



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

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

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera  
Richard Rothenberg  
Myrna Cabanban  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Dr. Robert Bitonte  
Iran Hopkins  
Robert Williams

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)  
David Wolf (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director  
Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

### GUESTS:

Tonya Boykins, Chief Operations Officer, Weingart Center.  
Kitty Davis Walker, Vice President of Public Relations, Union Rescue Mission.  
Steven Schultze, Vice President of Programs, Los Angeles Mission.  
Tescia Uribe, Chief Program Officer, People Assisting The Homeless (PATH).

## **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 February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, meeting minutes as amended.

## **ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (3): PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT**

- I. Tonya Boykins, Chief Operations Officer, Weingart Center – Discusses their mission “to empower and transform lives and to establishing a world in which all people have and maintain a high-quality productive life, by delivering innovative solutions to combat poverty and break the cycle of homelessness.” They have a facility on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and San Pedro St in downtown that has the capacity to house 123 people. People with disabilities constitute about 20 to 30 percent of the people who are at their facility, many of who have either a physical or mental disability. The Weingart Center is in the final phase to becoming a permanent supportive housing provider with about 20 percent for low income residents. They also making the entire building ADA compliant. For people who have service animals, the Weingart Center will have patios, gardens, and relief stations. The Weingart Center asked the Commission on Disability to come to one of their public comment sessions to share blueprints and plans and would like any support, information, and input. The Weingart Center also agreed to have mobile Social Security Disability units at their facilities.
- II. Kitty Davis Walker, Vice President of Public Relations, Union Rescue Mission – Discusses Union Rescue Mission’s services and programs,

with specific focus on how they serve the disabled community. Union Rescue Mission the oldest and largest mission in America. They serve single men, woman, women with children, two parent families, senior ladies, and single dads with children. Union Rescue Mission has programs and services that include comprehensive emergency services, long term recovery services, transitional housing, food, shelter, clothing, medical, dental, legal assistance, mental health counseling, education, and job training. They also have staff that is training in sign language interpreting. The Rescue Mission has a phone for the hearing impaired and those who are struggling with sight issues. They also have a volunteer programs to assist people with disabilities that have trouble getting dressed, getting in and out of shower, and other tasks that are more difficult for people with disabilities. They also work with a domestic violence shelter to provide specialized services for people who are deaf, disable, and for the elderly. The Union Rescue Mission also agreed to have mobile Social Security Disability units at their facilities

- III. Steven Schultze, Vice President of Programs, Los Angeles Mission – Discusses the Los Angeles Mission’s dedication “to provide health, hope, and opportunity to those with a disability and experiencing homelessness.” The Los Angeles Mission is in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles and have been part of the community of over 40 years. They have 397 beds for people who need shelter and have 210 programs for men and women. The Los Angeles Mission is a faith based holistic and one shop stop to provide services. They also have a pro bono clinic and work with Public Defender's Office once a month to provide legal services. They also have an educational program through the LAUSD and L.A. City College. Since 90% of all students that come into their programs were formally incarcerated, the Los Angeles Mission is working on the process of reducing recidivism giving them the opportunity to change the trajectory of their life. They also work with LAPD to offer emergency services to people who are homeless. The Los Angeles Mission invited the Commission on Disability to come take

a tour of their facility. The Los Angeles Mission also agreed to have mobile Social Security Disability units at their facilities

- IV. Tescia Uribe, Chief Program Officer, People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) – Discusses PATH’s “family of agencies that work together to end homelessness for individuals, families, and communities, through prioritizing housing while providing customized supportive services for people in need.” PATH started is a faith based organization and started out in a small apartment. They have has grown dramatically to have 25 locations throughout California. They provided street outreach, case management, help with getting identification, increase their benefits, housing, no cost or low cost daycare, and have a veteran’s program. PATH is currently constructing a building in South Gate that has 60 units to provide additional housing needs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **CALENDAR OF COD PRIORITIES**

Discussion and action on creating a six-month calendar reflecting the dates when the Commission will hear priorities identified at the last COD Retreat. The calendar will also provide DOD’s staff sufficient time to contact presenters. Presentation is by President de Vera. During the COD Retreat, The Commission on Disability decided on topics for the remainder of the year. Two recommendation for the calendar are to include a topic in September regarding the needs of the deaf and the blind and low vision community and a topic in June regarding the access of healthcare needs of people with disabilities.

Action Taken: Approved the calendar as amended.

## **ITEM NO. (4): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Discussion of items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. DOD will request LA

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2028 to come do a presentation on how the COD can get further engaged with the Para Olympics. DOD is drafting a memo regarding House Bill 620 to the CLA to take a formal position opposing the bill. DOD has also been working with the Personnel Office to ensure trainings are fully accessible. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the ACO will be hosting a training regarding the intersection of stigma and HIV. The ACO, in collaboration with the Department of Sanitation, El Pueblo, and a needle exchange provider, coordinated the syringe exchange program around El Pueblo. DOD is also working on bringing the ReelAbilities Los Angeles 2018 in October.

No Action Taken: DOD will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission on Disability to formally oppose House Bill 620.

### **ITEM NO. (5): New Business and Announcements**

Announcements from the Commissions are: Presidents De Vera wanted to congratulate Richard Ray for receiving the Emergency Network Association, California Top Represented Bill Award of Excellence for his work on real-time text in emergency situations and Commission Rothenberg wanted to pay a tribute to Steven Hawkins a champion for people with disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (6): Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:53 P.M.