



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 3, 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
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger
Robert Williams
Betty Wilson
David Wolf

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

GUESTS:

Dr. Arthur Lurvey, MD, Noridian Healthcare Solutions
Guillermo Barron, Social Security Administration
Andre Colaiace, Interim Executive Director, Access Services
Stephanie Nieto, DOD Intern

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 April 5, 2017 meeting minutes, with the correction that Commission de Vera attended the April 5, 2017 meeting.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment

No Public Comment Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Opioid Abuse and Pain Management

The Commission had approved a motion at the April 5, 2017 meeting recommending that the Mayor and City Council support increased resources for the expedited review of opiate prescriptions for residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Presentation was by Dr. Arthur Lurvey, MD, FACP, FACE, Medicare Contractor Medical Director, Noridian Healthcare Solutions. Dr. Glenda Tolbert, MD, could not attend the meeting. Dr. Lurvey discussed different ways to management pain, which included pain pumps, neuro-stimulators, nerve blocks, palliative care, etc.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (4): Social Security Administration's Outreach to the Homeless

Presentation was by Guillermo Barron, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration. Mr. Guillermo indicated that the Social Security

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Administration (SSA) has a program that provides training to non-profits and others on how to assist the homeless in completing applications for social security benefits. The SSA program is called SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR).

SSA's SOAR has provided this training to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' non-profits who serve the homeless under a program called County-wide Benefits Service Team (CBEST). The CBEST non-profits ensures the completion of the application, submits it to the SSA, who then forwards it the State of California, Disability Determination Services (DDS) Division.

DOD will reach out to the CBEST program managers and determine how the COD can be involved.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): Measure M

Presentation was by Andre Colaiace, Interim Executive Director, Access Services.

Mr. Colaiace encouraged the Commission on Disability to support the policy and guidelines that guarantees that 75 percent of the ADA/Metro Discount fund be allocated to ADA paratransit activities on an annual basis given the growing need for ADA paratransit and the fact that it is a federal civil rights mandate.

The Commission indicated that it will entertain a motion at the June 7, 2017 meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the American Health Care Act (AHCA)

Presentation was by Stephanie Nieto, DOD intern. Ms. Nieto presented information on the Affordable Care Act and implications of the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

The Commission approved a motion that encourages the Mayor and City Council to support legislation which at a minimum ensures that the following provisions be included:

1. All habilitative and rehabilitative services be maintained.
2. No pre-existing condition under any health coverage scheme be considered.
3. No lifetime caps on health care expenditures be permitted.

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (7): Bylaws of the Commission on Disability

Commission approved the bylaws as amended by the City Attorney.

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (8): Speaker's Card

The Commission approved the speaker's card as amended.

ITEM NO. (9): Monthly Status Reports from the 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.

- Financial Resources Sub-Committee.
- Housing Sub-Committee.
- Opioid Abuse and Pain Management.
- Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): Executive Officer's Report

Presentation was by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. Mr. Simon reported that the Commission submitted two letters to the Mayor's Office regarding staff report and grant funding, respectively. Mr. Simon also reported on the timeline for the City's budget approval process, which ends June 1st. Finally, Mr. Simon reported on the Accessible Parking Committee, indicating that it is addressing the issue of parking placards across the City and trying to develop some recommendations.

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 3:45 P.M.