



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, April 10, 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  
David Wolf

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

Abigail Marquez, Los Angeles Housing Community Investment Department (HCIDLA).

**GUESTS:**

Father Richard Estrada, founder and board president, Jovenes.

Eric Hubbard, Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, Jovenes

Teresa Celada-Dalton, Ph. D., Children's Hospital Community Mental Health Center.

Mariana Magana and Paulina Ruiz, advocates, The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA).

**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 March 13, 2019, meeting minutes.

**ITEM NO. (2): HEARING: DISABILITY AND IMMIGRATION**

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

- I. Father Richard Estrada- Father Estrada is the founder and board president of Jovenes, a shelter for homeless, undocumented young men and a tireless advocate for the rights of the homeless, immigration reform, and justice for refugees from Central America and Mexico. They collaborated and partnered with the Immigrant Justice Peace movement that consists of faith based religious leaders, community based organizations, and progressive individuals. They are brought together by a profound belief that everyone needs to be treated equally and the protection of human rights of all people is to be respected. He was here to speak up for the hundreds and thousands immigrants who are disability who are excluded from basic health and other related services who have become the invisibles of their community.

- II. Dr. Teresa Celada-Dalton is a child psychologist with the Children's Hospital Community Mental Health Center with a trauma specialty serving underserved persons, in particular Latinx children, youth, and families. She also works providing advocacy and resources for Spanish speaking immigrants, children, and individuals with disabilities, and volunteers alongside Jovenes, Inc. and Father Estrada. In the past 15 years of her clinical work, she has encountered many life stories of immigrant Latinos about resiliency, dreams, hope, a sense of community, and of family cohesion. She also testified that immigrants endure many adversity and struggles such as leaving their home country, adjusting to a new country, and a new set of values, language, customs. She also wants to highlight people who mental and psychological disability who need resources and services. Their projects focus on empowering individuals who are disabled by providing trainings, opportunities to do outreach in the community with lived experiences, work with those who want job opportunities, and becoming active members in their society.
- III. Eric Hubbard is the Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships for Jovenes, Inc. Jovenes provides housing and supportive services to youth experiencing homelessness in East and Southeast Los Angeles. Throughout their history, has sought to support immigrant youth in their pathways to become integrated and active members of the community. Jovenes is an agency that started from a garage in East L.A. that housed about four young men to an agency that covers 1/8 of L.A. County serving homeless youth between the ages of 18 to 25 years old. Jovenes offers shelter, transitional housing, and a wide range of permanent housing options. They work with young people who have economic challenges, youth who have mental health challenges, young people coming out of the foster care system, the juvenile justice system, and LGBT youth that don't have any support system. They are currently expanding their services to homeless community college students. They are here to make sure that they are

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constantly advocating for additional resources made expressly available to immigrants with disabilities.

- IV. Constituent Testimony – Testimony from constituents on their own or family member’s experiences as immigrants and people living with disabilities. Afterward, constituents are invited to share their experiences orally for a maximum of 2 minutes and/or in writing for a maximum of 2 pages.
  
- V. Abigail Marquez, Los Angeles Housing Community Investment Department Abigail Marquez is responsible for managing the operations of the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department’s (HCIDLA) newly created Community Services and Development Bureau. This includes the planning and administration of the City’s Consolidated Plan and the implementation of HCIDLA’s social service delivery programs, including the FamilySource System, Domestic Violence Shelter Operations, Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA), Supportive Housing Services for homeless individuals and families, and Fair Housing programs. They run the programs by incorporating the type of services that are requested by the community in their particular area and then fund agencies in those locations to provide the services that are needed. The services that are typically requested and are provided are workforce development, human services, family support, educational services, case management, financial coaching, ESL classes, legal services, and computer classes. Their responsibility also includes ensuring the City’s investment in creating affordable housing is accessible to individuals with mobility needs and hearing vision and sensory needs.
  
- VI. Mariana Magana, The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) and Paulina Ruiz, advocate. Mariana Magana serves as the Local Policy Advocate at CHIRLA, which organizes and serves individuals, institutions and coalitions to build power, transform public opinion, and

change policies to achieve full human, civil and labor rights. CHIRLA was formed in response to the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 which made hiring undocumented workers illegal, creating a situation ripe for worker exploitation and abuse. Paulina Ruiz is a graduate of UCLA in Spanish Language and Literature, a burgeoning community leader, and has worked with CHIRLA in advocacy and awareness. They encourage civic engagement by engaging voter campaigns; community education when immigration or social services legislations change at local, state and federal level; policy and advocacy that advocates for humane and comprehensive immigration reform and address the heightened trend towards local enforcement, and organize the community with the individual who are directed impacted decisions made at different levels. They base their services on income and residence. For people who are homeless or live in their cars, the organization uses their address to be able to provide services.

- VII. Constituent Testimony – Continued testimony from constituents on their own or family member's experiences as immigrants and people living with disabilities. Afterward, constituents are invited to share their experiences orally for a maximum of 2 minutes and/or in writing for a maximum of 2 pages.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): 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. Stephen David Simon waive his Executive Director's report in honor of the hearing.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5): PUBLIC COMMENT**

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. The COD will vote next month to include non-commission participants to the immigration ad hoc committee. The Department on Disability would like to announce that Disability Mentoring Day is taking place April 24<sup>th</sup>.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 P.M.