



Carlos Benavides

President

Fourth Supervisorial District

Commissioner Carlos Benavides was appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Don Knabe of the Fourth District on June 15, 2014.

Commissioner Benavides is the current President of the Commission and Chair of the Patient Advisory Council at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho).

Commissioner Benavides has a passion for life and independence is shared with newly injured patients as a Peer Mentor with Rancho's Know Barriers program. He is also an accomplished graphic artist and digital photographer and has exhibited his work in several art galleries nationally. He is proud to serve as the County of Los Angeles 4th District representative on the Commission on Disabilities, and will work tirelessly to ensure access to life for all.



Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President
Second Supervisorial District

Commissioner Janet A. Neal was appointed by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke of the Second District in July 2003.

Commissioner Neal brings to the Commission a background in education and community service as well as expertise in a variety of disciplines including consulting, media and entertainment, and music. Commissioner Neal has also served on many councils, committees and commissions that addressed disability rights issues.

Commissioner Neal was born and raised in Los Angeles. During her professional career, she worked for over 14 years in early childhood education and development, where she served as an administrator, director, and teacher in various pre-schools throughout Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Neal also hosts a monthly talk show programs “Janet’s Planet LA”, on KTYM Radio Station 1460 AM. She is a highly charismatic and caring program hostess, promoting disability awareness, community outreach, and providing a medium for open discussion on a range of topics and issues that affect people with disabilities and their families.

Commissioner Neal is the current President of the Southern California Chapter of the Ehlers-Danlos Foundation, a position that she feels very passionately about, because she also has this disease. Commissioner Neal works continuously to fight the realities of her disease, including her undetectable strain of HIV from a blood transfusion. She remains effectively serving the Commission and shares the Commission’s Theme of “Disabled, Does Not Mean Unable”; while advocating to improve the quality of life, increase opportunities, and raise the level of self-esteem for people of all ages with disabilities.



Wendy Welt Narro

2nd Vice President

Fourth Supervisorial District

Commissioner Wendy Welt Narro is currently the 2nd Vice President, appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Don Knabe of the Fourth District in February 1999. Commissioner Welt Narro was the Commission's first Youth Seat member representing disabled youth.

During her tenure from 2000-2002, she served the Commission as President for two years and then served as Vice President from 2002-2004. On January 30, 2007, Commissioner Welt Narro left the Youth Seat and was then appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Don Knabe to represent the Fourth District. She is also the current Chair of the Housing Committee for the Commission.

Commissioner Welt Narro was born without arms or legs, raised in Downey, California. With the love and support of her family, she has become the remarkable woman she is today. Her independent, fun-loving spirit keeps you smiling! A full-time student at Long Beach City College, Commissioner Welt Narro is working to achieve her Master's Degree at UCLA and hopes to have a career in counseling or teaching.

Commissioner Welt Narro utilizes her excellent communications skills to speak to people throughout the United States on success and being the best that they can be. She demonstrates how to have more effective communications in all relationships and helps people to release negative patterns and reinforce positive ones. This process empowers people to get to the core of who they really are.

Commissioner Welt Narro is always willing to help others, a role model for everyone. She doesn't believe in the word "can't" and will actively pursue any goal she sets for herself. In her spare time, she enjoys dancing, singing, photography and painting. She is committed to continuing the Commission's positive work and to encouraging youth and others to be involved in advocacy on behalf of the disability Community.



Lourdes Caracoza **Treasurer** **First Supervisorial District**

Commissioner Lourdes Caracoza was appointed by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis of the First District on May 15, 2015.

Commissioner Caracoza is the Director of Developmental Services, Facilities & Community Relations for Alma Family Services, an organization

established in 1975 in East Los Angeles by parents to provide a comprehensive range of multilingual community based services for those with special needs including emotional, physical and/or developmental delay and their families.

Commissioner Caracoza considers herself fortunate to have grown up in East Los Angeles with a strong sense of family, community and service. Having a brother with Down syndrome allowed her to broaden her sense of community understand the importance of advocacy and foster a desire to work with the developmentally disabled.

In 1985 Alma Family Services allowed her to come in and assist and later manage the social rehabilitation program. Five years later, she left to pursue other callings in the community, but left with a continued commitment to serving the developmentally disabled.

During the next 13 years Commissioner Caracoza served on Alma Family Services' Board of Directors and chaired for one year. Approximately 11 years ago, she was asked to return to Alma to assist in the development of additional services at Centro Estrella. In collaboration with a great team, they have been able to develop support services that range from advocacy training, specialized aquatic classes, community Integration training, behavioral health services, parenting classes, and inclusive preschool, a resource library, socialization training program and support groups. This multipurpose center has been recognized as a model. Families are made up of many talents, strengths and needs, how fortunate to belong to an organization that is inclusive in trying to serve the whole family not just parts of the family. Lourdes believes it is a wonderful opportunity to play a role in the enhancement of families' lives.



