



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Thursday, August 19, 2021 5:30 PM

ART PICK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL,  
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92501  
VIRTUAL MEETING, [RIVERSIDECAGOV/MEETING](https://www.riversideca.gov/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: 5:34 pm

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ABSENT: Don Coon, Gregory Alexander, Ryan Nelson

Also, in attendance was Analyst Jessica Spiking, General Services Director Carl Carey, and the Director of the Disability Resource Center at Riverside City College's Pamela Starr.

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 Riverside City College's Disability Resource Center about the services they provide to students with disabilities to ensure equal access and reasonable accommodations.

Pamela Starr is the Director of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at the Riverside City College. The DRC team consists of a Director, four DRC Counselors, four Disability Specialists, two specialists in assistive technology and alternative media, four senior interpreters, an administrative assistant,

and a support services specialist aide. The Counselors have contact with the students and review their documentation and identify what the reasonable and appropriate accommodations would be. The specialists work with the students to make sure they are aware of the available campus resources.

The DRC works with students individually to minimize the impact of their disabilities by providing a level playing field through reasonable accommodations, and the opportunity to demonstrate mastery and knowledge of their course material.

Ms. Starr explained that equality means that each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities and that equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.

Below are types of disabilities that qualify:

- Psychological (e.g. depression, anxiety)
- Learning disabilities
- ADHD
- Autism
- Mobility
- Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing
- Visual
- Speech/Language
- ABI (Acquired Brain Injury)
- Other health impairments

Types of Accommodations:

- Test-taking accommodations
- Note-taking/Audio Recording
- Furniture
- Adaptive Technology/E-text
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Priority Registration

**\*\*All accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. This list is not exhaustive, only a representation of some general accommodations.**

Ms. Starr stated that staff is trained to identify disabilities that may not be physically visible to provide the best accommodations for each individual student.

DRC is responsible to verify disability based upon third party documentation, to facilitate accommodation, and to communicate and collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to ensure compliance with Title 5 and the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. The College is responsible for minimizing barriers that prevent access to accommodations.

The DRC counselors evaluate existing documentation, determine eligibility, identify reasonable and appropriate accommodations, provide academic advising, create student education plans, and

conduct learning disability evaluations. At this time counselors are still working remotely; however, students are provided with temporary accommodations.

The DRC specialists facilitate processes for receiving accommodations, assist with explanations of services, show mobility accessible routes on campus, provide clearance for priority registration, provide adaptive furniture and schedule notetakers and provide accommodated exams.

The senior interpreters coordinate services for the deaf/hard of hearing students in all school related needs such as classes, counseling appointments and athletics. To get into contact with and senior interpreters send an e-mail to [rcc.interpreters@rcc.edu](mailto:rcc.interpreters@rcc.edu).

Ms. Starr described the High-Tech Center (HTC) which provides DRC students with access and training in the use of a wide range of accessible technologies, including alternate media, screen readers, voice-to-text, and digital audio recording. DRC also offers tools such as smart pens. The advances in technology have really opened many doors to individuals with disabilities and have allowed them to overcome barriers when it comes to their education.

The Workability III Program provides pre-employment services to DRC students who also work with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). The services include resume development, interview preparation and mock interviews. We also offer internships and work experience opportunities. The Colleges provide guidance classes that are specifically geared towards employment such as Career and Life Planning as well as an Internship class.

Below is a chart of the number of DRC students who transferred to a 4-year institution and another chart with the number of DRC students who graduated:

### Transfer

Academic Year	# Transfers
2015-16	350
2016-17	359
2017-18	364
2018-19	415
2019-20	398

### Graduation

Academic Year	# Graduates
2015-16	322
2016-17	308
2017-18	430
2018-19	591
2019-20	611

Below is the DRC contact information:

- **Office location: Charles A. Kane Building, Rm 130**
- **Phone: (951) 222-8060**
- **Fax: (951) 222-8059**
- **Video Phone: (951) 801-5675**
- **Email: [drc@rcc.edu](mailto:drc@rcc.edu)**

Commissioner Lewis asked what type of support is being given for mental health such as anxiety. Ms. Starr stated that they provide a plethora of support services available such as a full-time mental health coordinator as well as several contracts and grants with community-based agencies who are specifically there to support RCC students. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the DRC provide a

service where similar students work in a group with the assistance and support of former successful DRC students.

