



## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

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

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Theresa de Vera  
Betty Wilson  
Myrna Cabanban  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Dr. Robert Bitonte  
David Wolf  
Robert Williams

#### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Richard Rothenberg (excused)  
Iran Hopkins (excused)

#### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

#### **OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Robert Sainz, Assistant General Manager, Workforce Development, Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD).

Jaime Pacheco, Director Workforce Development System, Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD).

Gregory Irish, Executive Director, City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board.

**GUESTS:**

Simon Lopez, Vice President of Workforce & Career Development, Goodwill Southern California.

**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 when roll call was conducted.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, meeting minutes as amended.

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

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT**

- I. Robert Sainz, Assistant General Manager, Workforce Development, Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD). The history of EWDD and its programs as they relate to people with Disabilities. The EWDD is a comprehensive employment system comprised of 16 adult centers located throughout Los Angeles and two portals that are located in South LA and Central Library. The 16 adult centers are partnered with Department of Rehabilitation, EDD, LAUSD, and the community college districts for individuals to get career advice, employment information, and trainings. The second aspect of the EWDD is their youth force center that is comprised of 14 sites around the City that are located in areas with the highest population of youth who are disconnected from work or school. The EWDD data analysis of youth in their programs suggest one out of every six young people that come to the EWDD are not in school or work and a vast majority of those youth are dropouts who have educational, disabilities, and health issues. Over the past decade, the

EWDD was able to triple their percentage of the individuals with disabilities they serve by training their case managers to be sensitive with people with disabilities and to be sensitive to the information given to them by its clients.

- II. Jaime Pacheco, Director Workforce Development System, Los Angeles Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD). The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act and EWDD benchmarks and goals regarding disability and employment. The EWDD will be focusing on a system to target specific areas where young adults transition from secondary education to either career or a post-secondary education arena. Presently, the EWDD established a system that ensures that every workforce center would have a disability coordinator on site to be a single point of contact and share this information back to the centers. The EWDD also has developed bimonthly and quarterly partnerships meeting with the workforce centers, resource center operators, and community member to focus on specific interests of the disability community. The EWDD has an employment network to ensure people are receiving services and have the opportunity to provide an individual comprehensive approach to service delivery. The EWDD is working with the City on a local hiring program that targets certain populations, one of which is people with disabilities, to move into civil service employment.
- III. Gregory Irish, Executive Director, City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board. Overview of the Workforce Development Board and its Taskforce on Underrepresented Populations. The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board works with EWDD and the Assistant General Manager on ways they can mitigate the challenges when people with disability face when they seek employment. The Board is to spend the \$70 million in the upcoming fiscal year and wants investment feedback from the Commission on Disability regarding their programs. They are seeking advice from the Commission on Disability on strategies for direct service delivery and how to disseminate information to people with disabilities.

- IV. Simon Lopez, Vice President of Workforce & Career Development, Goodwill Southern California. Overview of Goodwill Southern California's workforce and career development programs. The mission of Goodwill Southern California is to transform lives through the power of work, the value of having a job, and being able to support yourself and your family. Throughout its history, Goodwill Southern California always served individuals, and job seekers, disconnected youth, the homeless, and those living in poverty. It is committed to creating an environment where people are willing to disclose and share their unique abilities and challenges to develop a plan where they can be successful in life. Goodwill Southern California has learning and training models for unique populations with other partnerships to be able to offer jobs and trainings. One example is a community college that trains individuals with autism to be CNC operators, which utilizes their unique talents of being detail-oriented and able to carry out repetitive tasks. Goodwill Southern California has an intake process to help individuals navigate new technology, find interpreters, and receive the things that they need. It also has a ticket to work programs that works directly with the Social Security Administration to remove misconceptions regarding enrolling in employment and education training programs for fear that they will lose benefits. It also suggested the City have contracts for certain jobs like janitorial work or food prep to hire people with disabilities.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Tanzi Cole, Management Analyst sitting in for the Stephen David Simon, Executive Director presented items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. The Department is hosting Abilities Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center on February 23rd-25th to showcases essential technologies and to bridge the gap between disability and ability by having exhibits, workshops, and activities during the event.

Another event the department is working on is the ReelAbilities Film Festival in October 2018 of this year that focuses on stories and promoting awareness and appreciation in the lives for people with disabilities. The Department is also working on installing VRI in public works, the zoo, the police department, and at LAWA. They have installed 140 VRI systems and looking install 400 more in the next coming year. The Department is also working with other City departments to promote digital accessibility training for training coordinators, emergency coordinators, or any employees responsible to uploading information to websites or online to ensure the information is accessible to persons with disabilities who use assistive technology.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5): New Business and Announcements**

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda are to look at issues concerning transportation and education, healthcare, emergency preparedness, and working on collaboration with the County of Los Angeles. There are no announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:51 P.M.