Hector Ochoa
Commissioner
First Supervisorial District

Commissioner Hector Ochoa was appointed by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis of the First District on April 28, 2015.



Peggie Reyna **Commissioner** **First Supervisorial District**

Commissioner Margaret “Peggie” Reyna was appointed by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis of the First District on April 28, 2015.

Commissioner Reyna is the Project Director for Peace Over Violence’s Deaf, Disabled & Elder Services Program, including the Right Response Collaborative, and the “LoveMeNot” Anti-Stalking Project. Ms. Reyna holds a B.A. in Special Education with emphasis on Deafness. Herself hard of hearing from domestic violence, Peggie is a nationally recognized speaker in the fields of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, child abuse, stalking and women’s self-defense. She is best known for her pioneering work in the Deaf and Disabled communities and has been published in “Deaf Life”, “WE” magazine and “New Horizons”.

Commissioner Reyna has made numerous media and television appearances including Silent Network’s “Off Hand”, “Good Morning America”, “Southland Today”, “L.A. In The Morning”, “The Leeza Show”, “Up Front”, “Deaf Mosaic”, “Don’t Be a Target” 95 & 96, NBC’s “Save Our Streets” and “Lifestyle Magazine”. In 1995 Peggie was chosen as a featured subject for KCET’s “Life and Times”; in 1996 Commissioner Reyna was the subject of an ABC Monday Night Movie of the Week (“Breaking Through”) and in 2000 Peggie was a featured speaker in a domestic violence/stalking education video project with “Air Tokoyo” which aired nationwide in Japan.

As an active member of the National Domestic Violence Hotline Board, Commissioner Reyna was chosen as a spokesperson for the hotline kickoff at the White House in 1996. Under her guidance LACAAW’s Deaf & Disabled Services Program was a recipient of the 1998 Crime Victim Service Award presented by the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, and in 2002 she was named a recipient of the Sunshine Lady Foundation Advocate Peace Award. In May of 2003, Commissioner Reyna received the prestigious “Angel of Peace” award from the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles. Ms. Reyna was recipient of the End Abuse Long Beach 2010 award for 25 years of outstanding service. In 2014 Ms. Reyna was given a special “Advocate Over Violence” recognition from Peace Over Violence.

Commissioner Reyna is an outspoken advocate for all survivors of violence against women and children.



Maria Mustelier Parrish

Commissioner

Second Supervisorial District

Commissioner Maria Mustelier Parrish was appointed by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke of the Second District in 2007.

Commissioner Parrish is a parent partner for Vista Del Mar Family & Child Services. She is also affiliated with the Speech and Language Development Center Parent Committee.

Commissioner Parrish works hard to understand the needs of persons with disabilities. She is an active team member and volunteers her leisure time to assure services are provided to persons with disabilities in her community.



John B. Troost **2nd Vice President** **Second Supervisorial District**

Commissioner John B. Troost is currently the 2nd Vice President of the Commission on Disabilities appointed by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn of the Second District him in 1975. Moreover, he was re-appointed by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke in 2000 and by Supervisor Mark

Ridley-Thomas in 2015.

Commissioner Troost has served as President for the Commission from 1982-1984 and 2011-2012, was Vice President from 1980-1982 and 2nd Vice President from 2013-2015. He also represented the Commission from 1978-1982 as a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, during the planning stages of the Kenneth Hahn Regional Park & Recreational Area in Baldwin Hills. Presently, he serves as a representative of Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities to the Access Board of Directors of Access Services, Inc. He continues to serve as Chairman of the Education Committee for the Commission since 1978.

Commissioner Troost also serves his community as a member of two Handicapped Advisory Committees at the Los Angeles Southwest College and the Los Angeles Trade Technical College. He has served the City of Culver City as a member of their 504 Ad-hoc Committee and with their Disability Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Troost holds an Associates of Arts Degree (AA) in History from El Camino College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) & Master Degree (MS) in Education from the University of Southern California. From 1989 to 1992, he worked as a Handicapped Specialist/Work Ability III, Program Coordinator at LA Trade Technical College. Since 1995, he has been a member of the Culver City Optimist Club, a service club that donates toys to hospitalized children.

Commissioner Troost has over the past four decades, worked as a Vocational Counselor for various independent living programs, and has spent several years working within California's higher education system as a researcher, fundraiser, and teacher.



