



**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, March 15, 2017**

**1:00 PM**

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (17-1367)

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

Call to Order. (17-1258)

**President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.**

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Marsha Mitchell-Bray, Commissioner Peggie Reyna and Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins

Absent: 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2017. (Continued from the meeting of February 15, 2017.) (17-0563)

**On motion of Commissioner John R. James, seconded by Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, the Minutes of January 18, 2017 were approved as amended.**

**Page 2, Agenda Item No. 3 third paragraph should read as follows,  
...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..**

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

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2. Recommendation to appoint a Nomination Committee for the 2017 Election of Officers. (17-1261)

**President Carlos Benavides appointed Commissioners John R. James and Peggie Reyna to preside over the Nominating Committee for the 2017 Election of Officers.**

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

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

## **II. PRESENTATION**

3. Presentation by Elaine Palaiologos, Chief Deputy and Brian Elias, Operations Chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner - Coroner, on its responsibilities and/or direct services that substantially impact the lives of people with disabilities, as requested by the Commission. (17-1315)

**Elaine Palaiologos, Chief Deputy and Brian Elias, Operations Chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner – Coroner (DMEC), were present to provide a PowerPoint presentation before the Commission. Ms. Palaiologos reported DMCE has been seeking to fill the Medical Examiner position for over a year. Christopher Rogers, M.D. has been the Acting Medical Examiner Coroner who is also the Chief of the Forensic Medicine Division. She stated their mandate is to investigate and determine the cause of death albeit sudden, violent, and unattended deaths for Los Angeles County's 11 million people, with only 231 coroner staff members.**

**Brian Elias reported there are 500 forensic pathologists in the United States, 50 are in Los Angeles County and due to DMEC staff retirements they have a fellowship program at University of Southern California and other Universities for outreach. The caseloads are heavy, there is a high backlog, and the pathologists are the only ones conducting investigations. This can include phone conversations a full investigation, testifying in court and/or a field response autopsy. He added this is a challenge because the case load tends to increase as the population increases.**

**Brian Elias concluded the presentation by speaking about the accessible accommodations to the DMEC Administrative building. This includes additional signage, accessible entrances, directions for individuals with service animals and personal assistance for clients to accommodate**

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their needs. There are also buttons to push to open the doors with directions on where to go in the building. He reported DMEC has braille signage on many of the entry ways and the elevators as well.

Ms. Palaiologos added the location of historical building disabled parking lot is closer to the ramp and automatic door takes visitors to the lower floor from the backside of the building. Leading up to the building are curb cuts with raised dots for the sight impaired. The painted curbs were redone to ensure that are properly angled or sloped for wheelchairs. Mr. Elias stated DMEC is in the process of upgrading their website to make it more accessible. Also, if the person offsite has special needs, their investigators/staff at the scene spends additional time and make phone calls to ensure resources are provided.

A question was posed by Commissioners Peggie Reyna.

President Carlos Benavides thanked the presenter for their informative presentation.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

4. Discussion on future fundraising events to aid the Commission on increasing scholarship fund as requested by Commissioners Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Steve Miller. (17-0538)

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza reported that the Board of Supervisors provided donations earmarked for the scholarship funds.**

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 Funds for refreshments at the Commission on Disabilities' Scholarship Orientation to be held June 27, 2017. (Continued from the meeting of 1-18-17.) (17-0286)

**On motion of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, seconded by Commissioner Marsha Mitchell-Bray, and unanimously carried, the Commission allocated an amount not to exceed \$500 from the Commission on Disabilities' Trust Fund earmarked as Scholarship Funds, for refreshments at the Commission on Disabilities' Scholarship**

**Orientation to be held on June 27, 2017.**

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

**On motion of 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, seconded by Commissioner Marsha Mitchell-Bray, and unanimously carried, the Commission allocated an amount not to exceed \$6,500 from the Commission on Disabilities' Trust Funds earmarked as Scholarship Fund for deserving students.**

**IV. REPORTS**

7. Recommendation to receive and file the President's Report for the month of March 2017. (17-1321)

**President Carlos Benavides reported that he will draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending a candidate for the Youth Seat. President Benavides requested that Commissioners submit any recommendations for the Youth Seat.**

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

8. Recommendation to receive and file the Ad-Hoc Policy Committee report as submitted by Chair Steve Miller. (17-1323)

**Policy Ad-Hoc Committee Member Peggie Reyna created and submitted a protocol tool to better serve/communicate with the deaf or hard of hearing. The protocol defines how to communicate in person, via video phone, with written communication and with the Computer Aided Realtime Translation device (C.A.R.T.). Commissioner Reyna also submitted the protocols to Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources (DHR) as a tool to assist in hiring people that are hearing impaired.**

