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

**Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2024**

**Members Present:** Randy Hicks, Chair; Gene Lozano, Vice Chair; Patty Gainer (virtually with approval), Marc Laver, Reggie Nelson, Kathy Sachen, Angela Talent, Rami Zakaria, Ex Officio.

**Members Absent:** Isabel Arreola, Troy Givans, Ex-Officio; Hang Nguyen, Ex-Officio;

**Guests: Melissa Jacobs, Deputy Director, Senior and Adult Services; Mindy Scates-Gonzalez, Employee Relations Division Chief, Diane Marlow, Personnel Analyst, Department of Personnel Services;** Jerry Gray, Information Technology (IT) Manager; Penny Sylvia, Supervising IT Analyst; Susan Yee, IT Business Systems Analyst I; Angela Fowler, IT Contractor **Joseph Wilson, Resources for Independent Living (via Zoom); Jeff Tardaguila, Physical Access Subcommittee Member (via Zoom); Dustin Knott, DAC applicant; Ryan and Mallory, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters; Kayla, ASL Student.**

**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.

**Motion to Continue DAC Meetings Virtually and In Person**

**It was moved and seconded (Sachen/Talent) to continue holding DAC meetings both in person and virtually via Zoom.**

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

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

**Approval of the Minutes**

**The February 6 meeting minutes were adopted with a minor amendment.**

**Public Comments**

**Jeff Tardaguila recapped the recent meeting of the Regional Transit Board of Directors.**

**Department of Technology (DTech) Web Accessibility Team Introduction and Overview** Rami Zakaria introduced the Department of Technology’s Web Access Team. Its two newest members were hired following the DAC’s recommendation in the 2021-22 Annual Report. Jerry Gray gave an overview of the updates made so far and the plans for the future. The current standard for County web pages is compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 and moving toward 2.2. A new web content management system will soon be in place. Staff has received training through Web Aim and via regular meetings of a Content Creators team. Members asked questions about how specific access barriers often found in online documents would be addressed, especially for people who use screen reader software. Making these corrections will be an ongoing process. Dustin Knott asked for inclusion of more videos in sign language, as many in the Deaf community don’t have good English proficiency. Mr. Gray pledged to continue reporting back periodically on upgrades as they occur.

**Chair’s Report**

Randy Hicks reported back from the recent meeting with the Chiefs of Staff. The 2024 DAC and Subcommittees Work Plan and 2023 Accomplishments document was shared and discussed. Gene Lozano reported that he had been invited to meet with Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Board of Supervisors Chair, and had discussed the DAC’s recent letter regarding timed items on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda. Supervisor Kennedy assured him that the DAC’s recommendations forwarded through the Chiefs of Staff were being considered. He invited the DAC to engage in future discussions with him or any future Chair when serious concerns arise. Supervisor Kennedy offered to visit at DAC meeting soon. Staff will follow up to make arrangements.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

The reports were deferred.

**Disability Compliance Office (DCO) Report**

Cori Stillson announced that the Request for Proposals did not receive a good response. She will be looking at existing contracts with the Department of Personnel Services for other organizations that may be able to perform the review. Cheryl Bennett spoke about her participation in the Local Aging and Disability-friendly Action Planning (LADAP) initiative. This project is funded by a grant from the CA Dept. of Aging to the County’s Senior and Adult Services division.

**Programs and Services Access Subcommittee Report**

Angela Talent noted the Subcommittee will review the Department of Rehabilitation Accessible Meeting guidelines. Ms. Talent is working on setting a meeting with Stephanie Kelly, Behavioral Health Services.

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

Randy Hicks reported back on the recent presentation from the Continuum of Care (CoC) group. The HSCC is evaluating its overall mission and vision.

**Homeless Services and Housing Task Force Report**

The report was deferred.

**Physical Access Subcommittee Report**

Gene Lozano recapped the February meeting. The Subcommittee had an update from the Department of General Services (DGS) on access improvement projects in County facilities. The Subcommittee continues to collaborate with the Department of Transportation in researching textures and colors that would be most effective for providing separation and safety for shared pedestrian, bicycle and auto traffic

**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**

**The Airports will return with an opportunity to review and discuss the preliminary draft fo their ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan draft report.**

**DAC Member Comments**

**There were no additional comments.**

**Adjournment**

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