



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Alisa Schlesinger

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Robert Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Myrna Cabanban

Betty Wilson

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

GUESTS:

Jeremy Goldbach, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Monica Gonzalez, Emergency Coordinators, Recreation and Parks Department

Adriana Smith, Emergency Coordinators, Recreation and Parks Department

Robbie Spears, Emergency Coordinators, Recreation and Parks Department

Nada Segura, Directing Attorney, Bet Tzedek

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 August 2022 meeting and August 2022 Special meeting minutes and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the August meetings.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES – STUDY SERIES

The Commission will hear from Representatives from the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles on a series of studies with the Commission on a wide range of medical topics impacting persons with long term medical conditions, accessing healthcare, and other related topics

- I. Presentation is by Jeremy Goldbach, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. The first study was done by the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) on young gay and bisexual men to understand the risk of HIV and other relevant health care topics in 1990. Currently, they are on year seven of the same qualitative study. The main objective of the study is to characterize trajectories and predictors of substance abuse on drugs, alcohol, and other substance use; characterize engagement in and utilization of health care and HIV/AIDS Services; and identify barriers/facilitators of engagement along the HIV prevention and care continua. The major recommendations from the study found that referral systems are fractured, participants are having trouble adapting to their diagnosis, participants are reluctant to getting services because issues concerning disclosure, and having negative experiences with providers. They are still conducting the study to get more trajectories and provide more insights.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (Cont.)

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

- I. Presentation is by Emergency Management Coordinators Monica Gonzalez, Adriana Smith, and Robbie Spears of the Recreation and Parks Department. Under the Los Angeles City Administrative Code,

Recreation and Parks are responsible for Emergency Operations, public welfare and shelter, coordinating efforts on behalf of RAP, ARC, LAUSD, and work closely with DOD. With an excessive heart advisory, the Recreation and Parks Department have cooling centers and have cool spots that are located near the Valley, Central, South, and West of City of Los Angeles. They continue to evaluate emergency events and create programs to offer any aid.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- I. Presentation is by Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability. Peter updated the Commission on Disability that a vast number of the Senate Bills that were being tracked, have been voted a yes on, and have moved on to the Governor's desk in the past few weeks. The Senate Bills that moved on to the Governor's desk are SB 870 Disability Services: Regional Centers: Eligibility; SB 987 California Cancer Care Equity Act; SB 1016 Special education: eligibility: fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; AB 1207 Maternal and Pandemic-Related Mental Health; and AB 2164 Disability access: certified access specialist program: funding. A new Senate Bill being tracked is SB485 and brought up to the COD as a watch item, which seek to provide credits around diversity in Hollywood. SB485 was a watch item because it did not included disability as an item of diversity. As DOD was preparing contact to let the bill writer know to included disability as an item of diversity, the bill was flagged and pulled temporarily back to inactive to be reworked to be more inclusive.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles

The Commission will be updated on the ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles 2022 event.

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability updated the Commission on Disability on the ReelAbilities Film Festival

Los Angeles 2022 event. The ReelAbilities Film Festival will be taking place on October 21-23 2022 ~~and will be taking place~~ at the California Plaza. There will be an opening film on Friday night; a series of film shorts, feature film, and panel discussions on Saturday; and have a family friendly section on Sunday that focuses on disability. DOD is also partnering with Grand Performances to ensure the event runs smoothly and TIL Productions/Street Food Cinema to promote ReelAbilities Film Festival. Another aspect of ReelAbilities Film Festival is the Disability and Diversity Workplace Program for companies and organizations to engage their staff in meaningful discussions on disability, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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. Community presentation by Nada Segura, Directing Attorney, Bet Tzedek on the Small Business Development Program to include and have representation from persons with disabilities. The program is designed to help low-to-moderate income entrepreneurs secure free assistance with a wide range of transactional business law matter through community presentations and workshops, small business legal academies, guides and other free resources, and direct client representation. They type of matters they help with are: contracts, commercial leases, intellectual property, COVID relief, employment law, internet privacy, insurance, and bankruptcy. DOD presented on the City's Mobility Plan 2035 that provides the policy foundation for achieving a transportation system that balances the needs of all road users and 5 incorporates "complete streets" principles and lays the policy foundation for how future generations of Angelenos interact with their streets. Groups have been coming to the City and to the DOD with concerns about City's Mobility Plan 2035 and access to people with disabilities. DOD would like to increase the coordination with BOE and other entices with the City to included the concerns of the disability community. DOD is preparing all of the documents for the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year, DOD still has seven open positions that are expected to hire in the coming weeks, and DOD will have a new division called the Accessible Communication Division.

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.

Commissioner Wolf wanted to wish everyone happy Jewish New Years. Stephen David Simon announced that he will be the acting Executive Director of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority over the few months and Ricki Rosales will be acting Executive Director for the Department on Disability. Commissioner Bitonte invited the COD the American Academy of Legal Medicine to the annual meeting October 14th.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:38 P.M.