



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 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
Betty Wilson
David Wolf

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

GUESTS:

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Director Theresa Martin, Michael Lopez Breaux, and Tobi McKay

*AUDIO TAPE(S) and CAPTIONING NOTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Disabilities Consultants,
Karina Loza and Cristina

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 February 13, 2019, meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): DISABILITY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Discussion and presentation of organizations and programs that exist in the greater Los Angeles area that specialize in early childhood education (0-5).

- I. LAUSD representative reviewed the ECSE vision, curriculum, challenges, and history, along with their Infant and Toddler Low Incident Programs, their continuum of services, and partners. Their vision for the program is for their children is to be educated with general education program peers, to serve children from birth through age 5, and to educate parents as first teachers. The birth to 3 years old low incidence toddler program consist of deaf and hard of hearing, visually impaired, and solely orthopedically impaired. Their team includes credentialed deaf and hard of hearing teachers, credentialed visually impaired teachers, early childhood teachers, dedicated education assistants, two nurses, and three audiologists. They collaborate very closely with occupational and physical therapist, six partner regional centers in the LAUSD area, several early start programs, and a variety of hospitals and clinics. The preschool programs in LAUSD has over 130 programs that are inclusive

environments, where children with disabilities are fully included with their peers. They also have a preschool comprehensive program that includes intervention and therapeutic model for children who need the most support in attention, turn taking, or sharing. They also adhere to the California Department of Early Learning and Development System, which is preschool learning foundations.

- II. Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) discussed their Head Start and Early Learning Divisions, which strives to prepare young children for school by improving the lives of students and the educational community through service, leadership, and advocacy. LACOE's programs provide comprehensive services in various ways that fit each child's needs. The programs are: Early Head Start for pregnant women to 3 years old, Head Start from 3 to 5 years old, and state preschool from 4 years old. One of the components within the comprehensive services provision is to support the needs of children with disabilities from birth to 5 years old. They offer health support with a health coordinator that works with the family to provide resources, support, educational components, and partner with mental health consultant agencies to provide mental health services. They also provide family style meals in their programs that provide the nutrition that the children should be getting according to their age. With children with disabilities, they work with the family holistically by providing support and resources for the development of the child and work with the IEP or IFSP to make sure the services are individualized. Their staff also receives information on the latest studies on disabilities and newly available partners in the community, referrals, and nutritious meals.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): APRIL HEARING ITEMS

Discussion and voting/approval of extending the Commission's upcoming April Hearing from its regular 2-hour period (1:00pm-3:00pm) to 3 hours (1:00pm – 4:00pm) and creation of 4 person adhoc committee to field and provide input on future planning.

Action Taken: Approval of the first action item to create the adhoc committee on immigrants with disabilities consisting of Commissioner Rothenberg, Commissioner Cabanban, and President De Vera. Approval of the second action item to extend the Public Hearing meeting one hour from 1 pm to 4pm.

ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion 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. The Department on Disability hosted a public policy meeting on disability policy issues at Loyola Law School on March 23rd regarding the plastic straw policy. Since the last meeting, the Department on Disability had their budget hearing and are feeling very positive about getting the support in expanding homeless services and the AIDS Coordinator's Office syringe exchange around the homeless encampment sites.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): 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 Bitonte announced the wheelchair division competition at Muscle Beach is taking place during Memorial Day weekend. Stephen David Simon's announced the ReelAbilities film festival is going to take place during the third week of October and are currently looking for an appropriate venue for the event.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:40 P.M.