



**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, April 20, 2016

1:00 PM

AUDIO FOR ENTIRE MEETING. (16-2098)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Commissioner John B. Troost

Absent: 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

Call to Order. (16-1903)

President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of March 16, 2016. (16-1901)

On motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins, the Minutes of March 16, 2016 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Commissioner John B. Troost

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner John R. James

Absent: 5 - Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Discussion and Approval to allocate an amount not to exceed \$11,000 from the Commission on Disabilities Trust Fund for the cost to hold the 2016 Access Awards Luncheon at the Omni Hotel, located at 251 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. (16-1907)

1st Vice President Janet Neal reported the Omni Hotel is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2016 to hold the Commission on Disabilities Annual Access Awards Luncheon. She stated the anticipated cost for the event should not exceed \$11,000 and requested the cost be taken from the Commission on Disabilities Trust Fund.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

II. PRESENTATION

3. Receive and file summary report by the Department of Health Services and review and address answer to questions posted by the Commission. (16-1991)

Dr. Alexander Li, Deputy Director of Care Transition of the Department of Health Services, provided a global PowerPoint presentation on the merger of three Departments (Health Services, Mental Health and Public Health). His presentation included the mission for the Departments, a brief history since the merge, their 2015 timeline & processes, the role of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the assurance that the changes will link information to deliver wraparound services.

It has been less than six months since the merge initiative was implemented, and is fulfilling the overall strategy to provide more care, improve patient and population experience, and have same or better quality of service using the same or lower budget. County of Los Angeles and its Board of Supervisors will administer and allocate billions of dollars of Measure B property tax revenue to LA County trauma centers, particularly Antelope Valley Hospital, of which a portion of the funds will also be used to educate the community in reducing violence. Presently, the County has 1 trauma center, 4 hospitals, and 19 outpatient clinics.

Following the presentation, Dr. Li was asked to report back at a future meeting to address the following questions posed by Commissioners:

- What and where are services for the deaf and hard of hearing?
- Is alternative medicines offered as a substitute to conventional medicines?
- Is the survey/information collected by the Mental Health Department shared/utilized by the recently consolidated departments?
- Is there an ombudsman to locate who is the neediest and are they protected?
- Is there any means of tracking improvements and demonstrate if it is beneficial or negatively impactful?
- What has the economic impact been since ACA or has there been an increase of funding that supports the three department? Is it because patients are using the ACA to access private health providers reducing the financial impact to the County?

President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet Neal, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioners Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Edward A. Colley, Steve Miller and Peggy Reyna provided their comments.

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

After further discussion, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to the meeting of May 18, 2016 to report back to address questions posed by the Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. REPORTS

4. Receive and File the Accessibility Report by Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator and provide input to the Public Participation Plan by Bronwen Keiner, Senior Community Relations Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). (16-0754)

Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO), reported on the following activities provided by METRO:

- **Sat. April 9, 2016 – Our staff joined Access in providing a resource table at a conference organized by the Los Angeles Autism Advocacy Organization held at the Junior Blind of America.**
- **Wed. May 4, 2016 – We will be going to the Braille Institute, Los Angeles center for their Low Vision Seminar and Resource Fair.**
- **Thurs. May 19, 2016 - Rancho Los Amigos Bus Practice Event**

In response to 1st Vice President Janet Neal question, Ms. Lemus advised the Commission of a smart phone application by METRO that will assist in reporting safety concerns.

Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi asked that METRO look in to utilizing brail or alternative methods to assist the visually disabled identify bus lines and schedules at bus stops.

Commissioner John James thanked METRO for providing the Commission with METRO Flash Cards that can assist a visually impaired customer in identifying the bus line to be used. Commissioner John James distributed flash cards to students at Peirce College.

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

Bronwen Keiner, Senior Community Relations Officer for METRO, distributed a flyer inviting feedback on METRO's Draft Public Participation Plan (Plan) and conducted the PowerPoint presentation on the same matter. It is required by the Federal Government Transit Administration that METRO gather important public input on possible changes to bus and rail services, new project plans for construction, fare and other programs. This occurs every three years as stated in Title VI Program Update. Commissioner Steve Miller suggest METRO contact the Regional Centers for additional input to the Plan.

Ms. Keiner invited Commissioners to participate by providing their input online at www.metro.net/communityrelations and take the opportunity to review the presentation and draft Plan.

Commissioner John Troost reported that there is no gate at the Exposition and Crenshaw Expo Rail stop. 1st Vice President Janet Neal also stated that the Expo Rail at Crenshaw and Exposition traffic light need an adjustment; traffic is backed up to Adams and Crenshaw. Ms. Lemus will take the information back to her office for further investigation.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Support Administrator and Geoffrey Okamoto, Manager of Eligibility Services, C.A.R.E. = Comprehensive Assessment Restorative Evaluation Program. (16-1415)**

Geoffrey Okamoto, Manager of Eligibility Services, C.A.R.E. (Comprehensive Assessment Restorative Evaluation) Program of Access Services responded to the written questions posed by the Commission at the March 16, 2016 meeting.

