



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Robert Williams

Candace Cable

Iran Hopkins

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director

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OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS:

Terra Curtis, California Public Utilities Commission

Jeff Kasmar, California Public Utilities Commission

Ana Jew, California Public Utilities Commission

Regan Reagan, California Public Utilities Commission

James Andrew, Transportation Planning Manager, Federal/State Policy, Programming; Discretionary Grants within the Countywide Planning & Development Department, Metro

Heather Jue Northover, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Dr. Curly Bonds, Chief Medical Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission will review the minutes of the December 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for December 9, 2020.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): ACCESS FOR ALL FUND, SENATE BILL SB1376, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNCs); ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PART 2)

Updates on SB 1376, The Access for All Program, and various aspects of Mobile based accessible transportation. Presentation is by California Public Utilities Commission, and Metro

- I. In 2018, California Senate Bill SB 1376 was sponsored by Senator Jerry Hill to encourage Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to increase

accessible vehicle service on their platforms. The bill imposes a fee of 10 cents per ride, which are pooled into an access fund to help fund wheelchair accessibility solutions across California. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is a state agency established in the California Constitution with regulatory authority over a number of industries, including energy, water, telecommunications, rail, and passenger carriers. They have multiple branches and sit within the transportation licensing and analysis branch. The licensing side utilizes permit applications from carriers such as companies like Uber and Lyft and issues permits to them. Their analysis section functions as CPUC's subject matter expert advising the commission on transportation policy issues. The CPUC wants to increase investments in procurement, conversions in marketing and outreach, partnerships with other access providers of WAVs, and with local government and transit agencies. They also want to increase the presence of the WAV service, see a higher number of requests being fulfilled, less cancellations in the WAV service, and more on-demand WAV service. They are currently in the process of developing guidelines, including the application and approval process, as well as fund distribution to administrators, such as Metro. They will select the access fund administrators by July 1st of this year and disperse funds by the end of this year. Metro's presentation focuses on goals to their strategic plan to explore opportunities for expanding access to share demand transportation options. They participated in two workshops that focused on the initial setting the fee at \$0.10 and supported positions of other public agencies. As they move into 2021, Metro will support responsibilities for administering the access fund to local commissions and are currently accepting applications.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): DISABILITY AND COVID: PUBLIC HEALTH + MENTAL HEALTH

Presentation expanding on the current trends, data, and topics as they relate to the Disability community and the COVID-19 pandemic. Presented by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health will speak.

- I. Heather Jue Northover, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will expand on the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, Los Angeles

County is experiencing a surge that started in early to mid-December. On January 12th there was about 12,000 new cases of COVID-19 for a total of 944,000 cases, had about 12674 deaths and have lost over 2000 in 2021, 8000 people in the hospital due to COVID-19, current ICU capacity is at 0 percent, and one in five residents tested are infected with COVID-19. They are updating their health order to slow the spread due to people traveling in and out of the state bringing infection into the county and are asking all travelers arriving from any other state to quarantine for ten days. Currently, Los Angeles County is moving forward towards vaccine information and towards vaccinations. There are only two vaccines in the States and both are about 94 to 95 percent effective and require two doses. The CDC recommends the different phases and recommend people getting the vaccine based on the risk of becoming ill and underlying health conditions. Los Angeles County is currently in phase one trying to ensure vaccination for health care workers and long term care residents who are at heightened risk. Los Angeles County created a community work group and invited a number of stakeholders who consider themselves a part of communities with disabilities, including the Southern California Rehabilitation Services for Independent Living, to do community outreach education and engagement in communities with disabilities to make sure there's more accessibility. The information about the phases and when are people eligible can be accessed by visiting their website at PH.lacounty.gov/coronavirus/vaccine. Dr. Carly Bonds, Chief Medical Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health expanded on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Mental Health is the largest public mental health department in the country with about a \$2.4 billion budget; have 85 sites that are directly operated; have several clinics; have about 300 sites that are co-located with other county departments in schools, courts, and other various sites; and about 1,000 contract organizations in the community that provide services to the over 250,000 county residents per year. In an overview about different mental health stats, about 25% of people experience mood disorders during their lifetime the U.S. during the pandemic; 32% of people were experiencing some mental health impact; over half of Americans have expressed some worry or distress over the Coronavirus ranging from insomnia, overeating, overuse of substances and alcohol; and issues with withdrawal because of lack of access to the usual pipelines are disrupted. Since the rise of mental health care issues due to COVID-19, The Department of Mental Health has established new contracts to provide PPE distribution through their facilities, shifting from facilities to community-based care, using video conferencing for office visits, and using mindfulness applications to help communities and individuated with mental health care.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director.

The Department on Disability is updating the Commission on Disability that the City of Los Angeles and the labor unions have reached an agreement to eliminate the furlough days that were set to occur and guarantee of no layoffs for the 20-21 fiscal year. Currently, the department is working on a three percent cut to the budget and will operate with a ten percent cut in contract services. The meal distribution programs ended as December 30th because of cuts to the Care Act funding. The department will continue to coordinate personal protective equipment drive-thru distribution events.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested 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.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in honor Tom LaBonge and Gail's Father. Tom served for 39 years within the City and was a big supporter of our department. Hector C. Delgado, father of DOD staff member Gail Delgado-Huezo passed away Saturday from complications from COVID-19.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:18 P.M.