



City of Arts & Innovation

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Monday, March 5, 2018 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.”

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: 5:37 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Sharron Lewis, Tola Perkins, Vivian Foust, Gregory Alexander, Ryan Nelson present.

Albert Davis, Sr. arrived 5:35 pm, Antonia Quezada arrived 5:43 pm.

Also in Attendance was General Services Director Carl Carey 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. Mike Anderson, Mayor's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC) Chairperson was in attendance to discuss an AdHoc committee concerning ASL in public schools in collaboration with the COD.
 - b. Lisa Dyan is looking for change in social opportunities and employment for transitional aged youth (TAY) ages 16-24, with disabilities. She stated that the COD should be networking and seeking opportunities for starting new businesses for youth.
 - c. Marcus Cannon – Presenter for the Hope Program. The Hope program provides housing programs for the chronically homeless.

3. Discussion/Approval: Board and Commission Attendance Policy: Vivian Foust and Antonia Quezada

M/S Nelson/Davis and unanimous to approve the absence of Commissioner Quezada at the December 4, 2017 meeting due to a family emergency and Commissioner Foust's absence for an excused vacation.

4. M/S Alexander / Foust to approve the absences as noted above:

AYES – 7 (Alexander, Foust, Lewis, Perkins, Nelson, Davis, Quezada); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

5. Minutes for the meeting of September 18, 2017.

M/S Nelson/Davis to approve the minutes as presented:

AYES – 7 (Nelson, Davis, Lewis, Perkins, Foust, Davis, Quesada); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0
ABSENT – 0.

6. Oral presentation from the Riverside University Health System Behavioral Health Housing Region Administrative Services Manager about the Homeless Housing Opportunities, Partnership & Education Program.

Designee Marcus Cannon provided an overview of the HHOPE Program of Riverside County Department of Mental Health. Wellness Begins with a Home: Homeless/Housing Opportunities, Partnership & Education Program. This program serves all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Riverside County, from the Arizona border in and from Blythe to the Western border. HHOPE is a tenant based rental assistance project in scattered site housing of the individual's choice; and provides for a maximum sixty-one participants needing intensive case management support and mental health services. Targeted priorities are individuals or families who are chronically homeless, with high service needs, disabled and with a severe mental health diagnosis. Ten percent of this housing is a set aside (prioritized) for homeless veterans and their families.

7. Oral presentation from a licensed clinical social worker about the need for services and activities for transitional aged youth with special needs.

Lisa Dyan Sagala, Therapy in a Bag, Inc., is a licensed Clinical Social Worker in the City of Riverside. Her primary concern is opportunities for social interaction and employment for transitional aged youth (TAY) ages 16-24.

Lisa Sagala, Private Practice Physical Therapist. She ran a group at Wylie Center and capable girls program for teens with autism. Her group is meeting September 28 from 10:00 AM to Noon, "How to Start a Micro Business and How to Get a Job." Her focus is helping young people get a job. There currently is no similar program available in the Inland Empire.

- a. Ms. Dyan started a Meetup.com group for TAY “Growing Up Special”.
 - b. She would like to see established:
 - i. Summer Day camp for young adults and others with disabilities offered through the City’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services
 - ii. Employment assistance
 1. Internships with City Programs; a liaison to work with employers and Chambers of Commerce regarding employment for people with disabilities in the City
 2. Increased employment increases the tax base for the City.
 - c. Post-Secondary education programs: Work with local colleges and universities to develop specialized programs for people with intellectual disabilities like that being offered in other states, such as the University of Iowa and Bellevue College in WA.
 - i. There is no college to career program at RCC
 - ii. www.thinkcollege.net
 - iii. Encourage universities and colleges to apply for the Federal grants available for this population.
 - iv. Reach out to universities and business and demonstrate why employment of this population makes economic sense.
 - d. Mentor Starting a Micro Business:
 - i. Offer a class to City residents on how to start a micro business when you have a disability.
 - ii. Work with local business owners who may be willing to mentor people with a disability to start a small business
 - iii. Hand out pamphlets to residents on the topic.
 - iv. Make a specific tab on the City’s website for people with disabilities to access local resources
 - v. Update information with 211 regularly regarding new programs in the City for people with disabilities.
 - e. Pamphlets to Businesses on tax advantages of hiring someone with a disability
 - f. ABLE Accounts: Organize free seminars on this topic and give families access to free financial planning for their young adult. Pressure the California Legislature to enact as quickly as possible and use Oregon, Tennessee and other states as the model.
 - g. Housing
 - i. Make a local pamphlet about housing for people with disabilities
 - ii. Build more affordable housing units
 - iii. Make housing for students at community colleges with disabilities like Taft College.
 - iv. Co-Op Housing similar to that available for seniors and some could be based on the Leisure world model.
8. Discussion and review: Video feature – increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

The video was reviewed. Some aspects of the video are outdated, i.e., Ability Counts should be removed), and an educational component should be added, i.e. Internship availability through Riverside Community College. The COD also discussed producing a new video on Mental Health.

9. Election of Officers

M/S Nelson/Alexander and unanimous to re-elected Chairperson Sharron Lewis and Vice-chair Tola Perkins for second terms.

AYES – 7 (Nelson, Davis, Lewis, Perkins, Foust, Davis, Quesada); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0
ABSENT – 0.

10.311 Service Statistics

Noted by the COD.

Adjournment: 7:03 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 7, 2018.

No audio file was produced for this meeting.