



# Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

[www.laccod.org](http://www.laccod.org)



## MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller  
Chair

Janet A. Neal  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Harley D. Rubenstein  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Richard O. Krzyzanowski  
Treasurer

Mary Chambers  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Donna Pomerantz  
Harley D. Rubenstein  
Bernard Siegel  
Alexia Teran  
John B. Troost  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

## MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Weller at 1:14 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, staff and audience members followed.

### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer of the Executive Office for the Board of Supervisors, officiated the oath of office for the newly elected officers for the 2007-2008 term:

- Kecia B. Weller as the Chair,
- Janet A. Neal as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and
- Richard O. Krzyzanowski as the Treasurer.

### *Approval of purchase of refreshments for installation ceremony*

On motion of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of refreshments for the installation ceremony.

### APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20, 2007, MINUTES

On motion of Treasurer Krzyzanowski, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal, and duly carried, the minutes for the meeting of June 20, 2007, were approved with the following corrections:

### **Page 7, ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

. . .He would like to invite Allen ~~Froy~~ Toy and John ~~Woodburn~~ Whitbread, who are in charge of the program, to make a presentation before the Commission.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Sandy Eisenberg**, President of Total Recall Realtime Captioning, discussed her participation on the radio show with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal and her guest, Jacqueline Solorzano, who was the guest speaker on her radio show and will be giving a presentation at the meeting. She has been assisting Ms. Solorzano in her pursuit of proper accommodations in the classroom for her daughter, who is deaf. Ms. Eisenberg explained that by clicking on the "In the News" tab on her website, which can be found at [www.yourcaptioner.com](http://www.yourcaptioner.com), the audio and transcript of this radio show can be accessed. Ms. Eisenberg can be reached by e-mail at [info@yourcaptioner.com](mailto:info@yourcaptioner.com).

**Melinda Gilinger** reported that she is the parent of child with a disability. Her daughter has a cochlear implant, and is the first to receive one in their area. Ms. Gilinger, who is a special educator with experience in oral deaf education, explained that her daughter has been denied a reasonable accommodation -- special captioning privileges, which has resulted in litigation against the School District. Because her situation is similar to Ms. Solorzano's, she was interested in hearing Ms. Solorzano's presentation.

**Tanya Maxwell** of the Disability Rights Legal Center discussed two projects:

Her organization has developed a Health Care Accessibility Survey for people with disabilities. The survey will be conducted statewide, and the Center is hopes to recruit as many participants as possible. The purpose of the survey is to collect data about accessibility of healthcare providers throughout the state of California; create a fact sheet; and make recommendations to policy makers on health care system improvements.

She announced the Respectability Conference at the LAX Marriott Hotel, which is scheduled for October 12-13, 2007. The focus will be on the Disabilities Rights Agenda. Among the topics scheduled for the Conference are Health Care, Housing, Coalition Building, and Equal Access among others. Additionally, the results of the Health Care Accessibility Survey will be provided

Ms. Maxwell provided the percentage of people with disabilities in each District:

- 1<sup>st</sup> District: 22% disabled
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District: 22% disabled
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District: 20% disabled
- 4<sup>th</sup> District: 18% disabled
- 5<sup>th</sup> District: 18% disabled

**Linda Block** discussed the ambiguous language of the Universal Health Care bill, which includes phrases such as “for every resident in California” that could be interpreted to include citizens and undocumented aliens.

### **CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Weller reported the following:

She read a letter addressed to the Commission from Mike Danniker, Executive Director of the Westside Regional Center, regarding affordable housing for people with disabilities. Regional Center representatives have offered to meet with the Commission to discuss this matter. Chair Weller will discuss this issue with the Executive Committee and report back to the full commission at the next meeting.

