

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting Minutes July 24, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chair Dr. 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 approximately 1:30 p.m. The meeting was on Zoom, via teleconference, and held at the CCDA Headquarters, 400 R Street, Suite 312, Sacramento, California 95811.

Staff Member Strother reviewed the meeting protocols.

Roll Call

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

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Souraya Sue ElHessen, Committee Chair
Rob Bonta, Attorney General, by Deputy Attorney General Ben Conway
Dr. Luciana Profaca
Alicia Chavez
Zeenat Hassan

*All Committee Members participated remotely

Committee Members Absent:

Ashley Leon-Vazquez
Hector Ramirez
Arnie Lerner
Stephen Simon

Staff Present:

Stephanie Groce, Data and Research Analyst
Phil McPhaul, Operations Manager
Sabina Nakarmi, Program Technician
Abigail Ridge, Administrative and Legislative Analyst
Presley Strother, Marketing and Research Analyst
Amber Thomas, Education and Outreach Specialist

Also Present:

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (April 3, 2024) – Action

Motion: Commissioner Dr. Profaca moved to approve the April 3, 2024, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Conway

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seconded. There was no public comment on the motion. Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Committee Members voted “Yes”: Committee Members Chavez, Conway, Hassan, and Dr. Profaca, and Chair Dr. ElHessen.

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

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

4. Disability Access and Education Revolving (DAER) Fund – Update and Discussion

Chair Dr. ElHessen stated Executive Director Dawson-Rawlings was unable to attend today’s meeting. She asked staff to provide her updates for the Committee.

Staff Member McPhaul provided an update on the DAER Fund. He stated the CCDA has hired a full-time Education and Outreach Specialist, Amber Thomas, who will share information about the Fund and resources with municipalities, businesses, chambers, and others. She will collaborate with the Division of the State Architect (DSA) Outreach Specialist on webinars and trainings on utilization of the Fund.

Chair Dr. ElHessen stated the DAER Fund Quick Reference Guide was included in the meeting materials. Many cities are unaware of this Fund. She stated she continues to increase awareness of this Fund in her local city and surrounding area.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

5. Accessible Parking Campaign – Update and Discussion

Staff Member McPhaul stated the Accessible Parking Campaign toolkits for business owners and the construction industry are posted on the website. They have been shared with Commissioners and the stakeholder groups that helped create the toolkits. Meetings will be held with organizations in the future to learn how to best utilize the content for their stakeholders. The toolkits are in the process of being printed and they are being translated into multiple languages.

Staff Member McPhaul stated a parking-themed video is being planned in collaboration with the Department of General Services (DGS) Office of Public Affairs (OPA).

Discussion

Chair Dr. ElHessen stated she plans on sharing the toolkits with her local City of Public Works Department. The toolkits are also posted on the DSA website. She suggested sharing the toolkits with independent living centers.

Commissioner Dr. Profaca suggested contacting architectural firms and their associations and paving companies about disseminating the toolkits to their memberships, as well as the CFILC organization.

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Committee Member Hassan stated she shared the toolkits with the civil rights team at Disability Rights California and received great feedback from them. It is a great resource that addresses a major problem.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Upcoming CCDA Events – Update and Discussion

Staff Member McPhaul stated the CCDA has been hosting Lunch-and-Learn sessions and business webinars. The third of three business webinars, in partnership with the Pacific ADA Center, will be held on September 25th on how businesses can keep access at the forefront during the busy holiday season.

Staff Member McPhaul stated details are being finalized for a Sacramento County Listening Forum, a webinar with the city of Los Angeles, and an Orange County webinar that is a follow-up to the June Orange County Listening Forum.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

7. Social Media Pilot – Update and Discussion

a. Video Project

Staff Member McPhaul deferred to Staff Member Strother to present the update on the CCDA Social Media Pilot Program.

Staff Member Strother stated, since March 1, 2024, staff has been collaborating with the DGS OPA on a six-month social media pilot that allows greater access to stakeholders. It still goes through the OPA for approval of the social media content, but it allows the Commission to use its own logo and have its own YouTube and Facebook channels to more directly brand itself and identify stakeholder communities. Historical and current Listening Forums, webinars, trainings, and meetings will be posted on the YouTube channel.

Staff Member Strother stated staff has been working with the DGS OPA video team on making a 10-episode YouTube series, aiming for it to be a way for California businesses to navigate Title 3. The first three- to five-minute video, which is currently in the storyboard phase, will be an introduction to the CCDA with a surprise twist. Each video will build on each other.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

8. Future Agenda Items – Discussion

Chair Dr. ElHessen suggested a discussion at the next Committee meeting on emergency preparedness, response, resources, and trainings for businesses that address the needs of employees and clients who are members of the disability community.

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Committee Member Hassan agreed and suggested a presentation on existing requirements and what can be done to help businesses and the public understand emergency preparedness in the disability community.

Commissioner Dr. Profaca suggested a staff presentation on a plan for the next 12 months around internet access, specifically about the Commission's role and responsibilities and activities and actions that will occur during that time period.

Chair Dr. ElHessen agreed and stated the need to ensure that businesses have resources that are verified so that their information is correct.

Chair Dr. ElHessen stated this year is the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). She encouraged everyone to create greater visibility and awareness of the ADA in the business community.

9. Adjourn

Chair Dr. ElHessen thanked everyone for their participation in today's meeting. She stated the date of the next Committee meeting is forthcoming pending Commission approval.

Motion: Chair Dr. ElHessen moved to adjourn the July 24, 2024, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee meeting. Commissioner Conway seconded. Motion carried 5 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Committee Members voted "Yes": Committee Members Chavez, Conway, Hassan, and Dr. Profaca, and Chair Dr. ElHessen.

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