



# **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 15, 2023 2:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Board of Public Works Hearing Room 350, City Hall

200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom Video Conference

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Robert Bitonte, 1st Vice President  
Robert Williams, 2nd Vice President  
Akiko Tagawa, Commissioner  
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner  
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner  
Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Betty Wilson, Commissioner  
Candace Cable, Commissioner  
Myrna Cabanban, President

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### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, Department on Disability

### **OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

### **GUESTS:**

Anayjah Robinson, Disabilities Coordinator, South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)

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

In accordance with AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) members may now notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely for just cause, if they haven't already done so, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

Action Taken: There was no Commission member that was attending the Commission on Disability meeting virtually, no action required by the Commission on Disability.

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 2023 special meeting and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the May 2023 special meeting as amended during the meeting.

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

For items not on today's agenda, but under the Commission's jurisdiction, members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (4): AIDS COORINATOR'S OFFICE SYRINGE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator, Ricky Rosales, will present an overview of the program which removes dirty and used syringes from City streets, as well as offers risk reduction services like overdose prevention, outreach in homeless encampments, and referrals to housing and medical services.

- I. Presentation is by Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, Department on Disability. The AIDS Coordinator's Office 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 in the City of Los Angeles. The ACO develops and manages contracts with community-based organizations to provide AIDS education and prevention services, focusing efforts on populations and areas most impacted by the epidemic. Activities include HIV Testing, Outreach, Health Education and Risk Reduction, and Syringe Collection and Disposal services. The ACO also works on AIDS policy and planning activities, advising the mayor and city council on issues related to HIV/AIDS; administers a technical assistance and capacity building program that assists local community-based organizations with resources to help improve agency's capacity to deliver services; and provides funding and expertise for innovative research into HIV/AIDS risk behaviors, prevention techniques and technology. The organizations that are currently funded by the AIDS Coordinators Office for health education and other care are: The AMAAD Institute, APLA Health & Wellness, Black AIDS Institute, Center for Health Justice, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, East Los Angeles Women's Center, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, St. John's Well Child & Family Center, The Wall Las Memorias Project, and Volunteers of America Los Angeles. The organizations that are currently funded by the AIDS Coordinators Office for the Syringe Collection and Disposal Program are: Asian American

Drug Abuse Program, Inc. (AADAP), Being Alive, Bienestar Human Services, Inc., Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA), Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPIC), LA Community Health Project (LACHP), Tarzana Treatment Center, and the Venice Family Clinic. Over the last fiscal year, the ACO saw 35,000 unduplicated clients, 14,000 contacts with unhoused individuals, collected 2.1 million syringes from city streets, trained 7,200 individuals on overdose prevention, reported 6,000 instances of overdose reversals, and distributed 22,400 fentanyl testing strips.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (5): SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (SBWIB)**

Anayjah Robinson, Disabilities Coordinator, discussed the programs offered by the SBWIB such as the S.T.E.P.S program, which offers essential life skills and work experience, and their partnerships with Los Angeles World Airports for paid work experience and an opportunity to career pathway employment.

- I. Presentation is by Anayjah Robinson, Disabilities Coordinator from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB). Using the most cost-effective services, and demand driven strategies, their mission is to build a world-class workforce through strategic alliances with business, education and community partners. Central to this mission statement is collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders including business, labor, education, social services, philanthropic organizations and community-based agencies. The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) serves eleven (11) cities located in southwest Los Angeles County, including Hawthorne, Inglewood, Gardena, Carson, Lawndale, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Torrance and Lomita. The board is comprised of 51 members representing business, labor, education, economic development, the One-Stop partners and other local workforce system stakeholders. The SBWIB embraces comprehensive strategies to meet the needs of business for a skilled workforce, while creating opportunities for workers to prepare for and enter into well-paid careers. The S.T.E.P.S program, in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation and LAX, is dedicated to breaking down the barriers to employment and creating long-term career pathways in LAX. The program also provides either 400 hours or five months of paid job experience. The individuals in this program have to attend a three-day Workplace for Success Training that

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explains how to be employable person, understand a transition between not having to work every day and having a completely new schedule, helps with time management, communication skills and customer service skills, and helps individuals with their résumé. Then they are placed in the front line for customer services at the airports, they give directions to individuals throughout the terminals, and wear blue or red jackets in LAX.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (6): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY – ELECTION OPENING**

The Commission on Disability Officer Elections opened. A brief overview of the requirements and deadlines will be shared with the Commission and commissioners may nominate and self-nominate for the officer positions of: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary. Any nominations can be made directly to the Department on Disability by phone or email. Open elections will be held at the July 2023 Regular Meeting on 07/20/2023.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ongoing update 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 and/or other department staff. The Department on Disability, Emergency Management Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Mayor's Office coordinated to offer medical assessments, need for any accommodations, food, and supplies for a bus that arrived from Texas on June 14<sup>th</sup> at approximately 4:30 p.m. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) was also on site to provide short-term housing and help orient the individuals who are seeking asylum. DOD will continue to work with the different departments and organizations should this situation continue to arise. The ReelAbilities Film Festival will be moved from October 2023 to May of 2024 to give more time to ramp up and have a more comprehensive festival. The ReelAbilities film selection committee applications will be going out tomorrow. DOD expects to have a film schedule finalized by December 2023 to ensure all films are fully accessible. DOD will be meeting with Grand Performances, who was the host and production partner last year, to coordinate a date to hold ReelAbilities. DOD wanted to bring attention to

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Assembly Bill 1620 that requires an owner of a rent-controlled unit to allow a tenant with a permanent physical disability to relocate to a smaller unit located on an accessible floor and obtain the same rental rate. DOD is actively meeting with the City Attorney and other City departments to pass a motion introduced by Councilmember Park and Soto-Martinez to have closed captions on all televisions within City boundaries. Ali Everett, Assistant Executive Director, for DOD will be presenting during the next COD meeting about a conference of the Coalition of Municipal Offices for People with Disabilities.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (8): 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. Commissioner Bitonte wanted to agendize the mobile social security program, bring all of the documents in the agenda packets of how many times we have brought up this item, and invite organizations that are working with disability community and individuals who are unhoused to the Department of Social Security. Commissioner Bitonte also wanted to agendize long COVID in August or September and invite Dr. Simon to present, and requested an update presentation on AB 323. Commissioner Tagawa wanted to agendize a presentation about the Paralympics and Olympics planning. The Commissioners announced that June 12<sup>th</sup> is Philippines Independence Day. Narcan training dates for the Commissioners are July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hopkins wanted to agendize the Existing Buildings Energy and Water Efficiency (EBEWE) ordinances.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:42 P.M.