



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Betty Wilson

Candace Cable

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Robert Williams

David Wolf

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

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

GUESTS:

Dr. William W. Stringer, MD, FACP, FCCP Professor of Medicine, David Geffen Asia Powell, Local government, and local liaison, California Public Utilities Commission

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

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

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for August 11, 2021.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): LONG TERM MEDICAL IMPACTS FROM COVID-19

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information from local government, City and County experts and programs, including community-based organizations working to provide resources and access for the diverse unhoused community of Greater Los Angeles.

- I. Dr. William W. Stringer, MD, FACP, FCCP Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA will discuss Covid-19 and individuals with long-term or persistent medical issues resulting from it, advocacy, and the Disability Community. For the past 16 months, he has spent his time in the hospital taking care of COVID patients and keeping the hospital staff and their employees safe and can inform the Commission of the long impacts of COVID-19. Long haul COVID is defined as health issues that persist more than four weeks after a person is first infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The types are long COVID with symptoms of tiredness, fatigue, abnormal sleep, difficulty concentrating, loss of taste/smell, palpitations, chest pain, shortness of breath, cough, joint or muscle pain, depression, anxiety, or fevers; multi-organ COVID with symptoms of heart, kidney, lung, brain long term involvement; multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C); and post hospitalization

COVID with are similar to POST ICU syndrome and are related to treatments and a patient's stay in the hospital. The number people that are experiencing COVID are about 115 million cases and make up about 1/3 of the USA population. The number of people that are experiencing long COVID are about 10-30% and will experience debilitation symptoms months after the initial infection, which could be as many as 15 million cases of Long Haul COVID (or more). The common long haul COVID symptoms are: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, tiredness or fatigue, symptoms that get worse after physical or mental activities (post exertional malaise), difficulty thinking or concentrating ("brain fog"), cough, chest or stomach pain, headache, fast-beating or pounding heart (heart palpitations), joint or muscle pain, pins-and-needles feeling, diarrhea, sleep problems, fever, dizziness on standing (lightheadedness), POTS, rash, mood changes, change in smell or taste, and changes in menstrual cycle. These symptoms can impact the daily life. One study suggests that 45% reported a reduced work schedule and 22% had not gone back to work at all with symptoms of fatigue, post exertion malaise, and brain fog. Some people have reported difficulty getting out of bed and prolonged inflammatory response. Dr. William W. Stringer says the greatest intervention at this point is to get vaccinated to reduce the rate in getting COVID. If you have long haul COVID-19, there is a small group that has their symptoms improved by vaccination. Dr. William Stringer also stated that the medical community is doing their best to keep up with COVID and all the current research.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): UPDATE - SSI MOBILE OUTREACH

Guest speakers provided the Commission with an update on the Commission on Disability's ongoing Mobile SSI Project.

- I. Commissioner V.P. Bitonte will provide an update on the Commission's ongoing Mobile SSI Project, an initiative to help persons with disabilities and persons experiencing homelessness to navigate the application process and obtain Supplemental Security Income and related services. Recent activities, future benchmarks, and proposed deadlines will also be covered. Commissioner V.P. Bitonte met with the Mayor's office to move the agenda on the mobile SSI unit and are putting together an updated white paper to submit to the Mayor's office in the coming days.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): UPDATE – SB 1379 – TNC (Transportation Network Company) ACCESS FOR ALL

The Commission on Disability will discuss and recommend topics and items for revisiting for the 2021/2022 COD calendar

- I. Asia Powell, Local government, and local liaison for the California Public Utilities Commission will discuss and vote on requesting that the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) and METRO report back to the Commission on the Intervenor Fund and application process and that the Commission and the Department on Disability apply for such funding. The role of the CPUC is to be a resource to communities and local governments having some challenges or wanting to know about a commission-regulated utility. The CPUC depends on input, questions, and information from the general public to make better informed decisions that consider the impact of costs and services on all Californians. The Intervenor Compensation program is intended to ensure that all the entities are represented and that residential, small business, commercial, and electric customers have financial resources to bring their concerns to the CPUC during a formal proceeding. The program provides compensation for reasonable costs for intervenors as a result of their substantial contribution to proceeding and support active engagement in the proceeding. The California public utilities code allows qualified parties to request compensation for their participation, so there are allowable fees and costs which are detailed in the code. Those costs can be requested after the conclusion of the case. During COVID, the public participation hearings have been in a virtual format.

Action Taken: Commission on Disability got the contact information in the CPUC and had them present at the Commission on Disability.

ITEM NO. (6): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation was conducted by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The department is posting the three out of six positions that are currently open to recruit people to apply for the positions. DoD is also in the process of obtaining a student

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professional worker to work on disability related issues. The department is currently working making the Emergency Preparedness manuals into a digital formation to disseminate to more constituents. The department is also preparing for the ReelAbilities Film Festival and is working on getting the licensing for the films, procuring sponsors, and finalizing the panels.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): 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 Commission on Disability will be hosting the yearly retreat in October during their regular scheduled meeting date and time.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M.