



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting – April 14, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.



Members Present: Michelle Krug (Chair), Rickeena Kamei-Boyd (Vice-Chair), Jessica Kramer, Janette Shelton, Karolyn Smith, Kaye Turpin, Jose Gaspar

Members Absent: Candice Custodio-Tan

COSD Staff: Jaime Monreal and Elaine Pitpit

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Chair Michelle Krug.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2023

Kaye made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Janette seconded the motion: committee approved.

Non-Agenda Comment

Janette and Kaye stated they would not be able to attend the May meeting.

Karolyn stated she would not be able to attend the June meeting.

Kaye requested Andrew Potter or his staff attend June meeting for status of adding disability status to boards and commissions application.

County Housing Blueprint

Guest Speaker: Natalia Hentschel, Community Engagement Manager

Natalia reviewed a condensed version of the Housing Blueprint PowerPoint. The blueprint is the county's response to curbing the housing affordability crisis. The full version of the PowerPoint which can be found here: [Housing Blueprint | Engage San Diego County](#). Phase 1 was presented to the board in December. We are now in Phase 2 of the plan, refining goals and objectives, which will be presented to the board again in the summer. A community survey was created and there will be new opportunities for community engagement as we proceed through the final phase. The goals and objectives were reviewed which included creating 6,700 units for unincorporated areas and 10,000 affordable units on publicly owned property.

Committee Questions and Responses:

Karolyn also serves on Lakeside community planning board and wanted to know if information was received from Lakeside residents who prefer to remain rural and was concerned the feedback hadn't been received by Natalia. It was requested Natalia engage community planning boards and groups since many programs are not accessible due to Lakeside's being excluded from many programs. If funds were spent on crafting a transportation hub for rural Lakeside it would only push residents who prefer rural living further out.

- Natalia confirmed invitations were extended to community planning boards and groups and agreed to recirculate invitations for those without access to the website for updates and information.

[The Housing Blueprint discussion was put on hold to permit District Attorney Summer Stephan to present on Accessibility and the District Attorney's Office. The Housing Blueprint discussion continued after the DA presentation below.]

- The timeline for feedback on goals and objectives to go back to the board is in the summer. The recording of the April 5, 2023, community engagement meeting as well as PowerPoint and information can be found on website and Natalia is also available for feedback to be provided, if possible, by the first week of May.

Karolyn raised concerns about the community engagement meeting only being attended by 46 people.

- It was explained the meeting was not the only time to provide feedback and the goal is to meet people where they are with lots of opportunities for engagement. It's understood not everybody can attend a meeting in the evening. It's requested people also provide feedback on how they want to be engaged.

Michelle requested a phone number be provided for this with vision impairments that cannot access emails and/or websites.

- Natalia directed any phone calls to go to County Communications at (619) 595-4633 and will be updating presentations.

Karolyn stated almost 200 people showed up and expressed concern about building units, but it didn't result in any changes.

- Natalia requested more detailed information on the specific meeting for further research and to confirm it was regarding this particular project. It was confirmed the number of units are mandated by the state. The concern over impact to unincorporated areas will be taken back to the board.

Kaye advised Ramona has rural preservation mandates by the county which may conflict with the state mandate which may result in lawsuits. Michelle stated inclusion is important but so is accessibility which were previously tied together but no longer. Karolyn requested researching veterans whose income may result in them no longer qualifying for affordable housing and other programs. Karolyn also asked for email blast information.

- Natalia took the feedback and stated the county website has a way to enroll in eBlasts as previously provided by Todd Hood.

Michelle requested general/virtual meetings for people who are not tied to any specific groups and would otherwise be left out of communications as well as a variety of times.

- Natalia took the feedback.

Strategic Initiative – Public Safety – Accessibility in Justice System

Guest Speaker: District Attorney Summer Stephan

DA Stephan explained the District Attorney (DA) jurisdiction of 18 cities and 39 unincorporated areas which include all felonies, state crimes, and misdemeanors except misdemeanors in the City of San Diego. When she became DA in 2018 reformed mission to pursue fair and equal justice for all with focus on transmitting information to communities and allow more direct access to DA offices. Four years ago, worked with local Arc for further training to make access to justice easier. Arc national has specific criminal justice section with expertise and focus in this area which is mandatory for all 1,000 DA employees. Arc national said first DA's office to use services which was received positively by the offices.

Today's meeting is to learn areas of improvement to advance access to justice. The DA's office has also taken several actions such as: \$1.5 million invested in regional de-escalation training for 5,000 police officers in all police departments, mobile training due to the shortage of officers not able to attend training, all 1,000 DA employees training to understand gender identification, Jerrilyn Malana designated ADA person, ASL and language accessibility, User Way interface on the DA website to allow for accessibility, and compliance with all postings.

- Karolyn complimented DA Stephan on her work with the Veterans Court.

Michelle recommended breaking up the training instead of having it all in an eight-hour block to help with retention of the new information.

- DA Stephan stated the training is engaging and interactive and already broken up by activities. The recommendation will also be considered.

Jessica recounted several personal experiences related to her own disabilities and service animal such as a hotel manager becoming abusive when she attempted to use a hotel voucher with her service animal and the police department and DA's office not understanding how to qualify the incident as a crime.

- Jessica requested DA make a commitment to training and understanding regarding service animals and interfering with service animals, the definition of a qualifying dependent adult, ADA reasonable accommodation requests made by a person with a disability, and updating the graphics on the San Diego County Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Blueprint to include a dependent adult and service animal.
- Michelle clarified when persecuting the abusive hotel manager, the DA claimed they didn't know how without any follow up.
- Karolyn wanted to add a space for veterans within training for veterans with sensory disabilities and recommended collaborating with the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council.
- DA Stephan was glad the blueprint was well-received and will make images more inclusive of people with invisible disabilities.
- While she cannot force police departments take trainings, she does have influence to encourage training such as enhanced training and guide or checklist as a reference for dependent adults. DA Stephan committed to work with law enforcement agencies and my office in response to 911 calls and emergencies and enhance and include veteran disability in other accommodation programming. DA Stephan stated service animal laws, like 365 and 365.5, are new and there has not been training but will work with this body to make educational posters for hotels and motels. Education is sometimes a better response since prosecution is not always the answer.
- The hotel manager complaint is better handled by Department of Fair Employment and Housing who handle administrative and civil side of discrimination while DA works on hate crimes.

Jessica stated law enforcement doesn't have enough advisement regarding disability hate crimes. Sheriff's representative previously stated zero reported disability hate crimes while people with disabilities highest demographic for being victim of a crime and underrepresented in the justice system. When do PC 368, 365, and 365.5 violations rise to a hate crime?

- DA Stephan confirmed disabilities are a protected class and can be included in future trainings.

Jose asked if there is training for dealing with people with physical disabilities whose dexterity and range of motion may be limited from being in wheelchair.

- DA Stephan confirmed it's not included in de-escalation training and appreciated the feedback.

Jessica agreed the awareness component has value. City of San Francisco has awareness campaign and education is a good answer – not just prosecution.

Michelle requested clarification between violating civil and criminal laws.

- DA Stephan will consider informational prevention to hotel, motels, and restaurants. DA Stephan explained breaking a criminal law is willfulness to break the law. Since it's a newer law clerks in hotels may have not known, which is why we should educate them.
- DA Stephan also agreed to consider combining service animal education with invisible disabilities.

Committee Composition

Moved to next meeting

In Progress Topics

Virtual Access to Public Meetings

Committee Meeting Date and Time

Meeting Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 24, 2023 at 3:00 pm at the following address:

County Administrative Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402A
San Diego, CA 92101

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

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