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

**Meeting Minutes for January 2, 2024**

**Members Present:**, Randy Hicks, Chair; Gene Lozano, Vice Chair Isabel Arreola (virtually with approval), Troy Givans, Ex-Officio; Marc Laver, Hang Nguyen, Ex-Officio; Kathy Sachen, Angela Talent.

**Members Absent:** Patty Gainer, Reggie Nelson, Rami Zakaria, Ex Officio

**Guests: Tania Morawiec, Deputy Director, CA State Developmental Disabilities Council (via Zoom); Joseph Wilson, Community Advocate (via Zoom); Gabe Corrie, DAC Applicant; Jeff Tardaguila, Physical Access Subcommittee Member (via Zoom); Mindy Scates-Gonzales, Dept. of Personnel Services; Josh and Alonzo, 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 (Talent/Sachen) to approve Isabel Arreola’s request for virtual attendance. Approved unanimously.**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**The November 7 meeting minutes were adopted as submitted.**

**The December 5 meeting minutes were adopted as submitted with two abstentions.**

**Public Comments**

**Jeff Tardaguila provided an update on the preparations for the Point In Time unsheltered homeless count. He also noted that the City of Sacramento is attempting to enact a new version of a sidewalk anti-camping ordinance and there have been unannounced sweeps of many of the areas that were identified in anticipation of the count.**

**Dustin Knott asked about accommodations for people who are D/deaf and hard of hearing in the County’s voting processes. Hang Nguyen responded with a brief summary and offered to connect with Dustin later to provide more information.**

**Tania Morawiec asked if Crisis Intervention Training was provided for County Sheriff’s Deputies. Cori Stillson was unsure but will follow up.**

**Approve Work Plan for 2024**

Members reviewed the document DAC Work Plan for 2024. Minor amendments were made to items number 9 and 12. It was moved (Talent) and seconded (Lozano) to adopt the document as submitted. Approved, unanimously.

**Ratify Letter to Board of Supervisors**

Members reviewed the draft letter to the Board of Supervisors. It was moved (Sachen) and seconded (Talent) to adopt the letter as written. Approved, unanimously.

**Proposed Agenda Items for February, March and April**

Members reviewed the Work Plan and discussed priorities for upcoming Agendas. February’s topic will be Voting Access. An update from Airports was suggested for March. An update from DTech was considered for April.

**Chair’s Report**

Randy Hicks proposed an Executive Committee meeting in February in anticipation of a briefing with the Chiefs of Staff on February 22. The date of February 13 at 3:00 PM was selected, room to be determined.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

Hang Nguyen gave a brief update on current activities in preparation for the March election. The Voter Lookup tool online is being updated including improved accessibility. She will share the link when the updates are completed and would welcome input from the community. Ms. Nguyen will provide additional information about the March election at next month’s meeting. Troy Givans deferred his report.

**Disability Compliance Office (DCO) Report**

Cori Stillson announced the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the DCO audit. The final submission date is January 26. Cheryl Bennett noted she will be engaged in an all day training and a two day workshop and table top exercise later this month. The meeting locations have been set for 2024 and an updated list has been sent. Since quite a few meetings had to be scheduled on the 5th floor, the Department of Personnel Services is upgrading the camera and audio systems to ensure accessibility for all meeting participants, both in person and virtual. Finally, Ms. Bennett announced that upcoming meetings would be attended by ASL interpreters in training to support them in their professional development.

**Programs and Services Access Subcommittee Report**

Angela Talent stated the Subcommittee would be reviewing the response to their letter to Behavioral Health Services and considering next steps, and finalizing their 2024 Work Plan.

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

Randy Hicks announced that he was elected to the office of Vice Chair of the HSCC. They are currently setting their goals for the coming year. They have been discussing recent sweeps of homeless camps in advance of the Point in Time Count, and the accessibility of the Safe Stay sites.

**Homeless Services and Housing Task Force Report**

The report was deferred.

**Physical Access Subcommittee Report**

Gene Lozano reported back on the December meeting. Tom Cassera was introduced as the new ADA Coordinator for the Department of Transportation (SacDOT). He updated the Subcommittee on the status of current projects and discussed planned presentations on future access improvement projects. The Subcommittee also finalized its 2024 Work Plan.

**Unfinished/New Business**

**There was no unfinished or new business.**

**Community Announcements**

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

**Proposed Topics for Upcoming Agenda**

**There will be an update on voting accessibility in the upcoming election.**

**DAC Member Comments**

**Members discussed AB 817, proposed updates to the Brown Act to allow “hybrid” in-person and remote public meetings to continue.**

**Adjournment**

**It was moved (Sachen) and seconded (Talent) to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.**