She proposed that each Commissioner set a goal to sell at least five tickets to the Access Awards Luncheon at \$60 each. Additionally, she recommended that the Commissioners have a contest amongst themselves to sell the most ads by district. The rates for the ads are as follows:

- \$1000 -- Full page ad
- \$500 -- Half page ad
- \$250 -- Quarter page ad
- \$100 -- Business card size

Additionally, there are the following major sponsorship opportunities:

#### **Thirty-Second Anniversary Underwriter: \$10,000**

Anniversary Underwriters receive up to three preferred tables for eight guests each, presentation of a plaque and a Board of Supervisors Scroll at the luncheon, a listing on the Program, and a Cover Page (front or back) in the Souvenir Program. Underwriters will also receive recognition at meetings of the Commission and in Commission publications throughout the year.

#### **Thirty-Second Anniversary Sponsor: \$7,500**

Anniversary Sponsors receive up to two preferred tables for eight guests each, presentation of a plaque and a Board of Supervisors Scroll at the luncheon, a listing on the Program, and a Page in a special section of the Souvenir Program. Sponsors will also receive recognition at meetings of the Commission and in Commission publications throughout the year.

### Table Sponsors

\$5000 -- GOLDEN ACCESS SPONSOR -- Gold Sponsors receive one preferred table for eight guests, acknowledgement at the Luncheon, a listing in the Program, a Gold Sponsor Page in the Souvenir Program and a Board of Supervisors Scroll that will be presented at the Luncheon.

\$3,000 -- SILVER ACCESS SPONSOR -- Silver Sponsors receive one table for eight guests, a listing in the Program, a Silver Sponsor Page in the Souvenir Program and a Board of Supervisors Scroll that will be presented at the Luncheon.

\$1,500 -- BRONZE ACCESS SPONSOR -- Bronze Sponsors receive four Luncheon tickets, a listing in the Program and a half-page, black & white ad in the Souvenir Program.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

The Special Olympics Coordinator sent the Commission a "Thank You" card on behalf of the entire Special Olympics Southern California family thanking the Commission for its participation in the 2007 Summer Games last month. Additionally, they are looking forward to working with the Commission again next year.

She requested the Commission's and audience's assistance in regards to any written material to be distributed during Commission meetings by submitting written material to Staff, preferably electronically (disk or e-mail) in Microsoft Word format, at least one week in advance. This will allow staff time to revise the font to accommodate all Commissioners. Additionally, it would allow time to forward the material to the Commissioners to read prior to the meeting. If sending the information electronically is not possible, hard copies are to be sent to staff at least one week before the meeting. At least one of the copies should be in large font comparable to 18 to 20 pt Verdana font.

### **JACQUELINE SOLORZANO, GUEST SPEAKER** **DISCUSSION ON HER EXPERIENCE WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Ms. Jacqueline Solorzano presented school-related problems that she has faced with her daughter, a high school student.

Ms. Solorzano informed the Commission that she has two deaf children. Her goal is to enable them to lead independent lives. She explained that her daughter was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade with approximately 50 other deaf and hard of hearing youths. Although the school provided sign language interpreting services, she began to notice deficits in her learning.

She explained that the law states that her daughter is entitled to equal access to the curriculum, so she began to search for a method that would accommodate her needs. In her research, she learned of the Communication Access in Real Time (CART) program and shared information about the program, including a 20-page report, with the school. The report showed that students that received CART schooling at seven other high schools performed better in their studies. However, the school would only offer sign language interpreting services. Since her daughter is not strong in academic sign language, this method would not meet her needs.

Ms. Solorzano removed her daughter from the school and placed her in the local high school which is part of the Glendora Unified School District. She and four other teachers of the deaf met with the school administration to request CART. Because the school disagreed to use CART, Ms. Solorzano filed a case against Glendora Unified School District and won. However, the school disregarded the judge's decision, and offered to provide CART for the upcoming fall semester, but informed her of the school's decision to appeal the case.

She has taken her grievance to the media, including Fox 11 which is investigating the issue. Additionally, two articles have been written: one in La Opinion and one in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

Ms. Solorzano explained that she is trying to get exposure to this issue and encourages people to call the school district. She has also contacted the elected officials in her area and asked them to contact the school. She requested support and assistance from the Commission.

