



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

200 N. Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera
Iran Hopkins
Myrna Cabanban
Alisa Schlesinger
Dr. Robert Bitonte
David Wolf
Robert Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Richard Rothenberg (excused)
Betty Wilson (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Sharon Lowe, Director of the Accessible Housing Program (AChP), Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID).

Sally Richman, Director of Performance, Senior Housing Planning and Economic Analyst, Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID).

Christine McKinney, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA)

Alisa Orduna, Director of Homelessness Policy, Mayor's Office

Kurt Hagen, Senior ADA Coordinator, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

GUESTS:

Yolanda Ramirez, Program Director, and Lily Sanchez, Benefits Advocate, California Living Independent and Free (CALIF).

Elena Fiallo, Director of Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST).

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 when roll call was conducted.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the December 13th, 2017, meeting minutes as amended.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER (ILC)

Presentation and discussion about the how independent living center (ILC) conducts housing case management and navigates clients to housing resources. Presentation is by Yolanda Ramirez, Program Director, and Lily Sanchez, Benefits Advocate, California Living Independent and Free (CALIF). They provide 14 different services to residents who live in the City of Los Angeles and within 50 other zip codes that includes South Los Angeles, Glendale, Highland Park, and Boyle Heights. They serve approximately 1,100 individuals with disabilities a year, many of them have low income, live on social security benefits, and are seeking housing. They are a centralized resource center where clients can get the all of the services that are needed to live as independently in the community. All of the services at CALIF are

linked through case management, which can offer different services the client might not have known were available.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): ACCESSIBLE HOUSING PROGRAM (AcHP)

Presentation and discussion about the City of Los Angeles' Accessible Housing Program (ACHP). Presentation is by Sharon Lowe, Director of the Accessible Housing Program (AcHP), Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID). A settlement agreement requires the City, over the next ten years, to commit \$200 million to retrofit existing housing developments that have been assisted with any public dollars. The City is also committed to have 4000 mobility accessible communities, which will be available on their website by February 2018. They are also putting a list of contractors to do those improvements that are necessary to make those accessible. Part of the Accessible Housing Program is that newly constructed buildings are required to create 10% to be mobility accessible units. They also will be doing an assessment of the buildings, creating a grievance process for people, and requiring building management and owners of properties to take online training.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): HOUSING FINANCE OF THE CITY'S HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Presentation and discussion about housing finance received by and available through the City of Los Angeles, Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID). Presentation is by Sally Richman, Director of Performance, Senior Housing Planning and Economic Analyst, Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID). From proposition HHH, they will receive about one million dollars over ten years to build more permanent and supportive housing for people that are homeless and low income folks. They also have the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Pipeline that issues tax exempt mortgage bonds and awards to various developments that come from

the state and federal government to create housing for low income households. City council passed the affordable housing linkage fee, which will link the development of nonresidential and market rate projects and increased need to provide affordable housing. HCID has a linkage fee that requires developers to pay a linkage fee prior to issuing a building permits for any new development. One example is the PATH Metro Villas that was developed by Path ventures, a homeless service organization, which includes 122 units of housing, 90 units will be for persons that have special needs, 46 units for chronically homeless individuals, and 15 units for disabled homeless individuals.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGLELS

Presentation and discussion about housing policies and programs, such as Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) by HACLA's Christine McKinney will be rescheduled to a future date.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): CITY'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON THE HOMELESSNESS

Presentation and discussion about the City's policies and programs on homelessness. Presentation is by Alisa Orduna, Director of Homelessness Policy, Mayor's Office. Passing the homeless and housing bond HHH, they have about \$90 million for the first cohort of projects such as new facilities, new units, emergency shelter transition housing, and the other transitional housing. They are doing outreach has a team with people who can provide Street Medicine, a nurse practitioner, a licensed social worker, and people who have lived experience to help address their needs, help them move into housing, and addressing them as a whole person. They use a program called the Homeless Management System to help provide services. The system also helps team members in conducting assessments to measure the barriers to

housing, such as past experiences, incarceration, and other factors to allow individuals to find housing based on their needs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY AND LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (LAHSA)

Presentation and discussion about the accessibility of housing programs, services and activities provided by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). Presentation is by Kurt Hagen, Senior ADA Coordinator, LAHSA. Their policy development strategy is to make sure policies enhance, create, and maintain accessibility that is consistent with the laws and ensure programs included people with disabilities. They conduct shelter accessibility assessments to make sure that the facilities are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the California's Title 4 building code. In addition, they provide direct technical assistance to shelters and their services. When complaints are made, they ensure that the issues that are related to individuals with disabilities are handled appropriately and in an appropriate time frame. Their ultimate goal is to put together a transition plan and related sub evaluation plans to improve the accessibility of each of those particular facilities and programs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (9): COUNTYWIDE BENEFITS ENTITLEMENT SERVICES TEAM (CBEST)

Presentation and discussion about how the outreach to the homeless is conducted by the Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST). The CBEST team work very closely with LAHSA and are responsible for identifying people with needs by including the Department of Health Services and providing extensive case management services as part of their housing packages. Their main objective is to assist individuals to apply for federal disability programs, such as SSI, SSDI, and other programs. They have one lead provider covering each service planning area throughout the county.

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They also have services that are contracted out to community based organizations that have historically provided services to individuals experiencing homelessness. With the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Health Services, and community clinics, they make sure people are connected to a primary medical home. The CBEST is located within every General Relief district office to identify people that could be eligible for federal assistance ability programs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (10): COD PRIORITIES

Review and approve the letter to the Mayor's Offices about the top two priorities identified at the COD retreat. COD approved the letter and will be sent to the Mayor's Office.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the letter to the Mayor's Office

ITEM NO. (11): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon presented items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. The department will do their presentation to the Mayor's budget team and the CAO. The department will request funding to launch their Title III program to support small businesses be more accessible by providing ADA support. In December, Los Angeles City Counsel fully pass to do the self-evaluation and transition plan to get every gap around accessibility.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (12): New Business and Announcements

No suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:51 P.M.