Rosa Maria B. Chaturvedi

Commissioner

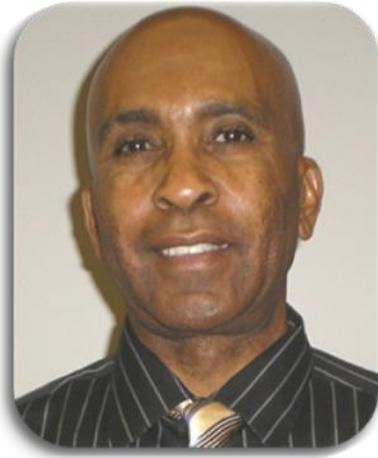
Third Supervisorial District

Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl on June 9, 2015.

Commissioner Chaturvedi has been working for 14 years as an Information and Referral Specialist/ Case Manager at the Westside Center for Independent Living (WCIL) serving the causes of the disabled community and enabling them to live independently and be counted and treated with dignity and respect. She has been helping the underserved and disenfranchised disabled community. She has been advocating and assisting in obtaining services in the areas of affordable housing, benefits, health care insurance, employment, transportation and food banks referrals.

Commissioner Chaturvedi as an Option Counselor at WCIL she provided information in regards to resources in the community for patients in the SNF so they can make an informed decision to live in a community setting and achieve their goals and dreams. Additionally, she was designated by WCIL as the lead, to participate in a domestic violence program to create seamless response to disabled victims and survivors of domestic violence. Previously working at WCIL, Rosa Maria worked in another non-profit organization as Publications Specialist. Additional professional experience includes Customer Relationship Management at a California Software Development Company focused on Healthcare.

Commissioner Chaturvedi is multilingual (English, Spanish, Polish, German). She has lived in many continents interacting with people from different cultures; therefore she can communicate well and assist people of different ethnic backgrounds. She is compassionate, caring, hard-working, enthusiastic and passionate in the causes she works for. She holds a Master's Degree in Economics with a specialization in Organization and Management. Additionally, she was in the Master program in Technical and Business Mathematics 20 semester Units.



John R. James Commissioner Third Supervisorial District

Commissioner John R. James was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky of the Third District in September 2009 and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl on May 5, 2015. He served as 2nd Vice President in 2010-2013.

Commissioner James is a Professor of Counseling and Assistant Director of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S) at Pierce College. He is very knowledgeable on the Americans with Disabilities Act and has been working in the Disabled Student Service programs at Los Angeles Mission and Pierce College for over 18 years. Commissioner James is also a member of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and of the Pierce and Mission College Advisory Board on Disabilities.

Commissioner James has earned Masters in Education from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor in Geography and Urban Studies from California State University in Long Beach.



Sheila D. Wright Commissioner Third Supervisorial District

Commissioner Sheila D. Wright was originally appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky of the Third District in 1996.

Commissioner Wright is an active member of the community, with a strong, heartfelt dedication to advocating on behalf of the disabled and disadvantaged. She is a member of the Afro-American Parent Group for Handicapped Children, and served as the President of the Parent Group at Rancho Del Valle of the Crippled Children's Society. In addition, she is a former member of the Board of Directors' President for the North Los Angeles County Region Center, where she served for six years.

Commissioner Wright has been married to Andrew Wright, Sr. for over 25 years and serves as President of Wright's Technical Institute and Wright Trucking, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are the proud parents of two children, Adriana and Andrew. Commissioner Wright is an active member of her local Parent and Teacher's Association, and serves as a Board member at the school her children attend. She has also served as a member of the Monroe Instruction Cabinet of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Commissioner Wright is a devout Christian and a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Pacoima, where she is very involved in the Sunday School program for younger children. She also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and also as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the Calvary Baptist Church.



Allan R. Buck **Commissioner** **Fourth Supervisorial District**

Commissioner Allan R. Buck was originally appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Don Knabe of the Fourth District on August 18, 2015.

Commissioner Buck has extensive private and professional experience covering the gamut of disabled issues. Allan has had a long varied and highly responsible 35 year career with the City of Los Angeles as a human resources and risk manager. During that time he has served on many boards and advisory panels relating to handicapped employment, counseling, mentoring, legislation and charities.

Concurrently, Commissioner Buck was a video scout for over 3 decades for many of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball teams as well as the Los Angeles Lakers and LA Sparks. He was also a high school basketball coach for 15 seasons.

Commissioner Buck is a graduate of University of California Santa Barbara with a Bachelor in Science in Developmental Child Psychology and minors in Speech, Pathology and Athletic Coaching and is an avid fan of spectator sports and concepts.