In response to 1st Vice President Janet Neal questions, Mr. Okamoto reported that the evaluating period for eligibility for Access Services is dependent on the number of people waiting. Also, Access Services conducts a Transit evaluation, not a medical evaluation of their customer to determine eligibility in ridership on Access Services vehicles vs. a METRO bus.

Commissioner Peggy Reyna asked not to use wording hearing impaired. She would like everyone to use the wording deaf and/or hard of hearing for a person with a hearing disability.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Steve Miller, further questions posed by the Commission will be addressed at the next Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for May 11, 2016.

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

Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins left the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 6.** Discuss and take appropriate action on the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report of April 2016. (16-1902)

No report was submitted and no action was taken by the Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 7.** Discuss and take appropriate action on the monthly President report for the month of April 2016. (16-1904)

President Carlos Benavides announced due to work constraints, Commission John James will not be able to continue as Chair to the Nominating Committee. He spoke with 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro and Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi who will handle the election and nomination processes moving forward.

After discussion, President Carlos Benavides opened nominations from the floor for candidates to serve as President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer.

On motion of Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet Neal and unanimously carried, Carlos Benavides was nominated to serve once again as President.

On motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by Commissioner Peggy Reyna and unanimously carried, Janet Neal was nominated to serve once again as 1st Vice President.

On motion of Commissioner Peggy Reyna, seconded by Commissioner John James and unanimously carried, Wendy Welt Narro was nominated to serve once again as 2nd Vice President.

On motion of Commissioner Peggy Reyna, seconded by Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi and unanimously carried, Lourdes Caracoza was nominated to serve once again as Treasurer.

After further discussion, and by Common Consent, the Commission agreed to nominate the current Slate of Officers for 2016-17.

Staff, Emma De Jesus provided Declarations of Candidacy forms for completion by the current Slate of Officers as well as providing other Commissioners an opportunity to run for a position for 2016-17. She added Commissioners will have 10 days from the date of the meeting to submit their intent and Declaration forms. Once received, their supporting documents will be included with the Slate of Officers for the 2016-17 Agenda Item for election in June.

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

- 8. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Executive Committee Report as submitted by President Carlos Benavides. (16-1990)**

President Carlos Benavides was pleased to announce to the Commission of the donations received for Scholarships:

- 4th District Donation: \$5,000**
- 3rd District Donation: \$1,500**
- 1st District Donation: \$1,500**
- Jewish Foundation Donation of \$2,000**

In addition, he reported that the Commission was still pending confirmation from the 5th District and 2nd District. The goal of the Education Committee is to disseminate 14 scholarships this year.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 9. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Events/Transportation Committee Report as submitted by Commission Janet Neal. (16-1906)**

1st Vice President Janet Neal reported that the Transportation Committee is looking to have someone from Uber, Lift and Pink Chariot speak on services provided for the disabled.

She also reported that the Events Committee will be working on logistics for the upcoming Annual Access Awards Luncheon. She asked Commissioners to assist in promoting the event and inviting guests attend.

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

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

10. Discuss and take appropriate action on the update report by the Policy Ad-Committee on their review of measures on State levels for job opportunities for the disabled. (16-1900)

Prior to Commissioner Steve Miller's report, President Carlos Benavides thanked the Ad hoc-Committee for their hard work.

As provided by Commissioner Miller, a copy of the "2016 Red Book", a Summary Guide to Employment Supports for Persons with Disabilities and the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs from the Social Security Administration was provided to all Commissioners. Commissioner Steve Miller referenced the Red Book and noted not many people know that they can make up to \$37,000 a year and keep their Medicare benefits.

In addition, he stated the Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss the developmental disabled community recruitment practice of the Los Angeles County Human Resource Department. Ms. Pam Missett, Human Resources Department, attended the meeting and spoke about recruitment for the disabled. At the next meeting, Ms. Missett and the Ad-hoc Committee will discuss the non-necessary requirements within the on the job description, ie., Driver's License and examine existing employment sites to see demonstration of employee work.

1st Vice President Janet Neal inquired about the special needs trust and the pension. The Committee will speak with Ms. Missett about her concern and report back.

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

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. 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. (16-1410)

No matters were posted.

Public Comment

There were no public

- 12.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-1910)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

- 13.** Adjournment for the meeting of April 20, 2016. (16-1911)

On motion of Commissioner Ed Colley, seconded by 1st Vice President Janet Neal, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. in memory of Lynn Paul Reitnouer husband of Former Commissioner Winslow C. Reitnouer.