Chair Perkins asked how recent the Individualized Education Program (IEP) needs to be to enter the DRC program. Ms. Starr stated that it depends on the individual's situation.

Commissioner Quezada stated that vaccinations are required for in person education and she asked if this is going to affect students with disabilities. Ms. Starr stated that they are working with individuals who are not able to get the vaccine due to medical reasons to ensure they are still getting access to the proper education.

Commissioner Krick asked if there are any known issues with providing students with transportation to school. Pamela Starr stated that there are no concerns that she has been made aware of and that the DRC is planning to reach out to students to see if there are any barriers with transportation.

### 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 June 17, 2021

Motion to approve – Commissioner Lewis  
Second – Commissioner Lopez  
All in favor

4. Determine whether the absence of Commissioner Don Coon on June 17, 2021, should be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.

Commissioner Lewis made motion to designate the absence as excused  
Second – Commissioner Aleman  
All in favor

### COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

5. Update on Brochures

Vice Chair Nelson was not in attendance and Staff member Jessica Spiking had not received any updates from him prior to this meeting. Chair Perkins has requested Vice Chair Nelson's contact information so they can work on this project together. Commissioner Lewis suggested that there be some sort of Mental Health Hotline on the brochure. Chair Perkins requested that if any of the Commissioners have information that they would like included on the brochure, they send it to Staff member Jessica Spiking.

6. Update on Public Outreach to publicize the Commission

Staff member Jessica Spiking stated that she had reached out to the City's Marketing team regarding what the Commission of Disabilities can advertise/promote and how we can do it. She explained that the City of Riverside has approximately 20-30 Boards/Commissions and they all have the same format when it comes to providing information such as meeting dates, times, and location. It is not common for the Boards/Commissions to have their own Social Media web site; therefore, it is up to the Commission Members to reach out to the community. As far as reaching out to the community through the "What's going on in Riverside?" website, the Commissioners can promote the meeting date, time, and location; however, it is important that this does not become a place where complaints or concerns are submitted. If an individual has a complaint, there is a form on the City's website that will need to be filled out. People are also able to comment on any of the agenda items through the e-comment feature on the City's website or they can attend the meetings in person. Commissioner Lewis stated that she would like to see the information on how to submit a complaint on the updated brochure. Staff member Jessica Spiking will send this information to Chair Perkins and Vice Chair Nelson so that they can add this to the updated brochure.

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

Commissioner Lewis stated that she has been attending Riverside County's monthly mental health meetings which occur virtually on the third Wednesday of every month at 10am. She is going to reach out to this organization to see if they have a speaker that would like to present at one of the Commission on Disabilities meetings. She mentioned this group is working on hosting a virtual resource fair so she will keep us updated when she has new information.

Commissioner Krick attended the Riverside Transportation Commission meeting with Riverside Transportation Authority (RTA), and they were discussing the complaint that the busses are not able to transport as many people in wheelchairs due to COVID restrictions. One way they are trying to resolve this is by making sure that busses are available so that person always has access to proper transportation. RTA has recently increased passenger capacity.

Commissioner Ontko attended the Safety Standdown hosted by the Veteran's Benefits Administration (VBA) and she shared that unfortunately their public outreach program has closed again. Chair Perkins requested that the VBA give a presentation at one of the future Commission on Disabilities meetings. Commissioner Ontko agreed to send staff member Jessica Spiking the contact information for the VBA.

Chair Perkins inquired if anyone from the public was at the meeting in person. Staff member Jessica Spiking stated that she was the only one attending in person and confirmed that the public is now also allowed to attend the meetings in person.

8. Items for future consideration as requested by Commission Members

Chair Perkins requested a presentation from the VBA.

Commissioner Lewis suggested a future presentation from a mental health organization focusing on the services they provide.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:58pm

Motion to adjourn – Commissioner Lopez  
Second – Commissioner Aleman  
All in favor

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm.