



DR. KAROLYN SMITH
CHAIR

COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

5500 OVERLAND AVE., SUITE 370,
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123
(858) 505-6628

HUMBERTO GURMILÁN
VICE CHAIR



Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Chair Dr. Karolyn Smith, Janette Shelton, Jessica Kramer (teleconference), Susan Madison, and Laura Handzel

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Humberto Gurmilán, Michelle Krug

County Staff: Todd Hood and Jaime G Monreal

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 302pm

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances)

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2025

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes; committee approved.

Non-Agenda Comment

- Jessica Kramer shared a story of a person with issues around ADA accommodations at the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

List of Invisible Disabilities for District Attorney

Speaker: Dr. Karolyn Smith

- Dr. Smith reviewed the Descriptions of Invisible Disabilities document which will be provided to the District Attorney and Sheriff's Office to be included in the POST certification training to assist officers as they interact with individuals.
- A motion was made to present the document to the District Attorney's office; the motion did not pass.

- The item was tabled for a future meeting pending input from Jessica.

District Attorney Update

Guest Speaker: Summer Stephan, District Attorney

- Summer Stephan was joined by her team: Yolanda Apalategui Lugo, Director of Government and Community Affairs; Jorge Duran, Chief Investigator; Marla Kingkade, Staff Officer; and Barbara Medina, Media Specialist.
- The new, updated cover for the San Diego County Elder and Dependent Adult Blueprint was presented. It was updated with images to be more inclusive and reflect people with invisible disabilities.
- The District Attorney's office showed a [thirteen-minute video](#) that includes vignettes of several committee members, to be incorporated into training for law enforcement trainees to consider when encountering persons with visible and invisible disabilities. The video was well received by the committee.
- D.A. Stephan hopes to incorporate into training statewide and nationally.
- Laura introduced the term "dynamic disability" to reflect that the impact of some disabilities may vary from time to time
- D.A. Stephan gave the committee permission to use the video as needed.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the video; committee approved.

Office of Emergency Services – Flood Emergency/Fire Preparedness

Guest Speaker: Jeff Toney, Director, Office of Emergency Services

- Jeff presented a PowerPoint on the Office of Emergency Services and emergency preparedness/disaster management.
- Jeff invited committee to provide feedback for the Emergency Operations Plan which is up for renewal, participate in the Access & Functional Needs (AFN) Advisory Committee, and to tour the Emergency Operations Center.
- Dr. Smith recommended:
 - Emergency preparedness programs be provided for rural east county
 - Consider making an educational video with lived experiences similar to the District Attorney's video.
 - Present to and receive feedback from rural planning boards.
 - Address the efforts to remove AM radio, critical for communication during disasters, from newer vehicles and the importance of campaigning against it.
 - Jeff confirmed he has been very vocal and already advocating to keep AM radio.
- Jessica requested:
 - Updating CERT and AFN training

- Communicating and reinforcing policies and procedures for service animals in emergencies
 - Jeff confirmed it is written into policy and standard procedure that service animals can go into shelters.

Public Awareness of Interactive Process for Requests for Modification for IHSS and BHS

Guest Speaker: Todd Hood

- Todd met with IHSS and confirmed an informational flyer, Your Rights Under California Benefits Programs, is provided at onboarding and then annually to IHSS service recipients and highlighted the reasonable accommodation language.
- Social Workers ask new recipients if they have needs.
 - Jessica requested case workers communicate processes in addition to providing the notice.
- As a result of committee input, IHSS has added to the call center script to ask each recipient if they have needs for a reasonable modification related to a disability.
 - Jessica requested the call center consider disabilities when getting information from recipients in order to be more inclusive.
 - Jessica requested disabilities be considered when assessing reasonable accommodations.
- IHSS requested that if the committee members or other constituents to report issues or concerns that they want investigated. Issues can be reported directly or through Todd Hood.
 - Jessica requested other agencies under Aging and Independence Services, including the San Diego Housing Commission, should also have their processes reviewed.
- Todd has a meeting with BHS scheduled and will have another update in the future.

Qualifying for Disability Special Considerations and Protection under the Law

Speaker: Jessica Kramer

- Jessica provided the Disability Checklist as an educational reference to committee for review.

Committee Business

- **Submission of Bylaws to the Board of Supervisors**
Todd stated there were inquiries regarding the bylaws, but no known issues.

- **Strategic Focus Area 2025 Vote**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Strategic Focus Areas 2025 document; committee approved.

- **Board of Supervisors Update**

Janette was invited to the State of the County. Jessica has a meeting scheduled with Jim Desmond's office.

New Business – Future Agenda Items

- Dr. Smith requested Jessica have ongoing conversation with committee members regarding the List of Invisible Disabilities document.
- Sue has minor updates to Disability Checklist and will connect with Jessica.
- Jessica requested reviewing the San Diego Housing Commission ADA interactive process.
- Dr. Smith reported back from her visit to Washington, D.C. as a speaker at Impact 2025. She encouraged advocating to your representatives at Capitol Hill.

Meeting Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Click the link below for a video recording of the meeting.

[Committee for Persons with Disabilities Meeting – March 19, 2025](#)

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday April 16, 2025 at 3:00pm at the following address:

County Administrative Center
Room 302
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Alternatively, guests may participate in the meetings via the below Zoom link or teleconference.

- [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- One tap mobile: +14086380968,,82997774664#
- Call 408-638-0968 and enter Meeting ID 829 9777 4664 when prompted

Committee for Persons with Disabilities website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hr/CPD.html>

Accessibility Awareness Community Engagement website:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/oec/accessibility_awareness.html