

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Thursday, June 17, 2021
5:30 PM**

*VIRTUAL MEETING
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.”

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ABSENT: Don Coon

Also, in attendance was Analyst Jessica Spiking, Deputy General Services Director Shari Call, and Leonard Jarman who is the Chief Solutions Officer for the Path of Life Ministries.

1. **Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation from Path of Life Ministries about the Homeless Housing Opportunities they provide as well as the services provided to help people move toward self-sufficiency.




Leonard Jarman is the Chief Solutions Officer for Path of Life Ministries (POLM) and has been with them since 2005. The Mission of the POLM is rescue, restore, and rebuild. POLM uses a holistic, community-based approach to improve the health and vitality of those affected by

homelessness. POLM promises that whoever reaches out to them will receive help to get out of that crisis, stably housed, and moving toward self-sufficiency. Leonard Jarman explains that homelessness is a public health and humanitarian crisis and it a multi-faceted problem that demands multifaceted solutions. POLM offers services such as shelters, permanent housing, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and employment assistance. They also implement evidence-based interventions and best practices that effectively help individuals and families end their homelessness crisis. They meet people where they are and encourage positive change in their lives and the shelters are low barrier. The goal is to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers, and when they are housed, support services are offered in their home to help maintain the housing. POLM explores creative, flexible, safe, and cost-effective solutions to quickly resolve a housing crisis, even if it is just temporarily. POLM maintains and operates the following facilities: Community Shelter, Family Shelter, and Cold Weather Shelter. They also have the following services and programs available: Riverside and Jurupa Valley Outreach/Homelessness Prevention, Landlord Locator Service, Employment Pipeline Program, and Mobile Behavioral Health.

Below is the impact of POLM between 2019-2020:

					
COMMUNITY SHELTER CVAG CSH	FAMILY SHELTER	HOUSING	OUTREACH	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	EMPLOYMENT
85 Beds 55 ECWS Beds 26 CVAG Crisis Stabilization Units Case Management Meals & Showers	46 Beds Case Management Meals & Showers Laundry	123 Units (Scattered Site Housing) 93 Permanent Supportive Housing 30 Rapid Re-Housing LandlordLink	3 Teams/ LYNC Coachella Valley Jurupa Valley Riverside LYNC	30 Member Team Counseling Crisis Intervention Life Skills	Employment Pipeline Team Training Preparation Placement Support
Outcomes					
1,453 People/Year 18% Shelter Guests Housed at Exit 51% CSH Guests Housed at Exit	270 People/Year 57% Shelter Guests Housed at Exit	215 People/Year 98% Retention Rate	315 Interventions/Year 139 Street Exits (44%)	327 Individuals served 2600 Intern Hours 356 Groups/Workshops	145 Individuals served 85 New Job Placements

Below are details about the POLM shelters:

<p>POLM COMMUNITY SHELTER 2840 Hulen Place, Riverside CA</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 85 bed emergency shelter• Low Barrier, housing focused• Open 24 hours• 50 beds for men, 35 beds for women• Intakes Daily (10:00am-5:00pm) by appointment and based on bed availability• 18+ must pass background check• Up to 60 days, 90 days with pending housing, etc• Eligible for 90 days in any calendar year• Case Management (weekly)• Behavioral Health Support• Employment Support• Three Meals• Linen Service• Free Wi-Fi	<p>POLM FAMILY SHELTER 2530 3rd Street, Riverside CA</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 46 bed emergency shelter• Housing focused• Open 24 hours• Families with children only• Intakes daily by appointment and based on bed availability.• 18+ must pass background check• Up to 60 days, 90 days with pending housing, etc• Eligible for 90 days in any calendar year• Case Management (weekly)• Behavioral Health Support• Employment Support• Three Meals• On-site Laundry Facility• Free Wi-Fi	<p>POLM ECWS SHELTER 3695 1st Street, Riverside CA January- April</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 bed emergency shelter• Low Barrier, housing focused• Open 24 hours• 24 beds for men, 16 beds for women• Intakes Daily (10:00am-5:00pm) by appointment and based on bed availability• Must call first• 18+ must pass background check• December – April• Three Meals• Linen Service• Showers• Free Wi-Fi
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Below are important numbers for POLM:

POLM Shelter Hotline (24 hours)

(951) 462-9822

POLM Community Shelter

(951) 683-4101

POLM Family Shelter

(951) 275-8755

POLM Emergency Cold Weather Shelter

(951) 318-1329

DISCUSSION AND ACTION CALENDAR

This portion of the Commission on Disabilities Agenda is for all matters where staff and public participation is anticipated. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

3. Approve minutes for the meeting of March 18, 2021

Motion to approve – Commissioner Lewis

Second – Commissioner Aleman

Vice Chair Lopez did not respond during the roll call vote

All in favor

4. Consideration of the annual election of officers.

Staff member Jessica Spiking explained that elections are supposed to be done in March of every year however due to COVID-19, elections for the term starting in March of 2020 occurred in November of 2020. The election taking place during this meeting is for the term starting in March of 2021. Staff member Shari Call verified that officers serve a term of one year and they may serve no more than two successive years in the same office.

