



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON  
DISABILITIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://laccod.org>**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

**1:00 PM**

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (17-0446)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Call to order. (17-0274)

**President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.**

**President Benavides welcomed the newly appointed Commissioner Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray and introduced herself followed by a roundtable introduction of all Commissioners present.**

**President Benavides also welcomed Rick Pope, Commission Liaison, representing the Los Angeles City Department on Disability.**

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Marsha Mitchell-Bray, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck, Commissioner Ramon Pizarro, Commissioner Peggie Reyna and Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins

Absent: Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Edward A. Colley and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of December 21, 2016. (17-0275)

**On motion of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of December 21, 2016 meeting were approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Recommendation to receive and file the Commission's Trust Fund as of December 31, 2016 as submitted by Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza. (17-0285)

**Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza reviewed the Trust Fund Report as of December 31, 2016 with the Commission. Discussion ensued on the cost the Commission pays monthly for a captionist and the Access Awards Luncheon.**

**Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck stated previous discussion on captioning was supposed to be followed-up and asked for a status on what Americans with Disability Act (ADA) says about accessibility.**

**1st Vice President Janet A. Neal requested further discussion at the next Executive Committee (EC) meeting and President Carlos Benavides requested placing this item on the February 15, 2017 agenda to provide the Commission with an EC meeting update.**

**After discussion, on motion of Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Discussion and recommendation to earmark \$1,500 from the Commission on Disabilities' Trust Fund for the Commission's Scholarship Fund allocation. (17-0351)

**2nd Vice President John B. Troost reported the \$1,500 was the remaining balance from donations received for the 2016 Scholarship Board Presentation and Reception.**

**President Carlos Benavides and Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza provided a clarification on the scholarship fund.**

**During discussion, Commissioners Steve Miller and Rita Tomassian-Hopkins questioned the viability of an event as it pertains to income to cost ratio as well as the cost for captioning and how funds are allocated.**

**Commissioners Peggy Reyna and John James also provided comments.**

**Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Steve Miller, seconded by Commissioner Peggie Reyna, there being no objection, this item was approved.**

4. Discussion and recommendation to approve an allocation in an amount not to exceed \$6,500 from the Commission on Disabilities' Trust Fund earmarked as Scholarship Fund for deserving students. (Continued from the meeting of 1-18-17.) (17-0287)

**Commissioner John James motion to approve the allocation in an amount not to exceed \$6,500 was withdrawn for further consideration. Discussion ensued on 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal stated she would like to have the more substantive scholarships given instead of just \$500. President Benavides requested this item be continued to the next meeting as the Committee is currently working to find additional funding for the scholarship programs.**

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Steve Miller, seconded by Commissioner Peggie Reyna, there being no objection, this item was continued to the February 15, 2017 meeting.**

5. Discussion and recommendation to approve an allocation in an amount not to exceed \$500 from the Commission on Disabilities' Trust Fund earmarked as Scholarship Fund for refreshments at the Commission on Disabilities' Scholarships Orientation to be held June 27, 2017. (17-0286)

**By Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was continued to February 15, 2017 meeting without discussion.**

## **II. PRESENTATION**

6. Presentation by the Natasha Khamashta, Public Defender, and Bruce Brodie, Chief Deputy, Alternate Public Defender's Offices, on its responsibilities and/or direct services that substantially impact the lives of people with disabilities, as requested by the Commission. (17-0290)

**Natasha Khamashta, Deputy In-Charge of the Public Defender's Office (PDO) and Bruce Brodie, Chief Deputy of the Alternate Defenders Office (APDO) provided brief PowerPoint presentations on its responsibilities and direct services that impact the lives of people with disabilities.**

**Ms. Khamashta reported PDO is 103 years old being the oldest public defender's office in the Country. PDO's Juvenile Division has the Client Assessment Recommendation and Evaluation (CARE) Project, for youth in need of special education, mental health and developmental**

disabilities services. She indicated for the project to be successful, all of PDO's staff of 750 are trained by attorneys and advocates from Disability Rights California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and experts in a wide-range of fields. Once evaluated, the child may receive up to six services to address their special needs. She added 60% of those residing in penitentiary suffer from some form of mental illness or disability.

Ms. Khamashta reported the services of PDO include conservatorship, communicating with deaf clients, public outreach three times a month to reduce penalty/expunge records, and informing minors on how to interact with police officers. Commissioner Reyna suggested PDO communicate with their deaf client by a video conferencing device; TTY is not generally used by the deaf community.

Commissioner Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Director of Community Services & Family Supports for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC), stated having worked directly with the PDO's office for her clients suggested improvement in terms of recordkeeping and assessment of client is needed.

Commissioners Steve Miller, Ramon Pizarro, and 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal also provided comments.

Mr. Brodie reported the APDO has accessible parking, an egress from building to elevator, and office space large enough providing reasonable accommodation. APDO staff is trained to work with clients with special needs, to recognize and understand cultural and gender transition differences. Competency hearings are held in Department 95, where many clients with mental health illnesses have an expert access their disabilities. Presently, APDO is requesting an increase in the number of mental health assessment teams to assist APDO in deescalating situations and reducing hospitalization. Their Office of Diversion and Re-entry has applied for a Proposition 47 grant (available due to the reduction of prisoners in jail) to assist financially with the charge to reduce minor felony cases to misdemeanors, provide mental health and drug addictions counseling and permanent supportive housing. Mr. Brodie stated since Prop 47 passed his office has reviewed 15,500 felony cases and was able to reduce 5,550 cases to lower conviction.

Tonni Hemphill and Linda Block, members of the public, addressed the Commission.

**President Carlos Benavides thanked Ms. Khamashta and Mr. Brodie for their informative presentations.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

### **III. REPORTS**

7. Recommendation to receive and file the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report for January 2017. (17-0276)

**Commissioner Steve Miller read the Access Services, Inc. Board report of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Recommendation to receive and file the Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Service Administrator. (17-0277)

**Louis Burns, Community Liaison for Access Services, reported positive results from customers complaints namely Commissioner Ramon Pizarro's issue was addressed. At the request of President Benavides, a new sign was posted at Rancho Los Amigos for pick-up and drop-off and former Commissioner Alexia Teran's concerns were also addressed.**

**He stated that Access software issue on improvements for our providers in Southern California will continue to be provided as well to Northern region. He also reported that Access Services was still working on "Where is my Ride?" app that is similar to what Uber is using. Uber and Lyft is does not have an ADA program.**

**Andre Colaiace, Interim Executive Director of Access Services, will be attending the Committee meeting more often to provide updates.**

**President Carlos Benavides requested Mr. Burns to have Monica Vega to get back to the Commission to present the California Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) on the Medicare and Medi-Cal integration program.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

9. Recommendation to receive and file the monthly Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) Report by Paula Guevara, Accessibility Program Analyst. (17-0278)

**Paula Guevarra of METRO provided updates on METRO activities and events as follows:**

- **Wheelchair Securement for Bus Operators Competition winners from each division was held.**
- **The final competition from each division was held and San Fernando Valley was the winner to be awarded in February 2017.**
- **January 19, 2017, Rancho Los Amigos bus training.**
- **April 2017, Annual Peer Review by San Francisco Muni Accessibility Program will review METRO entire disabled program.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

10. Recommendation to receive and file the President's Report for the month of January 2017. (17-0279)

**President Carlos Benavides thanked everybody for coming to the meeting and looked forward to a productive year.**

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

11. Recommendation to receive and file the Transportation/Events Committee Report as submitted by Chair, Janet A. Neal. (17-0281)

**Chair Janet A. Neal reported that Andre Colaiace, Interim Executive Director of Access Services, attended the Transportation Committee meeting and provided comments.**

**The Committee is still working on Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr. Ramp dedication.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

12. Recommendation and review and possible action on Ad-Hoc Policy Committee report as submitted by Chair Steve Miller. (17-0289)

**Chair Steve Miller reported that the Committee met and discussed with Carla Williams, Penny Torres and Johnnetta Sanders of the Department of Human Resources on employment for people with disabilities with a report to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee suggested including outreach and collaboration with the non-profit communities such as the State Department of Rehabilitation, Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation, Tierra Del Sol Foundation, Alma Family Center and Independent Living Centers in recruiting people with disabilities.**

**Commissioner Steve Miller also reported a representative from Disabilities Rights California, Gabriel Taylor, will present on voting in the disabled community on February 15, 2017. His company works closely with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office. The Committee wants to recognize the voter turnout amongst LA County residents with disabilities is lower than that of the non-disabled community. While it may be a factor of accessibility only to polling places, this may not be the only reason. The committee wants to ensure the critical issues that affect the disabled community during election years are brought forward such as public transportation, affordable housing, and health care, so the voters with disabilities will know how relevant their vote is, as it will directly affect their lives and the lives of their loved ones.**

**He also stated the Committee discussed the recently release State of California budget and the hearings in Federal level. This may impact the health care system including Medicare, Medicaid and Medi-Cal.**

**Commissioner Miller suggested selecting an Access Awards Luncheon honoree that finds jobs for people with disabilities.**

**After discussion, by Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT AGENDA](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT Employment and Solis Motion](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT Voter Engagement](#)

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

13. Discussion and take appropriate action on the possible collaboration with the Los Angeles City Department on Disability as reported by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal (Continued from the meetings of 9/16/15, 10/21/15, 11/18/15, 03/16/16 and 12/21/16). (15-4390)

**1st Vice President Janet A. Neal reported that she spoke with Stephen Simon of Los Angeles City Department on Disability who provided a liaison to attend Commission meetings.**

**Rick Pope, Commission Liaison, Los Angeles City Department on Disability, introduced himself and would be glad to coordinate with the County Commission on Disabilities to reduce duplication of works on the transportation and parking enforcement issues.**

**Genevieve Clavreul, member of the public, addressed the Commission.**

14. Discussion and possible action on Photographer Invoice from the 2016 Access Awards Luncheon. (16-6145)

**President Carlos Benavides reported the photographer has not responded to his request to discuss his invoice. Therefore, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued without further discussion.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS****Matters Not Posted**

15. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (17-0282)

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the following items were introduced for discussion and placed on a future agenda.**

- 15A. Recommendation as submitted by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal: To invite Angela Davis to discuss the American Disability Act (ADA) and the definition of Reasonable Accommodation. (17-0470)

**On motion of 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was introduced by discussion and placed on the agenda on a future agenda.**



- 15B.** Recommendation as submitted by Commissioners Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Steve Miller on the viability of an event as it pertains to income to cost ratio as well as the cost for captioning and how funds are allocated. (17-0538)

**On motion of Commissioner Tomassian-Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Steve Miller, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and place on the agenda of February 15, 2017.**

- 15C.** Recommendation as submitted by Commissioner Steve Miller: To invite IHSS speaker to discuss on residential care support minimum wage issue. (16-1477)

**On motion of Commissioner Steve Miller, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda of February 15, 2017.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**Public Comment**

- 16.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (17-0283)

**Linda Block, Tonni Hemphill, Rick Pope, members of the public, addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

- 17.** Adjournment for the meeting of January 18, 2017. (17-0284)

**On motion of Commissioner Steve Miller, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.**