**After discussion, by Common consent, and there being no objection, this item will be discussed and considered to be added to the Commission's Bylaws at the April 12, 2017 meeting.**

**Chair Miller reported DHR submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on improving recruitment and employment of people with disabilities within Los Angeles County. Prior to submission, the Policy Ad-Hoc Committee requested to review the draft report to be able to**

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provide feedback and since the Committee did not view the draft report, they were unable to comment on an action plan to increase the employment of the disabled. He also stated that the Committee may request the Commission to submit a letter to the Board to address the lack of an action plan in the report.

Also discussed at the Committee meeting was Assembly Bill (AB) 279, legislation that addresses the minimum wage discrepancy for the developmental disabilities service providers. AB 279 extends authority to the Department of Developmental Services and regional centers to adjust the rates of providers to comply with locally mandated minimum wage laws enacted in the jurisdiction in which they employ workers to meet service needs under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act. Chair Miller plans to monitor the bill and possibly draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations encouraging their State legislators.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Recommendation to Receive and file the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting for February 2017. (17-1317)

**Staff Member Emma De Jesus read for the record 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](#)

10. Recommendation to receive and file the Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Service Administrator. (17-1319)

**On behalf of President Carlos Benavides and 2nd Vice President John Troost, Mr. Louis Burns reported that he is currently working on the solutions for issues presented to him at the last meeting. Also in regards to the Access Services Application, "Where's My Ride?", minor glitches are almost resolved and may become available next month.**

**In appreciation for the services provided by 1st Vice President Janet Neal, Mr. Burns presented a gift for President Carlos Benavides to**

present to Ms. Neal.

Toni Hemphill, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

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

11. Recommendation to receive and file the monthly Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) Report for March 2017. (17-1320)

**Paula Guevarra, METRO, stated their Outreach Program has expanded to include a new veteran's program and an older adult program by combining their efforts to make sure that they are making their rounds at all senior centers. She provided updates on METRO's Outreach Program for March 2017 as follows:**

- **On March 16, 2017, will participate in Low Vision Fair, a Braille Outreach Event**
- **On March 16, 2017, will host at Rancho Los Amigos a Best Practice Orientation**
- **On March 24 – 26, 2017, will reserve a booth for The Abilities Expo - she invited Commissioners to visit**
- **One week ago, attended the West Los Angeles Villas for an older adult presentation and outreach**
- **One week ago, held the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting at the METRO Headquarter - she invited Commissioners to attend every second Thursday of month**

**Commissioner John R. James commented that he has students visiting his office requesting assistance with the TAP applications. He suggested the application be modified by eliminating the need for professional letterhead and by providing clarity in the requirements for students in community college or a university who partake in the disabled student services. President Carlos Benavides asked Ms. Guevarra to obtain the information and report back at next month's meeting.**

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

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

**12. Staff report for March 2017. (17-1262)**

**Staff Member Emma De Jesus reminded Commissioners of the annual mileage certification requirements and requested Commissioners to sign and return their certification to staff.**

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

**V. MISCELLANEOUS****Matters Not Posted****13. 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. (17-0571)**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the following items were introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda of April 19, 2017.**

**13A. Recommendation as submitted by Commissioner Steve Miller to submit a draft Board of Supervisors letter regarding the California State Legislative Assembly Bill 279 for the Commission's review and approval. (17-1391)**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and possible approval and placed on a future agenda.**

**13B. Recommendation as submitted by President Carlos Benavides and Commissioner Marsha Mitchell-Brey to discuss and review materials to recruit a youth to fill an established membership vacancy on the Commission on Disabilities. (17-1392)**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and possible approval and placed on the agenda of April 19, 2017.**

**13C. Recommendation as submitted by Commissioner Peggie Reyna to adopt the submitted protocol, "Communication with Persons who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing" for inclusion in the Commission's bylaws. (17-1393)**

**On motion of Commissioner Peggie Reyna, seconded by Commissioner Steve Miller, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and possible approval and placed on the agenda of April 19, 2017.**

**Public Comment**

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (17-1259)

**Genevieve Clavreul, Kathleen Barajas and Linda Block, members of the public, addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

15. Adjournment for the meeting of March 15, 2017. (17-1260)

**On motion of Commissioner John R. James, seconded by Commissioner Peggie Reyna, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.**