



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Robert Williams (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Sr. Project Coordinator, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

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

GUESTS:

Andrew Skinner, Executive Director, Triumph Organization

Janice S. Lintz Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hearing Access & Innovations.

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

The Commission will review the minutes of the March 2021 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for March 14, 2021.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): ADAPTED SPORTS AND RECREATION - CONTINUED

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information about the 2028 Games, City plans regarding adapted and accessible recreation facilities, and other sporting and competition events for the Disability community.

- I. Speakers from Triumph Organization discussed the Adapted Recreation Program. Triumph's mission is to help children, adults, and Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI) by providing resources, hope, and security to people living with paralysis – not just initially when the injury occurs, but as a lifelong support network. The Triumph Organization also helps people triumph over obstacles they face when suffering from a spinal cord injury, mobility impairment or a physical disability. They have a team of community health workers that visit the bedsides of patients in hospitals all over Southern California and deliver care packages that are full of resources to give them hope and help repair them like pieces of a

puzzle to get their shattered lives get back together. The Triumph organization also helps people with grants, equipment needs, getting patients out of the house, getting patients out of isolation, getting them into the community, help them enjoy fun and games, playing sports, and doing adapted recreation. They also have a hand cycle/sports equipment loan program so that people may rent/borrow for a very minimal price and can ride the hand cycles on their own. They also led field trips to Big Bear with a program called United States Adaptive Recreation Center making sure people do not feel alone or isolated because of the physical and emotional stress and assure that people are reached on all the different levels of physical activity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Triumph Foundation transitioned to virtual platforms and support groups such as having guest presenters who focused on activity-based wellness like Zumba and yoga to allow participants to challenge themselves and maintain a good fitness level.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): HEARING ACCESS IN MUSEUMS, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER VENUES

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information about hearing access and innovations to make museums, public transportation, and other venues more accessible.

- I. Speakers from the Hearing Access & Innovations discussed the hearing access and innovations. Presentation is by Janice S. Lintz Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hearing Access & Innovations. Hearing Access & Innovations is a consulting agency dedicated to informing businesses, cultural institutions, entertainment venues, and government agencies around the world how to improve hearing access for an increasing population that is deaf or hard of hearing. The organization takes a three-pronged approach to improving hearing access, which is with audio, visual, and qualified interpretation. They work with more than 100 organizations to establish or enhance hearing access programs. The first-prong approach addresses people who may start to feel like they are losing their hearing or with some hearing loss. They are deaf and do not know sign language or lose their hearing later in life and not able to adapt to learning sign language. The second-prong approach of people with hearing loss addresses those who wear a hearing aid or implant and

receive the sound in their aid or implant by switching the hearing aid to the tell coil setting. The visual takes the sound and turns it into a visual representation like captions. If you have some hearing, you want to hear things. The third-prong approach is for people who utilize captions and sign language for people who are deaf. Many companies have successfully implemented the three-prong approach such as hotels, cruise ships, museums, Delta, and Amtrak. Hearing Access & Innovations made it a goal to spread the three-prong approach across the country, bringing effective access and communication to everyone. The organization assesses a company and works with them to start by asking them question such as how to plan for a manageable future? What access is currently in place? As the team plans, they ask how do they bid for it? and how do they make sure they get what they want versus what the vendor wants to sell them? In a post COVID-19 world, many people do not want to put a device in their ear or on their body. The best system to use is an induction loop (Cochlear Direct Implant Sound), which takes the sound to your implant. The the person with hearing loss feels more empowered because they are not wearing a device and eliminates the need to ask permission to hear.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Mayor gave an overview of the anticipated budget for next fiscal year. The department is hoping the federal relief money will balance some of the cuts to the departmental budget. As the federal funds are restored, the Commission on Disability will be notified as early as possible. The Department on Disability is also working with LAPD on updating police interaction with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or who are deaf, deaf/blind, or hard-of-hearing and will continue to work on projects like those in the future. The department will also update and agenized a presentation from LAPD on how many officers are trained, how are they trained, who trains them, how often are they trained, and how often are new officers trained. In partnership with the Mayor's Office and Kaiser Permanente Mobile Van unit, the Department on Disability was elected to target the people with disabilities throughout the City to receive COVID-19 vaccines. The department took a regional approach to ensure different areas and regions of the City were included and removing some of the barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccination appointment through the LA County websites. This partnership had a success

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rate of 99% overall. The first community the department worked with is El Arca in East Los Angeles area with 375 vaccinations out of 370 slots available. The second community the department worked with is the South-Central Los Angeles Regional Center with 785 vaccinations and about 800 slots available. The third community the department worked with is Tierra Del Sol in the valley where 1,000 appointment slots were available and 995 vaccines were distributed. The Department on Disability is also working with the City and the Independent Living Centers for people who are homebound and are interested in getting vaccinated for LA City residents only. The department is also working with agencies that are disability-centric service providers to host future vaccination sites. The Department on Disability is also helping out the LA County Beach and Harbor Department as they are rolled out accessible beach paths of travel for people with disabilities and ensure that lifeguards know where and how to use the beach wheelchairs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. The Department on Disability requests to be on the next agenda to give an update on the beach and accessibility project, police reform, housing and homelessness, and ReelAbilities 2021.

ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:49 P.M.