She shared with the Commission that her son is about to enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and she will be filing due process for him as well as he has an outdated implant that impairs his ability to hear properly.

Commissioner Troost offered a motion that the Commission write a letter to Supervisor Antonovich advising him of the situation described by

Ms. Solorzano and encouraging the Board to support any activities to secure assistance for her.

Discussion ensued on whether writing this letter falls under the Commission's purview. Staff reviewed the purpose of the Commission in Article III of the Bylaws which states that the Commission was established by the Board of Supervisors to advise the Board on the needs and talents of people with disabilities throughout the County. Additionally, Article IV states that, with the assistance of County departments and others, the Commission advises the Board on the unique needs of people with disabilities including but not limited to the areas of health, finance, employment, education, public attitudes, barriers and recreation.

Therefore, on motion of Commissioner Troost, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal and duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Krzyzanowski, Siegel, Teran, Troost, Weller, Neal, and Pomerantz; Noes: None; Abstentions: Commissioners Chambers and Wright, the Commission approved to write a letter to Supervisor Antonovich advising him of the situation described by Ms. Solorzano and encouraging the Board to support any activities to secure assistance for her. Commissioner Pomerantz offered to author the letter to Supervisor Antonovich who she represents.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Executive Committee**

- **2007 Access Awards Luncheon**

Chair Neal reported the following:

She has received a confirmation of acceptance of the Billy Barty Award from Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. It has not been confirmed as to who will attend the luncheon to accept the award.

Lawrence Pleskow accepted the Pearl Ella Johnson award. Mr. Pleskow has film and DVD footage of celebrities offering inspirational messages, and is making footage available for the Commission to show at the luncheon.

Protection and Advocacy, Inc. accepted the Jane Small Award; however, it is unknown who will attend the luncheon.

The Bill Tainter nominee has not yet responded.

The "Bell Choir" will be performing at the event. The choir is composed of children with Down Syndrome. "Outtasite" will also perform, and will coordinate some numbers to perform with the choir.

The Mistress of Ceremonies for this year's event is Ellen Leyva from ABC Channel 7 News.

- **Radio Program- Disability Network, KTYM 1460 AM  
Aired on the third Wednesday of the Month from  
9:30 AM to 10:00AM**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal thanked Jacqueline Solorzano for being a guest speaker on the radio show and Sandy Eisenberg for helping with the program. She also thanked Commissioner Pomerantz for phoning in to the program. The show attracted many listeners.

- **Community Services**

1st Vice Chair Neal read a section of the draft of recommendations resulting from the May 2007 summit sponsored by the Office of Women's Health in which she was a workshop leader. The main points of the recommendations are:

- Create a satellite office of the Office of Women's Health Policy Council with emphasis on women with disabilities focused on policy, funding and information dissemination including the web.
- Change the CME requirements so all licensed medical professionals are required to learn about and be sensitive to the special needs of people with disabilities, including awareness of and sensitivity to the reproduction health issues faced by women with disabilities.
- Increase funding for specialized research on health related matters for women with disabilities.
- Support funding increases for specialized transportation services such as Access or other public transportation options.
- Increase the visibility of women with disabilities in marketing and advertising campaigns, so views are seen as mainstream issues.

## **B. Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported the following:

He appeared on a radio program broadcast by the Clear Channel hosted by Chris Hughes and spoke about the Commission's upcoming activities. He

was invited to appear on another show and plans to discuss the disability movement and its history.

He is working on preparing for the Commission for Women 5K Run/Walk which will take place at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on September 15, 2007. He invited his fellow Commissioners as well as the audience to submit disability-related materials for consideration of integration into their display at the event.

The Commission will be participating in Disabilities Awareness Day sponsored by Community Rehabilitation Services and the Independent Living Center. Treasurer Krzyzanowski invited meeting attendees to contribute any disability-related materials that would be helpful for their display. The Commission will also give a workshop on disabled rights at the event.

