



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Monday, May 4, 2015 5:30 PM

FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522
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."

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Keith Nelson, Donald Hawecker, Robin Treen, Sharron Lewis, Vivian Stancil, Lisa Miller, Vivian Foust,

Antha Ward, Marsha Gonzalez, Richard Olquin, Donna Flores (all excused).

Also in attendance was General Services Director Kris Martinez and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and 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.
 - a. Resident Turner Stancil was in attendance with Commissioner Stancil.
 - b. Regina Kuruffu - Inland Regional Center Family Support Specialist.
 - c. Nettie Jackson, Presenter from the Riverside County Department of Mental Health.
 - d. Charlie Foust was in attendance with Commissioner Foust.

3. Minutes for the meetings of January 5, 2015 and March 2, 2015.

M/S Treen/Lewis and unanimous to approve the January 5, 2015 minutes as presented.

AYES – 7 (Nelson, Hawecker, Treen, Lewis, Stancil, Miller, Foust); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN - 0;
ABSENT – 4 (Ward, Gonzalez, Olquin, Flores)

M/S Hawecker/Stancil and unanimous to approve March 2, 2015 minutes as presented.

AYES – 7 (Nelson, Hawecker, Treen, Lewis, Stancil, Miller, Foust); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN -);
ABSENT – 4 (Ward, Gonzalez, Olquin, Flores)

OLD BUSINESS

4. California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) (Keith Nelson)

On April 22, 2015, Commissioner Nelson attended a CCDA meeting in Los Angeles. The City of Riverside COD was chosen as one of the three California cities to report on the activities of the Commission. Commissioner Nelson presented to the CCDA an updated version of the January 2015 report to City Council. The CCDA was very impressed that Riverside would be a host City for the World Games, Hosting the 25th Anniversary of the ADA and various other activities. The CCDA would like to hear from the COD annually with a written report and once annually with an oral report.

The largest current issue concerning the CCDA is conforming with Employment First Policy: The Federal Government's position is that there are still minimum wage waivers and the State is not in agreement; a ruling has not been provided on which position is true. The second hot topic is transportation statewide.

Commissioner Nelson noted that on the day of the CCDA meeting, a news story was being filmed concerning disabled parking. In Los Angeles, if you have an ADA placard, you can park in a parking spot for no charge. Fictitious ADA placards are now illegally available at swapmeets, so now Los Angeles is starting to ticket cars parked with ADA placards that are parked too long without verifying the placard's validity— ticket now then see if it is justified. However, someone is sewing the City of Los Angeles for ticketing legal placard holders. The CCDA has decided to sue on the grounds that this practice is discriminatory. The City of San Francisco is waiting on the outcome of the above noted suit to determine how to handle this situation in San Francisco.

The news story states that the illegal, real placards are being sold at Riverside swapmeets. Legal placards are issued through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). It was stated that someone from the Attorney General's office has the authority to investigate the alledged fraudulent sale of placards and stop the illegal sales.

Commissioner Lewis suggested that the COD write a letter to the DMV or other responsible entity since the placards were for people who honestly need them. The General Services Director contacted the Police Chief directly to provide direction on how to have this matter investigated.

General Services Director Kris Martinez contacted Chief Diaz during the COD meeting concerning the illegal placards being sold at Riverside swapmeets. Chief Diaz noted that he would check into the matter and let the COD know who to contact in the Police Department that could provide direction concerning who to contact about the illegal ADA placard sales.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Presentation: Riverside County Department of Mental Health (Antoinette Jackson, Behavioral Health Specialist)

Behavioral Health Specialist Netti Jackson introduced the COD to the County of Riverside Department of Mental Health programs. She currently works with the Department of Mental Health here in Riverside County with the Journey Program designed to meet the mental health

needs of Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-26. She works with the chronically mentally ill and explained the criteria for services and noted that the County provides services to a wide variety of psychiatric clients. Her office provides intensive case management services and support to patients and attempts to keep them out of the hospital, out of jail or off the streets (homeless). Housing issues are dealt with via Section 8 housing. Severe mental illness is a life-long illness that does not go away. Housing is paid by client social security. If a client does not have social security, the County pays housing costs. One of the goals is to get clients healthy enough to work and pay for the apartment, if possible.

