

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2022

1. Call to Order

Chair Souraya Sue ElHessen welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee of the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) to order at 1:31 p.m. at the CCDA Headquarters, 400 R Street, Suite 312, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Staff Member Ridge reviewed the meeting protocols.

Roll Call

Staff Member Ridge called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Commissioners Present:

Souraya Sue ElHessen, Chair*
Michael Paravagna*
Ashley Leon-Vazquez*

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Simon*
Zeenat Hassan*

Committee Members Absent:

Arnie Lerner

Other Commissioners Present:

Ida Clair, State Architect,
by Michelle Davis*

Senator Brian Jones,
by Emily Miller*

Staff Present:

April Dawson, Executive Director
Kamran Qazi, Legal Counsel
Theresa Brown, Data and Research Analyst
Stephanie Groce, Disability Access Technician
Phil McPhaul, Operations Manager
Abigail Ridge, Administrative and Legislative Analyst
Presley Strother, Marketing and Outreach Analyst

*Participated remotely.

Also Present:

Aaron Carruthers, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Diana Pastora Carson, Family Member and Disability Advocate

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (May 18, 2022) – Action

**California Commission on Disability Access
Education and Outreach Committee
August 24, 2022, Teleconference Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Committee Member Hassan moved to approve the May 18, 2022, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Leon-Vazquez seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

3. Comments from the Public on Issues Not on this Agenda

Diana Pastora Carson, Family Member and Disability Advocate, advocated for their sibling, who requires a durable living environment, such as a motor home. A durable environment requires sanitizable surfaces, shatterproof windows, restroom equipment with no tanks or lids, and no table lamps or other items that can be thrown. A durable environment has everything built in and sturdy – either bolted down or covered with a protective metal grille mesh.

Diana Pastora Carson stated the issue is where to take the motor home during times of behavioral dysregulation or emergency evacuations. The speaker stated they met with Staff Member McPhaul and other disability rights leaders on August 2nd to discuss solutions for their sibling's challenges. The speaker stated the need for standardized durable accommodations at hotels and other public places as an emergency option or during family travel times.

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, a sister agency to the CCDA, asked the Committee to offer suggestions and solutions for individuals and families who require durable living accommodations.

Chair ElHessen stated she was asked to participate in a statewide group to discuss how to make emergency preparedness more accessible to individuals with disabilities. She suggested partnering together to come up with possible solutions.

Committee Member Simon thanked Diana Pastora Carson for raising this issue. He stated the easier route to move forward in this space is on the emergency preparedness response side. He suggested continuing this conversation offline to explore standardization options.

4. CCDA's New Executive Director – Update and Discussion

Chair ElHessen introduced the new Executive Director of the CCDA, April Dawson, and welcomed her on behalf of the Committee.

5. CCDA Listening Forum – Update and Discussion

Executive Director Dawson provided an overview of the background and work being done to put together listening forums to facilitate dialogue between the business and disability communities. It is important to discuss issues these communities encounter when they are interacting with one another.

Discussion

**California Commission on Disability Access
Education and Outreach Committee
August 24, 2022, Teleconference Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Paravagna agreed and stated the listening forums will be centered around topics that raise concern and that individuals have divergent issues around and how to facilitate a discussion to identify common ground, which may result in legislative proposals.

Chair ElHessen stated the Committee not only wants to hear issues but wants to take next steps for action. It is important for businesses to have next steps and tools and to learn about successful solutions implemented statewide, nationwide, and worldwide.

Commissioner Paravagna stated the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) suggested holding three Listening Sessions this year focused on needs around different issues, and, in October of 2023, hosting a forum that produces results. This would help the Commission be seen as a resource to address community needs.

6. CCDA Newsletter – Update and Discussion

Staff Member Strother stated the newsletter is in the drafting process and finalizing edits. The goal is to launch the newsletter with the summer issue.

Discussion

Chair ElHessen suggested including current work being done in the Committees.

7. Projects in Progress – Update and Discussion

a. Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund Quick Reference Guide

Staff Member McPhaul provided an overview of the purpose, benefits, and distribution plan of the Disability Access and Education Revolving Fund Quick Reference Guide.

Discussion

Chair ElHessen asked if the Guide will be posted on the website.

Staff Member McPhaul stated it will eventually be posted on the website but it will initially be emailed or mailed out and also will be made available as part of webinars, trainings, and other in-person and online convenings.

Chair ElHessen suggested posting a video presentation of the Guide on YouTube for individuals who are unavailable to attend the convenings and for the future.

b. Accessible Parking Campaign

Staff Member Ridge stated the work groups continue to develop drafts of the toolkits for the Accessible Parking Campaign. They will soon be available for review.

c. Attorney Non-Compliance Outreach

Staff Member Brown provided an overview of the work being done to address non-compliance to Civil Code Section 55.32, which mandates attorneys to submit a copy of their construction-related Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cases and case

**California Commission on Disability Access
Education and Outreach Committee
August 24, 2022, Teleconference Meeting Minutes**

resolutions to the CCDA within five business days of the court filing via a web portal database.

Staff Member Brown stated the next step in addressing the non-compliance is to create letters to submit to various organizations, such as the California State Bar and disability advocacy organizations, to alert attorneys about the requirement to submit their ADA cases and resolutions to the CCDA. Upon passage of Assembly Bill 2917, the letters will also include those mandates which addresses alleged disability access internet website, parking, and exterior path of travel violations. Draft letters have been completed for review.

8. Future Agenda Items

Chair ElHessen asked to hear a presentation on emergency preparedness procedures and evacuation issues regarding disability access statewide.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Commissioner Paravagna moved to adjourn the August 24, 2022, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee meeting. Committee Member Hassan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.