This October 2007, the Commission will make arrangements to participate with the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Accessible City Expo.

### **C. Transportation Committee**

1) ASI Report - Teddie Joy Remhild reported the following:

An Access Services meeting was not held in July. The next meeting will be held the last week of August and there will be a discussion on the election of a new Board of Leadership and support of the current Executive Director.

Southland Transportation was selected at the June meeting to implement the transportation paratransit program.

2) City of Los Angeles, City Ride Program  
No report.

### **REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, ADA 504 COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Kurt Hagan from the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Disability Compliance Section, has nothing new to report other than they are continuing the projects they began last month.

### **ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Commissioner Teran shared that she would bring an article from the Los Angeles Times about a shortage in LAX staff trained in helping people with disabilities to the next meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal proposed inviting a member of the disability committee for LAX to speak to the Commission about this issue. Commissioner Pomerantz said the contact would be Larry Roland.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Pomerantz explained that she is a member of the Access Services Community Advisory Committee, and announced that the Service Animal Committee will be holding a meeting on July 26, 2007, at ASI Headquarters, 707 Wilshire Boulevard, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. She encouraged everyone having issues with service animals and Access Services to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Pomerantz also announced her husband Mitch is the newly elected President of the American Council of the Blind.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal shared an article which appeared on the front page of the July 15, 2007, Los Angeles Times titled, "The Forgotten Ones", which highlights Alexander Ghaffari's medical issues which began as a premature infant at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

Commissioner Wright announced the Second Chance Job Fair on August 14, 2007, sponsored by the Northeast San Fernando Valley Work Source Center. This event is free. She explained that "second chance" stands for ex-offenders who need assistance with job placement and mental health issues.

Ray McKeever announced a picnic organized by the Southern California Commission for the Deaf and Blind on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Orange County Irvine Park. Individuals wishing to attend must RSVP by August 9, 2007, to Ray at his phone number: 213/628-8860. Since it is TDD, it is necessary to dial 711 first, or he may be notified by e-mail at [RAMACHH@aol.com](mailto:RAMACHH@aol.com).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Treasurer Krzyzanowski, seconded by Vice Chair Neal, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m. in memory of Commissioner Ernest Hamilton.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Kecia Weller, Chair  
Janet A. Neal, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
Richard Krzyzanowski, Treasurer  
Mary Chambers  
Donna Pomerantz  
Bernard Siegel  
Alexia Teran  
John Troost  
Sheila Wright

**Excused Absence**

Michael Gureckas  
Harley Rubenstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

**Unexcused Absence**

Wendy Welt

**Board of Supervisors**

Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer  
Sandra Barbee, Division Chief  
Rosemary Osuna, Staff  
Martha Arana, Staff  
Andrew Sevrin, Staff

**County of Los Angeles**

Royce Crowder, Sheriff's Dept.  
Kurt C. Hagen, OAAC, Disability Civil Rights Compliance  
Cyndi Ryan, Office of Education  
Susan Susman, Consumer Affairs  
Maria Tan, LACCC  
John Whitbread, Public Health Services  
Dr. Dennis W. O'Brien, Client Coalition (Consultant to the Governor)

**Guests**

Steve Thompson, State Department of Rehabilitation  
Evelyn Galindo, South Central L.A. Regional Center  
Ray Louis McKeever, Southern California Assn. of the Blind  
Melodie Stuart, Total Recall Captioning  
Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall Captioning  
Jaqueline Solorzano, Guest Speaker

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Minji Kim, Asian Rehabilitation Services

Cyndi Ryan, County Office of Education

Jesse Padilla, East LA Regional Center

Linda Block

Donald Brandon

Carolyn McDow

Melinda Giliniger

**MTA**

Chip Hazen

**ASI**

Teddy Joy Remhild

Luis Pacheco

**DRLC (Disability Rights Legal Center)**

Tanya Maxwell

John Kawai