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

**Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2022**

**Members Present:**, Gene Lozano, Chair; Randy Hicks, Vice Chair; Bill Fallai, Patty Gainer, Carol Moss, Reggie Nelson, LaTasha Richardson, Kathy Sachen.

**Members Absent:** Reggie Nelson, Angela Talent, Courtney Bailey-Kanelos, Ex-Officio; Jeff Gasaway, Ex-Officio.

**Guests: Sylvester Fadal, Director, Department of Personnel Services; Mindy Scates-Gonzales, Department of Personnel Services; Priscilla Vargas, Regional Transit; Marc Laver, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Community Advocate; Jeffery Tardaguila, Physical Access Subcommittee Member; Diane, Community Member.**

**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.

**Resolution to Continue DAC Meetings Remotely**

**Gene Lozano reviewed the purpose of the Resolution required to continue holding DAC meetings remotely. The document is identical to last month’s with current dates. The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote.**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**The meeting minutes for September 6, 2022 were reviewed and adopted as submitted.**

**Public Comments**

**Marc Laver of UCP gave an overview of his agency and the services it provides to the disability community. He noted working with Gene Lozano on the City of Sacramento’s Southside Park which recently had accessible playground equipment installed.**

**Department of Personnel Services (DPS) Response to Recommendations in the DAC 2021-22 Annual Report**

Dr. Sylvester Fadal gave a brief overview of the activities in support of the DAC that had transpired since his previous appearance at the DAC. He explained the rationale behind the recent relocation of the Disability Compliance Office. The DCO and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) offices along with all of the other service teams have been consolidated to provide more effective and efficient services across all County departments. He assured DAC members that the relocation would not negatively impact the DAC’s work or level of support. Dr. Fadal stated that the budget process for the next fiscal year has just begun and he pledged to seek additional funding to restore the vacant position that had been removed from the DCO. He also agreed to seek funding to study the staffing and operations of the DCO and compare them to other similar entities to determine best practices. Gene Lozano emphasized the importance of recognizing the DCO as having responsibility for not just ADA title I for employees, but also Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and other civil rights laws that mandate accessibility for the public. He also advocated for the restoration of a full time ADA Coordinator. Dr. Fadal stated he would follow up when new information was available.

**Review 2022 Work Plan, Consider Topics for 2023**

Gene Lozano proposed creating a more comprehensive Work Plan for the coming year. For each topic, there will be measurable goals, resources identified, consideration of any barriers or challenges to achieving the goal, and a designated member or members to be responsible for completing the necessary tasks to complete the goals. He asked the DCO to assist with identifying some resources that would help the DAC create such a strategic plan. This will be the first priority of the DAC work plan. The next priority would be the study of the DCO staffing and resources needed to support ADA Title II compliance. Thirdly, he proposed the DAC keep Web Access issues as identified in the Annual Report on the coming year’s work plan. The Airport issues will be addressed by the Physical Access Subcommittee. Due to the recent upsurge in people experiencing homelessness, and the County’s response in creating new programs, Mr. Lozano proposed resurrecting the Housing Subcommittee to address the needs of people with disabilities in homeless services. Discussion ensued and members generally agreed with this approach. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

**Chair’s Report**

Gene Lozano followed up on his recent meeting with Dr, Fadal and Cori Stillson with a couple of items that were not mentioned in his presentation. Mr. Lozano restated his concerns about the role and responsibility of the DCO to implement ADA Title II, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other regulations dealing with public access. He also restated his concerns about the DCO no longer being in proximity to decision makers in the County Administration building – out of sight, out of mind. He noted he had also followed up in writing with the Chiefs of Staff at their request, detailing the DAC’s concerns about the reduction in the DCO’s budget. Next, he recapped the recent meeting with the Airports staff and an invited group of community advocates. They discussed some access barriers that may be relatively easy to address that could be accomplished without waiting for the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan to be completed. Lastly, he appointed Randy Hicks to Chair the revitalized Housing Subcommittee to address accessibility in the Safe Stay program, the encampment abatement ordinance and the encampments obstructing the public rights of way.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

The Ex-Officio reports were deferred.

**Disability Compliance Office (DCO) Report**

Cori Stillson stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to provide a Web Content Management System has been reissued. Gene Lozano asked if a copy could be shared with the DAC for review. Ms. Stillson stated she would follow up.

**Programs and Services Access Subcommittee Report**

This report was deferred due to time constraints.

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

This report was deferred due to time constraints.

**Physical Access Subcommittee Report**

This report was deferred due to time restraints.

**Unfinished/New Business**

**These items were deferred due to time constraints.**

**Community Announcements**

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

**Proposed Topics for Upcoming Agenda**

**The topic for the next Agenda will be an update from the Department of Technology and Public Information Office in response to the DAC Annual Report.**

**DAC Member Comments**

**This item was deferred due to time constraints.**

**Adjournment**

**It was moved (Moss) and seconded (Hicks) to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.**