Commissioner Buck is a 39 year resident of Los Angeles County he reside with his wife, Miriam, in Lakewood. Allan was born and raised in Iowa.



Edward A. Colley

Commissioner

Fifth Supervisorial District

Commissioner Edward A. Colley was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in August 2011.

Commissioner Colley is a retired Captain from the United States Air Force. He teaches the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Valencia High School in Santa Clarita. He serves as the Board Vice President for Pleasantview Industries, a program for developmentally disabled adults and is on the elected Board for the Castaic Lake Water Agency. Commissioner Colley has earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and holds both a California Teaching credential and a School Administration credential.

Commissioner Colley and his wife Kathy both live in Canyon Country and have six children. Three of their children are military veterans: Their son, Army Captain Alan Colley has served two-year long tours in Iraq and Uganda; daughter Carolyn is a disabled Air Force veteran; and son, Army Private First Class Stephen Colley died at Fort Hood, Texas shortly after returning from Iraq. Both Ed and Kathy are Peer Mentors with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (T*A*P*S).



Steve Miller **Commissioner** **Fifth Supervisorial District**

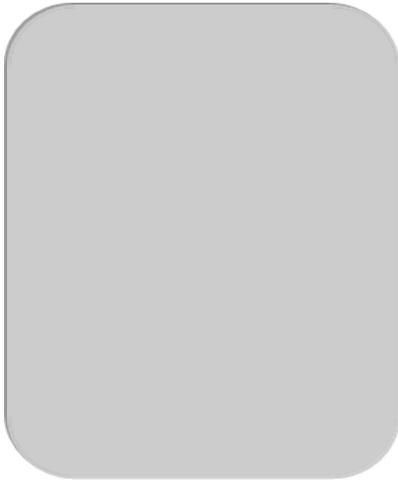
Commissioner Steve Miller was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in November 2010. He was the 5th District Award Recipient at the 2007 Commission on Disabilities Access Awards Luncheon.

Commissioner Miller born in Los Angeles, California, grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He graduated from Canoga Park High School and Pierce College. He earned his Masters degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Following Commissioner Miller's post-graduate studies in the design and evaluation of social service programs, he served as Principal Program Evaluator for the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. During his research, he discovered that a number of people on probation or parole were developmentally disabled adults, who had unintentionally become involved with the criminal justice system. Commissioner Miller began to build the means for people with disabilities to participate more positively in society.

Commissioner Miller's career has been dedicated to assisting people with disabilities, by establishing programs leading to employment and independent living for thousands of Californians with developmental disabilities. Since 1990, he served as Executive Director of Tierra Del Sol Foundation a community integration program, which has grown to serve more than 470 men and women in the San Fernando Valley and North Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Miller retired from Tierra Del Sol in 2014. During his tenure, he helped the agency move into a leadership role in demonstrating the truly significant contributions that people with disabilities can make to society.



Rita Tomassian-Hopkins
Commissioner
Fifth Supervisorial District

Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich on October 13, 2015.



Dee H. Pinchbeck
Commissioner
Little People Representative

Commissioner Dee H. Pinchbeck was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich on April 14, 2015.



Wan Chun Chang Commissioner State Department of Rehabilitation

Commissioner Wan Chun Chang was appointed to the Commission on Disabilities in July 2007 and represents the State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).

Commissioner Chang is currently a District Administrator for DOR in the Van Nuys/Foothill District. Commissioner Chang began her career with DOR in 1977 as a Vocational Rehabilitation trainee and became a Rehabilitation counselor in 1978. She was promoted to Senior Rehabilitation Counselor in 1987 and to Rehabilitation Supervisor at the East Los Angeles office in 1996.

Commissioner Chang is a strong consumer advocate, active community partner and inspiring leader with over 30 years of experience in serving people with disabilities, and outstanding working knowledge with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, she is experienced in establishing and maintaining community liaisons with organizations, such as the *Goodwill Industries*, *Salvation Army*, *LAUSD-TPP*, *Department of Mental Health*, and community colleges. Furthermore, Commissioner Chang brings experience from working on three local Work Source Centers: *Metro-North*, *Chinatown* and the *Chicana Center*.

She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from *Fu Jen Catholic University* and a Masters Degree in Guidance - Industrial and Community Services from *Eastern Kentucky University*. In 2006, Commissioner Chang was granted Rehabilitation Counselor Certification status.

Commissioner Chang has served on the LA City Commission on Disabilities and the Advisory Board for Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling at *Cal State University at Los Angeles*.

The Los Angeles City Council has recognized Commissioner Chang for her contributions to careers and technical education in the City of Los Angeles. The Mayor of Los Angeles has given her recognition for her services to the community.