



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
Theresa de Vera
Alisa Schlesinger
Betty Wilson
David Wolf
Robert Williams
Richard Rothenberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Norma Lopez (resigned)
Iran Hopkins (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director
Richard Pope, ADA Coordinator
Carey Stone, ADA Coordinator
Luis Mata, ADA Coordinator

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Robbie Spears, Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs Citywide
Sustainment Coordinator, Emergency Management Department

GUESTS:

Claire Matsushita, Assistant Program Administrator, State of California,
Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.

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

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes.

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the February 1, 2017, meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment

No Public Comment Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Complaint System for Long-Term Care Facilities

Claire Matsushita, Assistant Program Administrator, State of California, Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, presented on the complaint system for long-term care facilities. Their mission is designed to “promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care facilities through the administration of an effective collaborative regulatory enforcement system.” The Department of Social Services provides licensing and ensures that the community care facilities adhere to specified regulations. They complete routine inspections and handle complaint investigations when a violation has occurred.

They provide licensing under the childcare program, family childcare homes, childcare centers, and infant centers. Until recently the children’s residential program included oversight over group homes, foster care, and foster family agencies. The Department of Social Services has oversight over the adult and senior care facilities, which includes services for adults with various types of disabilities.

In Los Angeles County, there are currently 1,291 adult residential facilities with a capacity of 12,092 beds; and 1,340 residential care facilities for the elderly, with a capacity of 33,510 beds. Adult residential facilities provide 24-hour nonmedical care and supervision to its residents. However, in certain instances there are exemptions to these guidelines. Assisted living facilities are housing arrangements which have been made by the resident, a designated guardian, or conservator. Some residents need minimal care and supervision; others may have dementia or cognitive impairments which require secure perimeters.

The Department of Social Services does not license clinics, homeless shelters, locations that provide room and board only, sober living facilities; drug and alcohol programs, care and supervision provided by a close friend, or facilities managed by churches.

When a complaint is filed against a community care facility, an investigation must be initiated within ten calendar days. If necessary, findings are reported to local law enforcement and other agencies that have regulatory authority.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): Emergency Preparedness

Richard Pope, ADA Coordinator, Department on Disability, presented on emergency preparedness, recent weather concerns, evacuation plans, and resources that were supplied to California residents.

He introduced the Commission on Disability to Daniel Rodriguez, ADA Coordinator, Department on Disability, and Robbie Spears; Disabilities, Access, and Functional Needs Citywide Sustainment Coordinator, Emergency Management Department.

The Emergency Operations Organization provided resources to constituents during the most recent rainstorms. The Department on Disability, Department of Aging, and Emergency Management Department, have developed a

partnership to ensure the needs of their constituents are met during an emergency or disaster. This collaboration will focus on the application of tactical and technical plans for emergency planning and the execution of emergency responsibilities.

Robbie Spears presented on his role within the City of Los Angeles, Emergency Management Division. As the Disabilities, Access, and Functional Needs Citywide Sustainment Coordinator, he also collaborates with 17 other departments within the Emergency Operations Organization. These departments have a responsibility to respond during emergencies and disasters. He works with the Disabilities, Access, and Functional (DAFN) Committee; and ensures that their emergency plans, policies, and trainings are all inclusive. Furthermore, he advises the Emergency Operations Organization on inclusive emergency planning.

Action Taken: Commissioner de Vera moved to establish an Emergency Management Sub-Committee, and Commissioner Wolf will fulfill the role of a committee member.

ITEM NO. (5): Opioid Abuse and Pain Management

President Bitonte presented a resolution to the Commission on Disability, titled "Increasing Speed of Processing for Opioid Requests for Disabled Individuals."

This resolution addresses the challenges that many disabled patients encounter when requesting opioid prescriptions, and provides a solution to the cumbersome process of administering opioids. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is an increased awareness of the dramatic increase in opioid overdoses.

WHEREAS, the disabled community does not encourage the unlawful or unprescribed use of opiates.

WHEREAS, however, the disabled community often suffers from chronic debilitating and often painful conditions.

WHEREAS, the disabled community often require intermittent opiate medications.

WHEREAS, the approval of opiates for the disabled community has been hampered by increased by overall increased scrutiny of opiate prescriptions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Commission on Disability recommends the Mayor and City Council support increased resources for the expedited review of opiate prescriptions for the chronically disabled community.

Further dialogue concerning opioid abuse and pain management was discussed by the Opioid Needs for the Disabled Sub-Committee. They have contacted individuals from the recovery community, healthcare community, and medical community to address the adversarial relationships, and distorted messages surrounding the discussion of opioid abuse and pain management.

Carey Stone, ADA Coordinator, Department on Disability, provided her testimony and personal experience with alternative practices for pain management.

No Action Taken, the resolution will be discussed on April 5, 2017.

ITEM NO. (6): Monthly Status Reports from Commission's Ad Hoc Sub-Committees

The following Ad Hoc Sub-Committees provided a brief synopsis of their committee efforts and committee objectives:

Outreach Sub-Committee

- Chairperson – President Robert Bitonte
- Committee Member – 2nd Vice President Iran Hopkins
- Committee Member – Commissioner Alisa Schlesinger

Housing Sub-Committee

- Chairperson – Commissioner Robert Williams
- Committee Member – 1st Vice President David Wolf

President Bitonte reported on the Outreach Sub-Committee's partnership and previous meetings with Access Services. This alliance will ensure that public service messages are presented to the disability community. This may include, but is not limited to, events and public hearings. Additionally, the Outreach Sub-Committee wants to provide services to the homeless community, through deploying field workers, and working with County

employees to provide the homeless population with access to their respective benefits.

Commissioner Williams presented on the Housing Sub-Committee's progress and their continued conversations with Homelessness Policy Director, Alisa Orduna, with whom they shared the scope of the Housing Sub-Committee's goals. Commissioner Williams will be attending the request for proposals (RFP) meetings for building under Measure HHH. He advised that the RFP is due by March 10, 2017, to start the process for building affordable housing.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): Current Federal Administration

President Bitonte focused on the following parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the need for rehabilitative services, coverage for those with preexisting conditions, and the discussion of expenditure caps for medical treatments.

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, discussed the travel ban. A formal report on the travel ban and its impact on the disabled community has not been generated. This topic was presented to personnel at the Los Angeles World Airports, and will be explored at a later date.

Luis Mata presented an article from the United Spinal Association. He also spoke about the ACA, and the potential negative affect on persons with disabilities and preexisting conditions.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): Speaker's Card

The Commission reviewed the mock-up of the speaker's card and discussed the amount of time allotted for public speaking. Commissioner Schlesinger presented her concerns with the speaker's Card. She volunteered to modify the speaker's card language and will send to the Commissioners for review.

Action: The speaker's card will be resubmitted on April 5, 2017, for review and approval.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): Staff Support

The Commission reviewed the letters that were submitted to the Mayor requesting staff support, and grant funding.

President Bitonte discussed the Staff support letter, and the modification from "***Policies Addressed***" to "***Policies and Issues Addressed.***"

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): Executive Directors' Report

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, presented on recent and future activities of the Department on Disability. He discussed the proposed 2017-2018 budget, which included the request for additional funds for training, and staff support for the blue curb program.

Luis Mata, ADA Coordinator, presented on the upcoming job fair at the Abilities Expo, sponsors, and participating employers. The Abilities Expo will take place on March 24-26, 2017, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): New Business and Announcements

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda will include a review of the Commission on Disability bylaws.

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:40 P.M.