



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY
EQUITY THROUGH ACCESS

Commission on Disability Annual Retreat

October 19, 2023



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Division Presentations

DOD Divisions



- Accessible Communications
- AIDS Coordinator's Office
- Administrative Services
- Community Outreach, Referrals, and Education
- Disability Access Services

ACD



Accessible Communications Division



ACD Division Overview

Mission

The Accessible Communications Division promotes Department services and programs, shares public information through various media, and offers ADA-mandated digital accessibility training, technical assistance, and assistive technologies to City Departments.

Staff

- Division Lead: Ashley Rodriguez, Director of Accessible Communications
- Rosemarie Punzalan, Digital Accessibility Specialist
- Adriana Rivera, Graphic Designer
- Marie Lohr, Student Professional Worker



ACD Division Highlights

Types of Services Offered

- Document Remediation
- Sign Language Interpreters (SLI)
- Communication Access Real Time Translation (CART)
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- Multimedia Accessibility
- Website Review and User Testing
- Digital Accessibility Training and Technical Assistance

Digital Accessibility Training

- Introduction to Digital Accessibility & Inclusive Design
- Best Practices to Creating Accessible Documents
- Social Media Accessibility Best Practices
- Accessible Websites & Inclusive Content

ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles: Event planning, film accessibility and remediation, graphic design, managing Film Selection Committee, and more.



How COD and ACD can collaborate

1. Share Department social media posts and email marketing communications with your community. **Follow us @lacdod!**
2. Attend Department events and participate as a speaker on behalf of the COD.
3. Connect us with advocates and disability-focused media representatives that would be interested in partnering for marketing purposes.
4. Let us know about opportunities for resources, growth, and employment that we can share with our online community.

dod.press@lacity.org

ACO



AIDS Coordinator's Office



ACO Division Overview

Mission

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.

Staff

- Division Lead: Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinator
- Eveline Bravo-Ayala, Student Professional Worker
- Dahlia Ferlito, Management Analyst
- Gina Lombardo, Management Analyst: Department Contract Coordinator
- Juliana Soto, Administrative Clerk
- Peter Soto, Policy Analyst, COD Liaison



ACO Division Project Highlight

Homelessness Prevention Advocacy Project

Provides rent stabilization to the most vulnerable people with disabilities by quickly resolving housing disputes.

- Pro-bono attorneys advocate for tenants in distress before disputes lead to eviction.
- Types of housing disputes/issues:
 - Habitability issues, disability related accommodations, source of income discrimination, in-home support workers, and emotional support animals.
- Project Goals and Objectives
 - Recruitment and trainings for attorneys (20) and non-profit partners (20)
 - Client recruitment, clinics (40), screening and referrals, placement (25) and follow-up.



How COD and ACO can collaborate

1. Promote the work of the office in the community.
2. Support the programs in conversations with the Mayor's Office, Council, and funders.
3. Attend Department events and participate as a speaker on behalf of the COD.
4. Advocate for expansion of services and funding to grow the reach of the programs.

ASD



Administrative Services Division



ASD Division Overview

Mission

To provide support, services, and tools necessary to help the Department on Disability (DOD) improve operational capability, while establishing Departmental processes designed for stability and growth.

Staff

- Division Lead: Sergio Samayoa, Director of Administrative Services
- Kathy De La Paz, Management Analyst
- Ling Kaufman, Senior Accountant
- Kristine Buenaobra, Accounting Clerk
- Gail Delgado-Huezo, Senior Administrative Clerk
- Salina Goytia, Administrative Clerk



Key Services

- Customer service
- Information technology and systems
- Payroll and personnel
- Accounting and finance
- Annual budget development & budget management
- Department operations



Budget Process and Update

- Mayor's letter released on October 3, 2023
- Priority Consideration Given to Following Types of Funding Requests:
 - Implementing strategies to end homelessness and expand housing access
 - Preventing crime and interrupting cycles of violence
 - Promoting equity, climate change mitigation, and outstanding services to residents
- Challenges Include:
 - Potential economic downturn
 - Contract negotiations with City employee unions
 - Homelessness is a "continuing emergency"
- Cost-Neutral Budget
 - Must include line item cuts, new revenues, or special funds to offset new requests
- Budget Status and Key Dates

CORE



Community Outreach, Referrals and Education Division



CORE Division Overview

Mission

- Builds collaborative relationships for social service referrals including housing, transportation, and employment.
- Conducts outreach for unhoused individuals with disabilities, offering warm hand-off service referrals.
- Manages a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) program catering to individuals experiencing homelessness, those who don't meet health care provider qualification criteria, and those facing emergencies.
- Coordinates community events and education on disability-related matters and resources for independent living.

