability has partnered with several departments and community-based organizations to provide shelter, food, and resources and social media helped highlight the hard work the department has done for the community.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Commission on Disability will be updated on new and on-going legislation of interest.

The Department on Disability updated the Commission on Disability on new and on-going legislation of interest. AB 2164 Disability access: certified access special program funding that would repeal the provision reducing the fee of $4 to $1 commencing January 1, 2024, thereby extending the operation of this fee at the amount of $4 indefinitely and increasing fee deposited into the Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund. The Department on Disability recommends the Commission on Disability take a support position and sending the supporting recommendation to the Mayor’s Office to be added in the budget agenda. The Department on Disability will draft a letter and get it before President Cabanban for review.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only
ITEM NO. (8): 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. DOD wants to congratulate Commissioners Wolf, Williams, and Rothenberg on being recommended to City Council for approval to continue their appointments on the Commission on Disability. DOD had an executive retreat with the division directors to restructure the department. DOD is seeking to employ 7 unfilled positions with some that do not have funding until January 1st. DOD is starting to post different jobs for the Student Professional Worker and is looking to hire students with disabilities. DOD is currently working with the Commission on Disability for any guidance on the strategic plan and operations plan for Mayor’s annual review and discussion meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): 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. No new business and announcements at this time. Commissioner Schlesinger wanted to thank Commissioner Rothenberg on supporting the ReelAbilities film festival in October. The Commission scheduled a special meeting to approve for AB 361 on August 24th.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:35 P.M.