



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Robert Williams
Richard Rothenberg

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director
Lourdes Sinibaldi, Community Outreach and Education Resources (CORE)

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

GUESTS:

Denny Chan, Justice in Aging

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes.

President Bitonte called the meeting to order. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the March 1, 2017 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment

No Public Comment Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Abilities Expo

Lourdes Sinibaldi, DOD's Community Outreach, Research and Education (CORE) presented on the Abilities Expo that was held on March 24th through 26th at Los Angeles' Convention Center.

On the Friday, March 24th DOD held a job fair for the purpose of connecting 21 employers and job seekers in the disability community with the opportunity to find work, create resumes, and conduct mock interviews. 90 people participated directly and 300 to 400 passed through the job fair and DOD will analyze how many people were hired by the participating employers.

DOD also offered a disability workshop in four phases to provide training to 60 attendees.

DOD also conducted outreach by informing people about DOD's services and information, resulting in our serving 150 attendees and 90 people signing up for our e-mail blast.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI)

Denny Chan, Justice in Aging, presented on this topic, indicating that since the start of the CCI, 115,000 individuals statewide and 37,000 individuals

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citywide have enrolled in this program based on the February data posted on the State's website.

Initiated in eight counties in 2013, CCI has two components: (1) *Cal MediConnect* is a single delivery system for dual eligible beneficiaries to receive coordinated long-term institutional, home, community-based, medical and behavior services; (2) *Managed Medi-Cal Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS)* is program requiring Medi-Cal and dual eligible beneficiaries to join a Medi-Cal managed care plan that would offer LTSS and Medicare benefits.

Denny Chan reported that although the program was a five-year demonstration project scheduled to end in 2017, the Governor proposed extending the program two more years, until 2019, but with a qualification.

The qualification required the counties, rather the State, to bear an additional \$625 million of the cost for In Home Support Services (IHSS). Initially the five-year demonstration project required that if the state went into the red, which it has done, due to CCI, the program would be terminated. But the \$625 million shift to the counties ensures that the State stays in the black and continues CCI.

Also IHSS recipients will continue receiving the same level of service, but new enrollments might suffer administrative delays.

Yet the extension of the program may not include the health benefit called the universal assessment tool. The universal assessment tool is a way to identify and coordinate the long term services and support (LTSS) that a dual eligible might need.

So although CCI continues, some consumers might be concerned about service delivery due \$625 million cost burden shifted to Counties for IHSS.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): Affordable Care Act

Denny Chan, Justice in Aging, presented on how the recently proposed American Health Care Act (AHCA) might affect the benefits offered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The AHCA would impact the ACA changing Medi-Cal (Medicaid).

Medicaid spending would be reduced by packaging it as a block grant or by the number of enrollees. Block grants are a flat number regardless of the number of enrollees. The Medicaid allocation by the number of enrollees is called “per cap” and that allocation per person could be reduced. It assumes everyone is equal so it doesn’t recognize that people on disability require a greater amount of service, and so a greater allocation.

Mr. Chan indicated that if Congress cannot overhaul ACA, it might introduce Medicaid specific bills that either limit services or make services optional. All proposed changes would place a greater burden on the states to determine whether they will make up the cost for reductions in Medicaid.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): Bylaws of the Commission

Commissioners were informed to review the annotated bylaws provided by City Attorney Chris Lee, recommend any changes in the upcoming weeks, and be prepared to approve them at the May 3rd, 2017 meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): Opioid Abuse and Pain Management

Motion was approved as amended. The amendment required the deletion of the terms “chronically disabled” and replace with “residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (8): Monthly Status Reports from Commission's Ad Hoc Sub-Committees

The following Ad Hoc Sub-Committees provided a brief synopsis of their committee efforts and committee objectives:

Outreach Sub-Committee. President Bitonte reported that an invitation has been made to the Social Security Administration to discuss its outreach to the homeless.

Financial Resources Sub-Committee. President Bitonte reported that he had met with the Mayor's Office and DOD on April 4th, 2017 about the compliance requirements that must be addressed, if the Commission raises funds.

Housing Sub-Committee. Commissioner Wolf reported that the Sub-Committee will continue to reach out to the Mayor's assistant on housing, in order to coordinate a meeting.

Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee. Commissioner de Vera indicated that there was no update.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): Speaker Card

Commission adopted the amended card.

The amendment consisted of removing the following words from the bottom in the brackets "[taking into account the facts and circumstances]."

The amendment also consisted of removing the language from the top "Those persons with disabilities prevented from speaking at a customary speed" and replacing it with "A person may request a reasonable accommodation for an extension of time by checking the box provided below."

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (10): Executive Directors' Report

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, presented on recent and future activities of the Department on Disability. He discussed the ADA self-evaluation and transition plan, indicating that the City Council must approve a motion directing City departments to review and update their status as it related to the ADA self-evaluation conducted in 2000.

The Executive Director also provided an updated on the Hollyhock House, indicating that \$133,000 was authorized by City Council to make the Hollyhock House accessible.

The Executive Director also indicated that an audit of the department was being conducted, Autism Day was upcoming with Councilmembers' participation, and the Mayor's budget proposal would be submitted to City Council on April 20th, and that DOD would be in front of the Council's Budget & Finance Committee on April 27th.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): New Business and Announcements

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda will include a researching the prevention of hearing damage and loss.

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:43 P.M.