The goal is to support these individuals (members) and de-stigmatize mental health. Ms. Jackson also sits on the Mental Health Board (MHB) for the County. The MHB looks at all the cases of any client in all locations, including the jails, and try to get individuals the support they need. This may mean removing an individual from jail and placing them in an environment that is more conducive to supporting them in getting well. The County Mental Health website address is <http://www.rcdmh.org/> and lists all of the various clinics. A lot of the programs will be moved to the Restin facility (old ATT building). The office is not open 24 hours but members are provided with telephone support after normal business hours. People who answer those phones are actually program staff.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hawecker concerning the use of Police bands for mental health members, Ms. Jackson noted that further discussion was needed on the topic but it was being considered. She mentioned that one of the mental health staff would be riding along with the police to better help individuals who were on the streets in this region. Chief Diaz has been extremely supportive concerning mental health issues and this helps support the individuals with as much ease and grace as possible. The goal is to expand this program for all Riverside County.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stancil concerning if Mental Health was registered with the 311 call center, Ms. Jackson responded no. Ms. Jackson explained that Mental Health services has their own CARES line where behavioral or clinical health specialists are running the lines. Sometimes individuals were referred out to 211 numbers, but the CARES number was primary for their members. 311 and 211 do have County Mental Health phone numbers for reference.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lewis concerning how the COD can help support the work of the Department of Mental Health, Ms. Jackson responded that the COD could help destigmatize the issue of mental health and get the word out to the community. The death of Robin Williams brought attention to the issue. Mental illness should be viewed in the same light as high blood pressure, asthma and other medical conditions. People with mental health issues need to seek help without fear. People of color such as Asian Americans, African Americans and church people still highly stigmatize mental health concerns. County Mental Health serves everyone from children and young adults and all other groups.

Anyone without insurance should not be discouraged, they will be supported by the program to enroll for benefits or otherwise be treated. Insurance coverage is not needed to receive services. Family services are also provided at no cost; parent advocates and family advocates are available to help support the entire family as needed.

6. Review of a social inclusion outreach video concerning individuals with disabilities

Marquis Julian presented his social inclusion outreach video concerning individuals with disabilities call I Am Abled. He explained that social inclusion means that all human beings are born free and equal and that all have the right to be included in society. His younger brother who has autism has inspired him to champion social inclusion. Communication, patience and compassion are needed in order to support social inclusion. Contact is key – saying hello to someone with disabilities instead of acting as though they do not exist. His brother's development has been greatly improved by social inclusion. Students experienced growth and confidence with music therapy and taking part in everyday activities such as shopping, being in public and interacting with people with no disabilities and thereby erasing stigmas. Computer skills were encouraged along with various other everyday activities and confidence was increased. The video shows individuals with disabilities doing what everyone else does. Social inclusion promotes self-worth.

7. Election of Officers – March 2, 2015

Chairperson and Vice Chair are the positions to be filled for a period of one year. Former Chairperson Sharon Nakama and Former Vice-Chair Ty Lawyer both resigned.

Commissioner Lewis nominated Commissioner Stancil. She accepted the position and was unanimously confirmed.

Commissioner Treen was nominated for Vice-Chair. He accepted the position and was unanimously confirmed.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

8. Employment PSA Update

This topic will be discussed again at the July 6, 2015 COD meeting

9. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

Noted by the COD.

10. Items for future COD consideration

Commissioner Stancil noted that she had attended the IEHP meeting in San Bernardino recently. She stated that the networking was excellent.

Commissioner Miller noted that Poly High School recently held their SuperBowl for Kids.

Vice-Chair Treen noted that Laguna Beach had installed the updated auditory signals and they are effective for everyone.

Commissioner Nelson:

- a) Had the opportunity to testify before the Senate committee concerning giving the 10% back. Excellent job coaches are leaving programs because they are paid better at Walmart than taking care of consumers. The IRC consumers were being done a disservice.
- b) Noted that his team had been invited back to the Nike 3 and 3 in the open division. Four of his athletes were be returning as motivational speakers in Indianapolis.
- c) The IRC are working on microenterprise. They are looking for ways for consumers to start their own businesses, i.e. photographer, DJ, dog poop pick up services and more.
- d) Richard Olquin is working on the issue of parking for the upcoming IEDC conference. Last year, additional disabled parking was allowed on the lower level and all City parking is free on Saturday. There is no parking charges for the Cal Baptist portion of the event.
- e) May 19 would be the kick-off for Riverside's Host Town events. Riverside was hosting Team Sweden for the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. The hosting will take place at the School for the Deaf's brand new housing facility. The Host Town activities are like a cultural exchange.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11. Welcome to the new City Manager and City Attorney, May 5, 2015 at the Grier Pavilion 4:30 pm.
- 12. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (May 14, 2015) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room.
- 13. 12th Annual Senior Conference, May 14, 8 am – 12:30 pm.
- 14. My Play Club, Saturday, May 16, 2015, Fairmount Park from 9 am – 1 pm. There will be two summer camps this year due to the high demand.
- 15. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9:30am - 11:30am, May 19, 2015 at Braille Institute, 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Rialto, CA. This will be the planning committee meeting for the conference.
- 16. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (March 23, 2015) at 4:00 pm in the 6th Floor Small Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 pm