Commissioner Lewis nominated Commissioner Perkins for Chair
Second – Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Lewis nominated Commissioner Nelson for Vice Chair
Second – Commissioner Davis

Commissioner Lewis motioned to close nominations
Second – Commissioner Nelson

Vice Chair Lopez did not respond during the roll call vote

Commissioner Ontko requested confirmation that the nominees officially accepted the positions and both Commissioner Perkins and Commissioner Nelson confirmed they accepted the positions in Office.

All in favor

5. Annual review of the 2021 Code of Ethics and Conduct.

No recommendations

6. Determine whether the absence of Commissioner Quezada on March 18, 2021, should be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.

Staff member Jessica Spiking was able to contact Commissioner Quezada and she has been reinstated by Councilwoman Plascencia. Commissioner Aleman asked if there was any information as to why Commissioner Quezada missed multiple meetings and Staff member Jessica Spiking informed the Commissioners that the incorrect e-mail address was being used therefore she was not getting the correspondence. Also, with the meetings being virtual, there was a miscommunication as to when the meetings were scheduled.

Commissioner Krick made motion to designate the absence as excused
Second – Commissioner Lewis
There was no response from Vice Chair Lopez during the roll call vote
All in favor

7. Determine whether the absence of Commissioner Coon on March 18, 2021, should be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.

Commissioner Davis made motion to designate the absence as excused
Second – Commissioner Aleman
There was no response from Vice Chair Lopez during the roll call vote
All in favor

8. Determine whether the absence of Vice Chair Lopez on March 18, 2021, should be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.

Commissioner Davis made motion to designate the absence as excused

Second – Commissioner Nelson

There was no response from Vice Chair Lopez during the roll call vote

All in favor

COMMUNICATIONS

9. Update on Brochures

Commissioner Nelson stated that he has not been able to make any changes/updates on the existing brochure but will send them over to Staff Member Jessica Spiking so they can be discussed during the next meeting.

10. Update on Public Outreach to publicize the Commission

Staff member Jessica Spiking informed the Commissioners that she spoke with the City of Riverside's TV crew and they explained that they are able to see how many people are viewing the meetings after they have taken place and it is only the people who are viewing the meeting through the website and the via a TV channel. She has requested those numbers from the previous meetings and is waiting for that information.

Commissioner Lewis had asked if the meetings could be publicized on the City website or some other form of media. She wants people to know when the Commission on Disabilities meetings are so that the Commission can receive feedback and can engage with the community.

11. Update on ways to receive feedback form the Community about any needs or concerns they may have.

Commissioner Aleman inquired about what they can do as Commissioners when it comes to advertising the meetings and how can we get the word out and engage with the Community. Staff member Jessica Spiking suggested creating a flyer with meeting information that can be posted on approved websites. Commissioner Aleman asked if we could post this information on sites such as the City of Riverside's Facebook page as well as the group called "What's going on in Riverside County?" Commissioner Aleman volunteered to create a draft flyer. Commissioner Perkins requested that staff member Jessica Spiking reach out to other Commissions within the City of Riverside to see how they are getting the word out there.

Commissioner Lewis stated that she would like to look at things statistically to see where there is a greater need for assistance in the disabled community. Once the Commission is given feedback, they will bring in presenters from various groups that will inform the community about assistance and programs that they provide. She also stated that the Commission should set up goals that they would like to accomplish throughout the year. Commissioner Lewis requested a presentation from the Disability Resource Center at Riverside City College.

Commissioner Krick made a comment that he was able to navigate the website and view the live Commission on Disabilities meeting. Commissioner Aleman agreed that the City website page is good however she wants to hear more from the community regarding how the

Commission can help with concerns or challenges people have within the City. Commissioner Lewis mentioned that a survey might be a good method to get an idea of what main concerns the community have.

Commissioner Krick had an idea that the Commission on Disabilities website should have a list of all the guest speakers that have presented at the meetings with a link for that presentation. Commissioner Ontko stated that the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has a team of individuals called Community Resource Network Individuals and they have put together an extensive list of resources. The manager for the business engagement team is Christopher Fernandez and Commissioner Ontko recommended that the Commission partners with them to possibly get the link to the resource network posted on the City's website. Commissioner Ontko strongly suggests that the Commission partner with the Department of Rehabilitation to utilize their existing resources.

12. Updates on conferences, seminars, and regional meetings attended by Commissioners.

Commissioner Lewis stated that she has been attending monthly meetings with Riverside County Mental Health. They have a group that meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 10AM-11:30AM and they discuss different events and workshops that are available for the Community. Commissioner Lewis stated now that churches are opening back up, she is looking forward to engaging ministers because sometimes they are the first responders for people who need help. She also mentioned that in Orange Crest, there is an office that helps Veterans and she is going to go talk with them to see if they would be interested in presenting at one of the meetings. Commissioner Krick mentioned that the Transportation Service provided by the City of Riverside for the elderly and disabled community has rebranded their name to Riverside Connect. Chair Alexander mentioned that he shared this transportation resource on the Nextdoor Website and there was a person from his community that needed this information and was able to use this resource. Chair Alexander stated that he partakes in the California Hands and Voices meetings and he will be attending one in the near future.

13. Items for future consideration as requested by Commission Members

Commissioner Lewis suggested a presentation from Disability Resource Center at Riverside City College.

Commissioner Ontko recommended the Commission reach out to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation which has a team of individuals called Community Resource Network Individuals and they have a wide range of resources available.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:06 pm

Motion to adjourn – Commissioner Nelson
Second – Commissioner Davis
All in favor

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm.