**Sacramento County Disability Advisory Commission (DAC)**

**Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024**

**Members Present:** Randy Hicks, Chair; Gene Lozano, Vice Chair; Isabel Arreola, Patty Gainer, Troy Givans, Ex-Officio; Marc Laver, Reggie Nelson, Hang Nguyen, Ex-Officio; Kathy Sachen, Angela Talent, Rami Zakaria, Ex Officio.

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests: Patrick Kennedy, Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; Melissa Jacobs, Deputy Director, Senior and Adult Services; Mindy Scates-Gonzalez, Employee Relations Division Chief, Department of Personnel Services; Jeff Tardaguila, Physical Access Subcommittee Member (via Zoom); Dustin Knott, DAC applicant; Josh and Mallory, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.**

**Staff: Cori Stillson, Cheryl Bennett,** Disability Compliance Office (DCO).

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Staff took roll call of members and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of Members’ Requests to Participate via Zoom**

**It was moved and seconded (Gainer/Arreola) to approve Gene Lozano’s request for virtual attendance. Approved unanimously.**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**The March 5 meeting minutes were adopted as submitted.**

**Public Comments**

**Mark Baker, President of Soft Lights Foundation, described the barriers created by LED lighting for people with certain disabilities. He is attempting to build support for a bill in the California Legislature and asked the DAC to consider providing a letter of support.**

**Remarks by Patrick Kennedy, Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors**

Supervisor Kennedy spoke about the topics and issues that are his current priorities. Homelessness is at the top of the list and he acknowledged the large number of people with disabilities in that population. Another top priority is implementing the low floor light rail cars and retrofitting the light rail stations to accommodate them. He engaged with members regarding how the Board can support the DAC and a robust discussion ensued regarding recruitment and desired qualifications of DAC members. He assured members that the Chief of Staff report back on the DAC initiatives.

**Chair’s Report**

Randy Hicks reported back from the meeting with the four Deputy County Executives (DCE). He and Gene Lozano provided an update to the DAC report of 2021-22. Mr. Lozano elaborated on their discussion during the meeting with DCE Chevon Kothari regarding Public Health. He is concerned that the funding for the mobile in-home vaccination and testing program ended when temporary funding ran out. He recommended that the DAC advocate for permanent funding. It was moved and seconded (Arreola/Gainer) to recommend to Public Health to create a permanent budget line item to fund a mobile testing and vaccination for homebound persons, including provisions for outreach and education. Approved, unanimously.

Mr. Hicks appointed Kathy Sachen as Nominations Committee Chair for 2024. Ms. Sachen selected Patty Gainer and Angela Talent to serve as Committee members. Mr. Hicks noted that April is Autism Awareness Month.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

Rami Zakaria reported on his role as Plans and Intel Chief in the Emergency Operations Center during activation. As part of this function, he will be supervising Cheryl Bennett as the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Coordinator.

Troy Givans noted that the County currently has 6 Certified Access Specialists (CASp) in the Building Inspection Division, a very high number compared with most other jurisdictions. The County pays the costs for qualified employees to complete the certification. The CASps also do work for Regional Parks via a partnership.

Hang Nguyen provided an update on the March 2024 Election. There was a 39% voter turnout. Over 90% of the ballots were cast by mail, 5% in person. The Department of Voter Registration and Elections is already preparing for the November 2024 election and will have an accessibility update later this year.

**Disability Compliance Office (DCO) Report**

Cori Stillson provided a brief update on the consultant search. Mindy Scates-Gonzales noted that she is exploring options with existing contractors. Cheryl Bennett deferred the planned training module due to time limitations.

**Programs and Services Access Subcommittee Report**

Angela Talent reported back on meeting with Stephanie Kelly, Division Chief of Outpatient Services for Behavioral Health Services. Their discussion went beyond the original scope of the crisis response programs to include access considerations for all BHS outpatient programs. The Subcommittee will be discussing next steps.

**Human Services Coordinating Council Report (HSCC)**

Randy Hicks reported back on the recent presentation from the Department of Human Assistance. He suggested the DAC would benefit from having the same presentation.

**Homeless Services and Housing Task Force Report**

The report was deferred.

**Physical Access Subcommittee Report**

Gene Lozano recapped the March meeting. The Subcommittee had an update from the Department of Transportation regarding the Stockton Boulevard Feasibility Study and the Asphalt Concrete (AC) Overlay projects for 2024. In April, the Airports staff will return with an update on the Ground Transportation Center project.

**Unfinished/New Business**

**Gene Lozano restated his concerns about the lack of planning for focus group input for the Airport ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan, in the areas of wayfinding and web accessibility. He is continuing to work with Airports staff on this issue.**

**Community Announcements**

**Members made announcements of interest to the disability community.**

**Proposed Topics for Upcoming Agenda**

**Staff will invite a representative of Public Health. Members would like to resume discussion regarding next steps with In Home Supportive Services Public Authority (IHSS).**

**DAC Member Comments**

**Randy Hicks noted that there is another Safe Stay homeless program in the works. This one will be located near the old Arco Arena.**

**Adjournment**

**It was moved (Lozano) and seconded (Arreola) to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.**