



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works

200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Robert Bitonte

David Wolf

Theresa de Vera

Richard Rothenberg Alisa Schlesinger

Robert Williams

Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Michael Griggs (excused)

Harriet Posner (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

Angela Kaufman, ADA Compliance Officer

COMMISSION STAFF:

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Ken Husting, LADOT

GUESTS:

Samuel Lou, Chief of Staff, Senate District 26

Tisha, mother of two children

Dr. Alice Quo

Neal Richman, WCIL

Richard Dondiago, WCIL

Louis Burns, Access

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

ITEM NO. (1): CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN.

President Bitonte called the regular meeting to order at 1:14 P.M. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTE

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN

Commission approved the March 2015 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

DISPOSITION: PUBLIC COMMENTARY RECEIVED – FOR ANNOUNCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY*

Public comments were granted.

ITEM NO. (4): VACCINATIONS

Samuel Lou, Chief of Staff, for Senator Ben Allen, California Senate District 26, introduced Tisha, mother of two children, and Dr. Alice Quo, practicing pediatrician in Santa Monica and representing the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Mr. Lou indicated that Senator Allen introduced a Senate Bill recommending the elimination of personal exemption for school vaccinations.

Tisha, mother of two children, expressed support for the bill, indicating that exemptions hurts all of people, especially babies who already have compromised immune systems, and the elderly. Just we have laws requiring seat belts and prohibition against drunken driving, vaccinations are a matter of public health.

Dr. Alice Quo expressed that she and the American Academy of Pediatrics supports this bill. Dr. Quo indicated that herd immunity requires approximately 95 percent of the population to be immunized. Parents she serve has expressed their concerns about schools and daycare centers not serving children who are not immunized and jeopardizing others.

When asked about immunizations for measles and whooping cough, Dr. Quo indicated that some parents might believe that these infectious diseases are like the chicken pox and pose inconsequential danger. However, the measles is a dangerous virus that attacks the immune system. The results can be pneumonia, fevers, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Unlike bacterial infections, there are few corrective measures for virus.

Measles have required two vaccinations in recent decades – the first at one years of age and the second at four years – because of the immunization rates for the general population has been between 80 and 90 percent, which is below the herd immunity level.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

ITEM NO. (5): VETERANS HOMELESSNESS AND PROPOSITION 41

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

President Bitonte summarized the efforts of the Commission on Disability on the topic of homeless veterans and Proposition 41, indicating that the Commission had approved several motions, such as securing the support of the California Medical Association, submission of a letter to the Mayor and City Council about securing one-third of the funding for the City of Los Angeles that has one-third of the homeless veterans population.

ITEM NO. (6): UPDATE ON THE CITY HEALTH COMMISSION

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Dahlia Ferlito, AIDS Coordinator, reported on Council File 14-0596 that established the Commission on Public Health. The City Council approved a Special Fund for Public Health Commission and lifted the restriction on General Funds being used to fund the newly created commission.

ITEM NO. (7): CALIFORNIA COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN.

At its meeting of November 5, 2014, the Commission approved the motion that was relative to the Commission on Disability recommending the study of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) and its impact on people with disabilities by inviting testimony from people with disabilities and from subject matter experts.

The Commission has invited guest to speak about the impacts of the California Coordinated Care (CCI) Initiative on people with disabilities, in particular, whether CCI has disrupted medical care during the passive enrollment process.

President Bitonte has drafted a letter to the Center for Medical and Medicaid Services (CMS) requesting data. The final letter will be signed and presented to the Commission.

ITEM NO. (8): DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S DISABLED PARKING PLACARD POLICY.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Ken Husting, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), provided data about parking placard use in downtown Los Angeles, in order to determine the content of a future "Disabled Parking Placard Policy."

The Commission requested LADOT to return next month. Additional meetings between DOT and DOD will be arranged and findings will be summarized for the Commission's consideration.

ITEM NO. (9): FUND RAISING

DISPOSITION: ACTION TAKEN.

The Commission approved motion 12032014-C relative to the Commission on Disability establishing an Ad Hoc Committee from members of the Commission on Disability to research and coordinate efforts to raise resources to support the activities of the Commission on Disability and the Department on Disability.

However, the Commission has not entertained the proposed motion. President Bitonte noted that further work must be done on fund raising, but the Commission is still looking to have a full-blown event in November 2016.

ITEM NO. (10): 2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held in Los Angeles from July 25th to August 2nd. The Commission on Disability requested the Department on Disability to provide an update, in order for the Commission to explore avenues of participation.

The Department is working with Olympic coordinators to ensure that all venues are accessible.

ITEM NO. (11): DISCUSSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT.

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Stephen Simon was present but called away to address the Willets v. City of Los Angeles case which was being entertained by the Mayor and City Council at the same time as today's Commission meeting.

Mr. Simon will provide an update at the next Commission meeting

ITEM NO. (12): PUBLIC COMMENT.

DISPOSITION: DISCUSSION.

ITEM NO. (13): NEW BUSINESS

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

Richard Dondiago and Neal Richman, WCIL, requested to have State Supplemental Payment on the next agenda.

Louis Burns, Access, request to have the topic of a letter of support for Access Service added to the agenda.

Janet Neal requested to have the topic of "Applying for Disabled Adult Dependent Status with the Fire and Police Pension" added to the agenda.

ITEM NO. (14): ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISPOSITION: NO ACTION TAKEN, INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY*

ITEM NO. (15): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:25 P.M.

Robert Bitonte, President DATE
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Tony Abraham, DATE
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY