



# **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

## **MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Alisa Schlesinger

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Betty Wilson

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Robert Williams

### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Ricki Rosales, Acting Executive Director, Department on Disability

Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Department on Disability

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Sr. Project Coordinator, Department on Disability

Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer, Department on Disability  
Sergio Samayoa, Sr. Management Analyst, Department on Disability

**OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

**GUESTS:**

Senior Lead Officer Paul Evleth, Southwest Area Communications Relation  
Office Los Angeles Police

**ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS  
PURSUANT TO AB 361**

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability approved the teleconference meetings pursuant to AB361.

**ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the September 2022 and October 2022 meeting minutes and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the September and October meetings.

**ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (4): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Commission will hear from the Department on Disability Division Managers will briefly present on the year on review, and key or special projects being spearheaded by their divisions.

- I. Presentation is by Lourdes Sinibaldi, Sr. Project Coordinator, Community Outreach, Referrals, and Education, (CORE) Department on Disability. CORE's mission is to create ongoing collaborative relationships to promote referrals to social service that include housing, emergency shelter, accessible transportation, employment, and job training. CORE achievements include: over 100 durable medical equipment provided to the community, over 99 information and referrals received and directed, and they held 7 outreach events. CORE's future goals and projects include increasing the number of homeless services with Social Worker support and increasing the number of collaborations with other departments and community partners, especially in the adaptive sports and arts departments.
- II. Presentations is by Ricki Rosales, Acting Executive Director, AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO), Department on Disability. ACO is committed to developing and supporting programs and policies that prevent the transmission and acquisition of HIV and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS. ACO is starting the Homeless Prevention Advocacy Project (HPAP) that focuses on disability accommodation requests, Fair Housing Overview, request for in-home caregivers, Pro Bono legal services, emotional support animals, habitability repairs and maintenance, landlord harassment, and security deport returns trainings. ACO achievements include: 7 advocate training workshops and consumer presentations from HPAP, 381 referrals, 310 outreach events, 16,151 clients reached through partnerships form the prevention programs, 22,478 fentanyl strips distributed, 649 Narcan refills, 2,164,076 syringes collected, 6,102 instances of reversals, and 35,119 clients reached through partnerships.
- III. Presentation is by Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer, Accessible Communications Division (ACD) Department on Disability.

# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes November 9, 2022

Page 4 of 6

ACD is responsible for promoting and marketing the department's services and programs by sharing the information in accessible formats across traditional and social media platforms, and providing digital accessibility training, technical assistance, and assistive technologies to City Departments as required by the ADA. ACD achievements include: planning and executing the ReelAbilities LA Film Festival 2022, provided 8 digital accessibility training to over 130 participants, hired a full-time graphic designer, worked with 508 contract vendors to remediate 142 pages of documents, test webpages, and produce 41 videos with captions and audio descriptions. ACD's future projects include focusing on strategic marketing, tracking social media analytics, managing SLI and CART requests, hiring an Accessible Communication Specialist, and expanding outreach.

- IV. Presentation is by Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Disability Access Services Division (DASD), Department on Disability. DASD's mission is to coordinate and monitor City compliance with the ADA, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and related laws by providing technical advisement and guidance on City facilities and programs. DASD achievements include: 34 completed, 12 in progress, and 3 not yet started in the SETP (self-evaluation/transition plan); 3,316 blue curb/APZ applications processed, and 5,111 Sidewalk Repair Program-Access Request processed. DASD's future projects include making the AI Fresco program permanent, having a language access initiative, migrating self-evaluation data into the transition plan framework, and training new council members and staff on SRP, APZ, and SETP.
- V. Presentation is by Sergio Samayoa, Sr. Management Analyst, Administrative Services Division (ASD) Department on Disability. ASD's mission is to provide support, services and tools necessary to help DOD improve operational capability, while establishing departmental processes designed for stability and growth. ASD achievements include: management of the department budget during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, increased the department's annual budget allocation resulting in three additional positions, hired an Accounting Clerk and a Systems Analyst, and identified an additional \$70,000 to expand the Durable Medical Equipment program. ASD future projects include increasing the number of administrative staff, bring the department's vacancy rate to zero, increasing resources for the SETP, securing approval to establish a new division, and providing support for public events.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Commission will be updated on new and on-going legislation of interest.

- I. Presentation is by Scott Klein, Student Profession Worker, Department on Disability. Peter updated the Commission on Disability. Scott is currently working for the Department on Disability on researching SB 17 Equity Advisory and Accountability Commission establishes an Office of Health Equity in the State Department of Public Health for purposes of aligning state resources, decision making, and programs to accomplish certain goals related to health equity and protecting vulnerable communities. It is currently on inactive status and DOD is keeping informed on the status of the SB 17. Scott is also researching AB 2541 Special education funding: deaf and hard of hearing children establishes the special education early intervention preschool grant, which requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in any year moneys are appropriated for this purpose, to allocate grant funding to school districts for preschool children with exceptional needs, as provided.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (6): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Ricki Rosales, Acting Executive Director, Department on Disability and/or other department staff. DOD put together their legislative priorities for the next year. DOD will share with the COD the letter that outlines the legislative priorities in the department. DOD is working on scheduling the interviews for the Assistant Executive Director, Management Analyst, lead CASp, Program Aid, Student Professional Workers, Deaf Services Coordinator, Project Coordinator, and Accessible Communication Specialist. DOD submitted a memo to the Mayor's Office to have the exemptions for those positions because they are a specialized position to hire from the outside. DOD is currently working on the 2022-2023 budget to focus on filling in the gaps that have been identified in terms of positions. DOD is requesting more money for the ACO because the supplies are costing a bit more than last year and more agencies that have been certified to provide more harm reduction services to the community. DOD is also requesting more money on the SETP because the bigger departments are left to complete and using up the contract services. DOD will present the budget to the Commissioners when the final draft is submitted.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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. Presentation is by Senior Lead Officer Paul Evleth, Southwest Area Communications Relation Office Los Angeles Police Department on a U.S. Post Office located on Crenshaw Blvd. For over 5 years, there have been complaints and observations about the accessibility of the U.S. Post Office regarding the lack of blue collection boxes, lack of blue curb parking, and parking lots in general. Officer Evleth has met with the regional managers regarding the issues and installing drive-up and more standard blue collection boxes and more accessible parking zones/blue curbs without any resolutions. COD will be adding this presentation to a future meeting for discussion.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:47 P.M.