



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

200 N. Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera  
David Wolf  
Myrna Cabanban  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Dr. Robert Bitonte  
Iran Hopkins  
Robert Williams  
Richard Rothenberg

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

### GUESTS:

California Charter School Association (CCSA), Vivian Haun, Manager, Special Education and Keith Dell'Aquila, California Charter School Association.

LAUSD, Alfredo Ortiz, Director, Local District West West and James Koonts, coordinator for Transitions Services for LAUSD.

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

**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 when roll call was conducted.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the August 8, 2018, meeting minutes.

**ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON DISABILITY AND EDUCATION**

- I. California Charter School Association (CCSA), Vivian Haun, Manager, Special Education and Keith Dell'Aquila, California Charter School Association. The CCSA advances for charter schools through state and local advocacy, to ensure that special education teachers and staff have the resources they need locally and across the state. Among the independent charter schools, 11 percent of their students are students with disabilities. Charter schools are responsible for their own special education and have a focused and priority on inclusion. The Chime Institute in Woodland Hills has both Elementary and High School operating in the Westchester neighborhood and specifically target high school age students by operating under the LA county educational programs. To address students who are homeless, charter schools turns to nonprofit organizations across the City of Los Angeles to meet students where are at rather than expecting student to come to the school. Charter schools also develop a hybrid model to push for a full inclusion experience, giving students the rich experience of being in a classroom with their peers while providing a space to have individualized instruction in a small group in a classroom.

- II. LAUSD, Alfredo Ortiz, Director, Local District West and James Koonts, coordinator for Transitions Services for LAUSD. The LAUSD enrolls more than 640,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at over 900 schools and 187 public charter schools. The purpose of special education is about creating successfully employing and educating students. LAUSD has started moving students with moderate to severe disabilities into one classroom with the general students to create one community of learners. Some of the programs at Grand View campus offered to students with disabilities and general education students are a garden program, a cooking class, arts class, dance class, music class, theater class, a PE program where we would have students come and participate with one another, and integrated recesses. They also have a Mobility Olympics where general education students would participate with students with disabilities and compete in an Olympic setting. They also train the adults by creating a program to raise awareness about disabilities, such as walking around without using one of their arms to see what it's like to be a person with special needs. LAUSD is also creating inclusion pilot schools that focuses on moving to the idea of inclusion into programs and classes. They are also focusing on a transition period where students can gain experiences, get their diplomas, get into college, and get employed to become members of their communities.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Discussion of 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 Reel Abilities is going to be October 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> with a community event in Pico Union. The Disability Art show will take place throughout the month of October starting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A reception event with Councilmember Ryu will be taking place at City Hall Rotunda on October 29<sup>th</sup> 11am-8pm. DOD will also be working on

community listening meetings to get input on policy issues, such as the placard reform and the restricting the use the plastic straws. DOD will work with COD on the retreat is next month. The COD suggest immigration and disability as the November and December topics.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5): 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 to be presented at the next meeting. Commissioner will continue talking about different topics for the COD agenda.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

**ITEM NO. (6): ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF NICOLE WILLETT.  
ACTION.**

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:25 P.M.