

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Lillibridge welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Legislative Committee of the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) to order at approximately 1:30 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:

Scott Lillibridge, Chair
Jacqueline Jackson*

Michael Paravagna*

Other Commissioners Present:

Brian Jones, Senator,
by Emily Miller*
Hector Ramirez*

Staff Present:

April Dawson, Executive Director
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:

Debra Kamm, parent and advocate
Michele Mashburn, disability advocate and activist
Molly McLeod, advocate
Rachelle Miller, parent and advocate
Corrina Roy, Legislative Consultant, Office of Administrative Affairs, California
Department of General Services (DGS)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (February 9, 2022) – Action

Motion: Commissioner Paravagna moved to approve the February 9, 2022, California Commission on Disability Access Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

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3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (June 8, 2022) – Action

Motion: Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the June 8, 2022, California Commission on Disability Access Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Paravagna seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

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

Debra Kamm stated they are a special needs advocate and a parent of two children with special needs. The speaker stated concern that parents of disabled children are locked out of providing public comments at school board meetings. Many parents of children with disabilities cannot attain childcare to attend in-person school board meetings. This means that their voices are not being heard. The speaker suggested allowing parents to send emails to the school board to read into the record at school board meetings. The speaker asked the CCDA for assistance in encouraging school districts throughout California to read emails aloud at board meetings.

Molly McLeod stated they will be taking the Certified Access Specialist (CASp) certification examination on October 19th. The speaker noted that the fee amount is incorrectly listed on the website and does not reflect the recent reduction. Also, there are three links to forms for accommodations but one of the forms is obsolete and the other two links did not work. The speaker stated it would be helpful to include a description of the testing conditions at the hotel. Along with information about the built environment, the welcoming information that is provided is also an important part of collective access practices.

5. Legislative Bill Tracking – Update and Discussion

Corrina Roy, Legislative Consultant, Office of Administrative Affairs, Department of General Services (DGS), summarized the CCDA Legislative Status Report on the bills staff is tracking, which was included in the meeting materials.

a. Assembly Bill 30: Equitable Outdoor Access Act.

This bill has been enrolled and is awaiting to be signed or vetoed by the Governor.

b. Assembly Bill 1604: the Upward Mobility Act of 2022.

This bill has been enrolled and is awaiting to be signed or vetoed by the Governor.

c. Assembly Bill 1733: State Bodies: Open Meetings.

This bill is officially dead. Staff is no longer tracking this bill.

d. Assembly Bill 2164: Disability Access: Certified Access Specialist Program: Funding.

This bill has been enrolled and is awaiting to be signed or vetoed by the Governor.

e. Assembly Bill 2829: Certified Access Specialist Inspection Grant Program.

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This bill is officially dead. Staff is no longer tracking this bill.

f. Assembly Bill 2917: Disability Access: Internet Websites, Parking Lots, and Exterior Paths of Travel.

This bill has been enrolled and is awaiting to be signed or vetoed by the Governor.

Public Comment

Debra Kamm referred to AB 1733 and asked about the resistance to offering more access to public meetings.

Ms. Roy stated no explanations were provided from the Policy Committee.

6. CCDA Top Ten Alleged Construction-Related Disability Access Violations: January through June 2022 – Update and Discussion

Staff Member Brown reviewed the Top Ten Alleged Construction-Related Disability Access Violations for July 2021 – December 2021 and January 2022 – June 2022 documents, which were included in the meeting materials.

Public Comment

Michele Mashburn, disability advocate and activist, stated appreciation for the work being done to list the violations but cautioned interpreting the changes, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic period of time. Disabled individuals are basically shut in again, which means they are not engaging in the community, which means there will be fewer violations. This lens needs to be included in the evaluation of these issues.

7. CCDA Listening Forum – Update and Discussion

Chair Lillibridge introduced the new Executive Director of the CCDA, April Dawson, and welcomed her on behalf of the Committee. He invited her to present this agenda item.

Executive Director Dawson provided an update on the CCDA Listening Forums and discussed the overall concept, structure, and ideas for topics. In the past three weeks, staff has had two meetings with partners at the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) with the idea of hosting two listening sessions with members of the business and disability communities, as well as a follow-up session that synthesizes the information gleaned from the first two sessions.

Executive Director Dawson stated the forums will include a panel discussion on different topics followed by a facilitated breakout session. Topics include myths around accommodations, discussions around hiring individuals with disabilities and what that entails, a Q&A session about different accommodation strategies, and discussions around the built environment and how that affects customers coming into businesses.

Executive Director Dawson stated the listening sessions will be convened through an equity lens to include business owners who are new to the United States, unfamiliar with disability rights or access laws, or non-English speaking. Also, these convenings

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should utilize cultural brokers who are the heart of the community of business owners to encourage them to attend the event and should ensure language access in materials and strategies of outreach.

Executive Director Dawson stated the listening sessions will be convened in March and April of 2023.

8. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Paravagna suggested revisiting the one-page flyer put together a few months ago to look at how it can be used with members of the Legislature and whether there should be other kinds of efforts to reach out to legislative members to share about the work of the Commission.

Staff Member McPhaul stated a draft one-pager has been forwarded to the Legislative Affairs for review.

Chair Lillibridge suggested sending it out in the body of an email rather than sending it out as an attachment that may be missed by legislative members.

Commissioner Paravagna suggested a discussion on the one-pager about other things that can be done to go beyond that outreach as part of an ongoing marketing effort.

9. Adjourn

Chair Lillibridge announced that Staff Member Brown's last day with the Commission is tomorrow. He thanked her for her contributions and wished her well on her future endeavors.

Motion: Chair Lillibridge moved to adjourn the September 7, 2022, California Commission on Disability Access Legislative Committee meeting. Commissioner Paravagna seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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