Staff

- Division Lead: Lourdes Sinibaldi, Director of Community Outreach, Referrals and Education
- Dominique Brewer, Community Program Assistant II
- Zenay Hayward, Community Program Assistant II
- Claudia Natera, Management Analyst
- Rigo Solorio, Program Aide
- Anna Ter Grigoryan, Program Aide
- Social Worker I (vacant)
- Social Worker II (vacant)



CORE Division Project Highlight

Durable Medical Equipment Program (DME): Status and Future

- January 2022 - Inception of the DME program
 - Contracted two agencies to procure, assemble, and deliver DME: Helping Hands and Communities Actively Living Independent and Free (CALIF)
 - Applications received to date: 400+
 - DME items delivered: 342
- FY 2022-2023
 - 243 applications, 195 DME distributed, 80% fulfillment
- FY 2023-2024
 - 78 applications, 73 DME distributed, 94% fulfillment
- Special DME Items Distributed: 6 powered chairs, 1 scooter, 2 white canes
- Future: Expanding items provided to include Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) devices, additional powered chairs, and ramps



How can COD and CORE collaborate

1. Facilitate partnerships with local disability organizations and advocacy groups.
1. Speak and staff at DOD marquee events (Abilities Expo, Disability Art Exhibit, ReelAbilities and other events)

DASD



Disability Access Services Division



DASD Division Overview

Mission

To coordinate and monitor the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and related laws; and provide technical advisement and guidance to ensure persons with disabilities have physical access to facilities as well as program access through auxiliary aids and services.

Staff

- Geoffrey Straniere - Division Lead
- Carey Stone - ADA Coordinator; Housing, Grievances
- Deisy Gonzalez - Emergency Management Coordinator
- John Rodriguez - ADA Coordinator; SETP, 504 accommodations
- Luis Mata - ADA Coordinator; Transportation, Elections and Voting
- Kendra Cantrell - Accessible Parking Specialist; APZ/BC
- Steve Banales - Accessible Parking Specialist; APZ/BC; SRP-AR



DASD Services and Project Highlights

Types of Services

- Staff Training - Accessibility awareness and compliance requirements training
- Emergency Response - Plan, advise, and deploy for accessible accommodations
- Title II - Deliver City's SETP; respond to grievances
- Technical Assistance - Advise on City facilities requirements, and public access for programs, services, or activities

Highlight Projects

- Self Evaluation/Transition Plan (SETP)
 - Over 35 City of Los Angeles departments completed
 - Over 3,500 facilities evaluated
 - Over 16,900 accessibility barriers inventoried
- Sidewalk Repair Program - Access Requests (SRP-AR)
 - Over 5,559 access requests processed
 - 1024 access requests completed



How COD and DASD can collaborate

1. Host community forum to provide an opportunity for the Disability Community to provide comment on the City's Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan (SETP).
2. Schedule joint meetings or presentations between COD and LAWA Disability Access and Accommodation Advisory Committee (DAAAC), LADBS Board of Disabled Access Appeals Commission (BDAAC)
3. Share information with the Disability Community about DASD services including Title II initiatives such as the Sidewalk Repair Program Access Request Program and Accessible Parking Zone Blue Curb program.



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Questions?



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Commission on Disability Annual Planning

2024 Retreat

Annual Planning Agenda



- Commission on Disability (COD)
Powers and Duties
- COD Work Plan
 - Overview of process
 - Select objectives
 - Draft purpose statement for each objective
 - Form Ad Hoc Committees



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Powers & Duties



The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

Sec. 8.244. General.

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council, and the Department on Disability of the needs and problems of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.
1. Hold public hearings at least once a year to take testimony from disabled persons and others regarding conditions adversely affecting the lives of disabled persons in the City of Los Angeles, and report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.



Powers & Duties (Cont.)

3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the disabled community and provide persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.
3. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor on grant proposals.
3. Maintain active liaison with citizen groups interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.



Powers & Duties (Cont.)

6. Promote greater awareness of the changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of persons with disabilities.
6. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as attitudinal barriers in the areas of housing, transportation, employment and training, recreation, media of mass communications, health and social services, and legislation; and special problems of disabled persons living alone, as well as their safety and access to support services.



Powers & Duties (Cont.)

8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of disabled persons when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.
8. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.



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Questions



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Annual Work Plan



Annual Work Plan

- Identifies objectives and action items to achieve in support of the objectives
- Identifies ad hoc committee members for each objective
- Provides an opportunity for monthly updates about what has been accomplished

Today's Goals

1. Select objectives
2. Draft the purpose statement for each objective
3. Establish ad hoc committees



Ad Hoc Committee Responsibilities

By next meeting

1. Refine purpose statements, as needed
2. Recommend specific actionable items for each objective with COD powers and duties in mind, such as:
 - Letter to Council/Mayor
 - Attend and speak at community events, city meetings, etc.
 - Join other bodies to represent disability community



Ad Hoc Committee Responsibilities (Cont.)

Ongoing

1. Ad Hoc Committees meet regularly (with DOD support) to achieve action items, including:
 - Conduct research and consult with subject matter experts
 - Draft recommendations based on research findings
 - Draft legislative letters
1. Bring recommendations and draft letters to Commission for action



Objective: Transportation & Infrastructure

Purpose

Maintain awareness of, monitor, and advise on City of Los Angeles transportation and infrastructure projects and policies as they impact access for people with disabilities.



Example Objective (Cont.)

Objective: Transportation & Infrastructure

Action Items

- Conduct one or more site visits of various locations associated with the joint Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) L.A. Metro project, the Automated People Mover (APM).
- Participate in public outreach meetings related to City infrastructure projects.
- Make recommendations for the Commission's consideration based on findings from site visits, public meetings, and other research.



COD Priority Topics

- Policy & Legislation
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Homelessness
 - Mobile SSI
- Housing
- Employment
- Adaptive Sports & Recreation
- Emergency Management (COVID & Long COVID, MPox)



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Discussion

Select Objectives & Draft Purpose Statements
Establish Ad Hoc Committees