

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2025

1. Call to Order

Chair Dr. Luciana Profaca 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 Mahoney reviewed the meeting protocols.

Roll Call

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

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Luciana Profaca, Committee Chair
Ashley Leon-Vazquez
Hector Ramirez
Zeenat Hassan
Arnie Lerner
Stephen Simon

*All Committee Members participated remotely

Committee Members Absent:

Rob Bonta, Attorney General, by Deputy Attorney General Ben Conway
Michelle Davis

Staff Present:

April Dawson Rawlings, Executive Director
Abigail Ridge, Operations Manager
Maeve Mahoney, Administrative Analyst
Russell Bradley, Education and Outreach Analyst

Also Present:

Ryan Gonzales
Bill Zelmer, Sutter Health

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (April 9, 2025) – Action

Motion: Committee Member Ramirez moved to approve the April 9, 2025, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Committee Member Hassan seconded. There was no public comment on the motion. Motion carried 4 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

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The following Committee Members voted “Yes”: Committee Members Hassan, Leon-Vazquez, and Ramirez, and Chair Dr. Profaca.

The following Committee Member abstained: Committee Member Simon.

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

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

4. CCDA’s Outreach – Update and Discussion

Executive Director Dawson Rawlings gave her report:

a. Prior Listening Forums

A listening forum was held in Burlingame in March in partnership with the San Mateo Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Independence of People with Disabilities. It was a successful event that included a panel discussion, a Q&A session about business access, and a discussion on challenges and opportunities of ensuring business access to people with disabilities in San Mateo County.

A lunch-and-learn webinar on the CCDA’s Accessible Parking toolkit was held in April in collaboration with the Pacific ADA Center. It was the most successful webinar to date in terms of attendance and feedback.

b. Upcoming Listening Forums (Commission to Community), Future Plans, and Collaboration Ideas

Listening Sessions will now be called Commission to Community events.

A virtual Commission to Community session will be held in Sacramento on August 1, 2025, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Lillibridge will be the moderator and Vice Chair Holloway and representatives from Resources for Independent Living and the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce will participate as members of the panel.

A second lunch-and-learn webinar in collaboration with the Pacific ADA Center will be held in October on Small Business Resilience in Times of Disaster.

Future Commission to Community events will be held with communities where prior Listening Sessions were held in 2024.

The plan is to move to an industry-specific forum model using the CCDA’s Annual Report to the Legislature findings as a guide to determine future locations, formats, topics, and industries for future Commission to Community events.

c. 2025 Current Accomplishments

The CCDA’s 2024 Annual Report to the Legislature has been posted on the website. It will soon be available in multiple languages and formats. Trends from the report and how the CCDA will respond to them will be shared at a future meeting.

d. 2025 Remaining Outreach Initiatives

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In July, staff will participate in a panel about the Disability Access Education and Revolving Fund/Accessibility Compliance Fund with partners at the Division of the State Architect (DSA) at the Kern County Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Conference. Chair Downey will participate in an accessible kiosk discussion, speaking as an end user and a creator of accessible spaces.

In September, staff will give a presentation on CCDA data and how the CCDA works with local governments, businesses, and people with disabilities to achieve access compliance across California at the Ventura County Government and Disability Summit in September.

The goal is to begin posting again on social media, updating the website, and continuing with the ten-video Accessibility Myth-Busters series.

Discussion

Committee Member Hassan asked about themes of past listening sessions and issues raised by business owners.

Executive Director Dawson Rawlings stated listening sessions are recorded except for the Q&A portion and posted on the CCDA's YouTube channel. She stated themes heard include that business owners want to do the right thing but do not always know what that is or where to find the information and, if an access issue is identified, they do not know what resources financially exist to fix it. At the most recent event in Burlingame, the Chamber of Commerce shared that many small business owners in the area, particularly along the coast, made the decision to settle disability access lawsuits for an amount that exceeded their annual revenue, which caused them to close.

Committee Member Simon, Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability, stated the topic of preparation for businesses ahead of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles is what is central for Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Department on Disability submitted a proposal for a significant grant/loan program for businesses, particularly small businesses, around accessibility ahead of the Olympic Games and it was not accepted. He stated the Department on Disability has ideas about support businesses could use, mostly around Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) inspections or technical assistance, but now has no mechanism to do that. He suggested that the CCDA partner with the Department on Disability to reach businesses.

