



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

200 N. Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)  
David Wolf (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

### GUESTS:

California State University Los Angeles Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), Director, Gonzalo C. Centeno

**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 January 9, 2018, meeting minutes.

**ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): DISABILITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

Discussion and presentation on the varied financial systems and monetary services set up in various Los Angeles institutions to help students enter and complete higher education. (First appeared on COD Agenda 7-11-18).

- I. Department of Recreation and California State University Los Angeles Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), Director, Gonzalo C. Centeno. Mr. Centeno presented on OSD's works to provide an equitable learning environment for students with disabilities, in general and also in regards to financial hurdles. Their mission is to help students become independent and get an adequate education. Some OSD support services included an ASL interpreter and real-time captioning, note taking software, a university food pantry program, housing security program, and administering tests for students with physical, visual, or learning disabilities. Last year they administered over 2,000 exams in one semester and 800 within one week. They have a Workability Forward program that is funded through the Department of Rehabilitation to help the students two years before graduation and two years post-graduation to prepare for the labor market. They have financial aid programs for students who are

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ineligible for financial aid, such as using Department of Rehab to cover the cost of school. When they do receive financial aid, the Department of Rehab can supplement to cover books and supplies.

- II. UCLA Center for Accessible Education (CAE), Director, Nickey Woods and ADA/504 Director, Chris Elqizabal – Ms. Woods and Mr. Elquizabal were scheduled to discussed the CAE’s ongoing mission to facilitate academic accommodations for regularly enrolled, matriculating students with disabilities, with a specific focus on financial assistance. However, they did not appear during the Commission on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (4): 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. A couple of highlights in the DOD budget are for and increase in resources for the homelessness response and having a certified access person to give the department the expertise needed to make sure programs and services are accessible. The department is also launching the self-evaluation plan that looks at any gaps, services, or facilities, and identifying department coordinators or point of contact to work with the department directly. They are also working with Recreation and Parks on their adaptive sports programs and for the Paralympics. An announcement from DOD is the Ability Expo in two weeks, where DOD will be providing workshops and presenting policy work with Department of Sanitation and the issue with straws.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5): 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. Commissioner Cabanban requested that DOD would like an update on the Uber and Lyft presentations and what feedback was incorporated.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (6): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 P.M.