



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 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
Robert Williams
Iran Hopkins
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Betty Wilson
Alisa Schlesinger
Richard Rothenberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

NONE

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

GUESTS:

Zach Baldwin, Outreach Coordinator, Guide Dogs of America – Guide Dogs of America (GDA).

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

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Karen K. Esquivel-Mayes, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, Braille Institute

Michael Greenwood, Chief of Operations, ACCESS Services

Dexter McDaniel, 1st annual Muscle Beach Wheelchair Champion

Heather Jue Northover, Director, Center for Health Equity, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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 August 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: NOTIFICATION & COMMUNICATION

Presentation from various organizations from the greater Los Angeles Area regarding Emergency Preparedness.

- I. Deisy Gonzalez and Rosemarie Punzalan, (City of Los Angeles – Department on Disability) conducted a presentation on emergency preparedness and core policy on digital accessibility. A social media component has been added to insure citywide digital content is accessible to everyone regardless of the individual's ability and the technology being used (website, global apps, and social media). The DOD speakers stated that in press conferences during emergencies, sign language interpreters are provided before, during, and after

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emergency including technical assistance to Public Information Officer. DOD also provides document remediation to make sure a document is readable and accessible to everyone. There are multiple platforms of information to consider during an emergency especially social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. One technical assistance goal was to see and make sure posted media images were accessible. During the most recent Getty Fire, there were major improvements made to images by providing all text necessary for clear messaging to the public from L.A. County partners to our constituents in the City of Los Angeles.

- II. Matthew Gerst, Vice President of regulatory Affairs, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA). Matthew Gerst made a presentation on the wireless emergency alert system including the life-saving features to make warning messaging available. Wireless Emergency Alert was designed to have a unique audio tone and unique vibration cadence designed for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind or low-vision. Matthew Gerst also provided a summary of the Wireless Emergency Alert system. This system is a successful public and private partnership established by Congress, Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and has helped to save lives. This system is used to encourage residents to evacuate, provide notice of power shut off or any eminent threat. This clearly is an effective tool for public safety officials to disseminate information in a centralized way and is being improved upon constantly. FEMA is working on improvements including better geographic targeting, and more room for message including Spanish language support.
- III. Chris Carey, Chris Ipsen, (City of Los Angeles Coordinators for the Emergency Management Department) conducted a presentation on mass notification and communication resources. These Emergency Preparedness professionals are responsible for the operations plan, communications, activation of the emergency center, the training of responders and website. Chris Carey stated that the tools used are

phone, email, text, fax, and TTC for sending out Wireless Emergency Alerts. This is something used to get people to take immediate lifesaving actions. If constituents sign up for NotifyLA, you will be alerted to any potential emergency and this is a great capability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (4): SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY MOBILE UNIT
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The Commission discussed and voted on a motion regarding a mobile SSDI/SSI assessment and enrollment program unit designed to serve individuals with disabilities who are also experiencing homelessness.

Action Taken: Commission on Disability approved the motion regarding a mobile SSDI/SSI assessment and enrollment unit as amended. Please see the attached motion.

**ITEM NO. (5): SB 1376 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES
(TNC) ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

The Commission discussed and voted on a motion regarding SB1376, The TNC Access for ALL Act, and the funds collected.

Action Taken: Commission on Disability approved the motion regarding SB1376, The TNC Access for ALL Act.

Please see the attached motion.

ITEM NO. (6): 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 (DOD). Stephen David Simon relinquished the Executive Director's report. Guest speaker: Louis Burns from ACCESS Services. ACCESS Services has community meetings scheduled for consumers to discuss service concerns. Managers and directors will be there to address issues and answer questions.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests. Peter Soto announced the next meeting will be the annual retreat that will take place in December at the California Community Foundation at 281 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:59 P.M.