Committee Member Simon asked how his Department can help get the word out about the lunch-and-learn webinar in October on Small Business Resilience in Times of Disaster, since many businesses owners are still dealing with the recent Los Angeles fires and would like to participate.

Committee Member Campisi spoke in support of outreaching through community forums, social media, and providing technical assistance.

Committee Member Ramirez stated there has been a drop in access to businesses due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) immigration raids. They stated concern that, with the loss of revenue, some businesses might hesitate to continue to make

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improvements, given the significant impact that immigration raids are having on small businesses, both with workers and customers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Mandatory ADA Disclosure to Business – Discussion

a. History and Overview

b. CCDA's Resources

c. Ways to Support Local Governments' Compliance with Government Code 4469

Executive Director Dawson Rawlings stated one of the CCDA's main goals is to work with local governments in order to build their capacity to support local businesses in their region with their accessibility efforts. One of the opportunities the CCDA has to partner with local governments is through the mechanisms that Government Code Section 4469 provides, which directs cities and counties to provide businesses with the Mandatory ADA Disclosure Notice as part of the first-time or annual business license or permit renewal process. She reviewed Government Code Section 4469, which was included in the meeting materials. She asked about ways the CCDA can support compliance to the Code.

Chair Dr. Profaca suggested, along with considering ways the CCDA can support compliance to the Code, considering other areas with licensed professionals that the CCDA can encourage the Mandatory ADA Disclosure Notice be included in other annual license renewal services.

Discussion

Committee Member Hassan stated many local governments are unaware of this change to the law and do not include the Notice in their business license renewal documents. She suggested that the CCDA assist local governments by creating a sample Mandatory ADA Disclosure Notice that is compliant with the requirements of the Code. It can be posted on the website as a resource and translated into threshold languages. The sample Notice will not only increase compliance but will be a great outreach tool to help build relationships.

Committee Member Simon agreed that all sample tools will be helpful to local governments. He suggested developing a clear, one-pager sample Notice and working with state entities where the state is the licensee such as therapists.

Chair Dr. Profaca asked staff to summarize the comments and feedback received today at the next Committee meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. CCDA Strategic Planning Conversation – Discussion

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a. CCDA Strategic Planning

Executive Director Dawson Rawlings stated the CCDA's five-year strategic plan expired at the end of 2024. The CCDA is currently operating under the Department of General Services (DGS) strategic goals for 2024-25 and 2025-26. The CCDA Executive Committee asked staff to create a scope of work for a new strategic plan, driven by community. The initial phase of the new strategic planning process has been completed and staff is incorporating input gathered on priorities and goals to put together a draft plan. The next phase is a community outreach phase. The goal is to present a draft strategic plan at the March 2026 full Commission meeting for review and approval.

Discussion

Committee Member Ramirez agreed with the holding an event at a client-business locality as a way to gather insightful ideas and perspectives.

Public Comment

Ryan Gonzales stated access is often considered as physical access to spaces. The speaker noted that informational access is a barrier for individuals in the disability community. Any effort to promote access in that space is appreciated.

7. Future Agenda Items – Discussion

Chair Dr. Profaca asked Committee members for suggestions for the next agenda.

Committee Member Ramirez asked for an update on the termination of civil rights laws, particularly disability access laws and their impacts, and whether the federal H.R. 1 bill will affect the work of the Commission.

Committee Member Leon-Vazquez asked for a presentation on the ideal city or county with the most success in the state – what they are doing, how they overcame obstacles, and processes currently in place to help support businesses to ensure compliance.

Chair Dr. Profaca agreed and asked what an ideal city or county would look like, if there are no real-life examples.

8. Adjourn

Chair Dr. Profaca thanked everyone for their participation and stated the next full Commission meeting will be held on October 22, 2025, at the CCDA headquarters in Sacramento. She asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Committee Member Ramirez moved to adjourn the July 23, 2025, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee meeting. Committee Member Simon seconded. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Committee Members voted "Yes": Committee Members Hassan, Lerner, Leon-Vazquez, Ramirez, and Simon, and Chair Dr. Profaca.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.