

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting Minutes
February 23, 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 1:34 p.m. Due to the ongoing health emergency, and consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting was conducted entirely by Zoom and teleconference.

Staff Member Barsanti reviewed the meeting protocols.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present:

Souraya Sue ElHessen, Chair
Michael Paravagna
Ashley Leon-Vazquez

Committee Members Present:

Arnie Lerner
Zeenat Hassan

Other Commissioners Present:

Jacqueline Jackson
Brian Jones, Senator, represented by
Nina Krishel

Committee Members Absent:

Stephen Simon

Staff Present:

Angela Jemmott, Executive Director
Kamran Qazi, Legal Counsel
Adam Barsanti, Associate Governmental
Program Analyst
Theresa Brown, Data and Research
Analyst
Stephanie Groce, Disability Access
Technician
Phil McPhaul, Operations Manager
Abigail Ridge, Administrative Analyst

Also Present:

Sharlene Ornelas
William Rehling, Accessible San Francisco
Corrina Roy, Department of General Services (DGS)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (August 25, 2021) – Action

MOTION: Commissioner Paravagna moved to approve the August 25, 2021, California Commission on Disability Access Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Committee Member Hassan seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

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

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William Rehling, Accessible San Francisco, suggested sending the CCDA Open-Air Dining and Curbside Pickup Guidelines to building officials and developing accessibility standards for electric vehicle charging stations.

4. 2021 Outreach Accomplishments – Review and Discussion

Executive Director Jemmott noted that detailed information on outreach accomplishments can be found in the CCDA Annual Report to the Legislature, which is posted on the website. She presented her report:

a. Commissioner External Engagements

- Chair ElHessen was selected by a local television station to present on Disability Awareness Month last October.
- Commission Chair Steve Downey was interviewed by a radio station.
- Commission Chair Downey and Commissioner Paravagna were interviewed by a local radio station.
- The CCDA public service announcement (PSA) was launched on the radio station.

b. Partnership Webinar with Division of State Architect (DSA) and California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)

- A webinar was held to help launch the parking campaign and to reemphasize awareness and the need for the CCDA Open-Air Dining and Curbside Pickup Guidelines document.

c. Staff Outreach Engagements

- Staff continues to reach out to cities and has partnered with a number of cities on their projects and efforts by sharing CCDA information that is posted on the website.

Discussion

Chair ElHessen asked about future PSAs.

Executive Director Jemmott stated students helped produce a PSA that is in the final staging of completion.

Commissioner Paravagna stated, when the Commission puts a product together, Commissioners work that product into their private work. For example, he stated he shared the Construction Checklist with a chief executive of Humboldt County, the President of Sacramento State University, and the Department of Public Works in Los Angeles County, and others. It is well-received and increases the impact of the Commission.

Executive Director Jemmott agreed and encouraged sending individuals to the website where good data is posted to help educate the public.

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Action Items

- No action items.

5. Projected Education and Outreach Efforts 2022-23 – Update, Discussion, and Action

a. Commissioners’ External Education and Outreach Engagements

Executive Director Jemmott encouraged Commissioners to be subject matter experts presenting CCDA information to their networks of influence. The CCDA Annual Report to the Legislature includes a Commissioners’ Corner section, which highlights Commissioners’ personal efforts throughout the year. The current Annual Report is being reviewed at the executive level of DGS.

b. Legislative One-Page

Executive Director Jemmott reviewed the Legislative One Page document, which was included in the meeting materials. She stated it is meant to be a handout with information on the work of the CCDA to be shared with legislative offices. She asked Committee Members for feedback on how this handout can be disseminated.

Public Comment

Corrina Roy, Legislative Consultant, Office of Administrative Affairs, DGS, referred to the Legislative Assistance section of the one-pager and suggested changing, for clarity, “we are available to provide disability access recommendations throughout the bill development process” to “we are available to provide technical assistance on disability access throughout the legislative process.” She stated “technical assistance” is a phrase immediately understood by legislators that the entities providing the technical assistance are subject matter experts.

1. Distribution Options

Executive Director Jemmott suggested sending the one-pager to all legislative directors asking for their questions, comments, and feedback, and then, hosting document review sessions.

Chair ElHessen suggested sending the one-pager to city public works departments.

Executive Director Jemmott stated the one-pager was drafted with a legislative focus but agreed that there is also an opportunity to send it to building officials. The Accessibility Construction Inspection Checklist and the Open-Air Dining and Curbside Pickup Guidelines documents have been sent to every city.

Chair ElHessen stated the one-pager could be a reminder to the cities and building officials of the CCDA tools that are available.

c. Myths and Misconceptions Redistribution

Executive Director Jemmott reviewed the Accessibility Compliance for Businesses Myths and Misconceptions document, which was included in the meeting materials. She

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suggested sending the document to the Checklist Committee for review prior to redistribution.

Public Comment

Sharlene Ornelas stated the Myths and Misconceptions document is excellent. She referred to Item 15, which is about service animals, and stated concern about companies that advertise over social media that they will certify pet dogs as service animals. The problem is that those dogs do not go through the training of a service dog. They are a nuisance; such as barking at service dogs. She requested educating business owners that, if a dog is inside their business and is misbehaving, whether or not it is a service dog, they can ask that the dog be removed.

Sharlene Ornelas suggested distributing the Myths and Misconceptions document to the Better Business Bureau and other business organizations.

Chair ElHessen suggested sending the Myths and Misconceptions document to service dog trainers to take along with them when they train dogs out in the public and in businesses.

d. Accessible Parking Campaign Toolkits

Executive Director Jemmott stated the Checklist Committee has created three workgroups being led by the CCDA consultant who will assist in three focus areas: business, construction industry, and ADA and local government as part of the ongoing Accessible Parking Campaign.

Chair ElHessen suggested looking into developing accessibility standards for electric vehicle charging stations, as suggested during public comment.

Commissioner Paravagna agreed and suggested having a discussion on this issue at a future meeting.

e. Educational Outreach of Data Portal to Legal Offices

Executive Director Jemmott stated the CCDA just completed a year-long research effort on the usage of the database of individuals who are legally responsible to submit their cases and complaints to the CCDA from the federal and state courts. Research clearly shows that many individuals who did not know about this responsibility. The CCDA has written informational letters to the state bar to distribute to their database and other legal associations to target the various types of legal groups.

Discussion

Chair ElHessen asked if Disability Rights California (DRC) has a database to help disseminate this information.

Committee Member Hasson stated it does not have a database per se but it produces publications for individuals with disabilities, which are similar to the Myths and Misconceptions document. The DRC does not provide technical assistance to businesses directly. She stated she will ask this question internally and get back to staff.

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- Staff is to change the sentence under Legislative Assistance on the Legislative One Page to “As a legislative-established Commission, we are available to provide technical assistance on disability access throughout the legislative process.”
- Staff is to send the Legislative One Page to all legislative directors.
- Committee Member Hasson is to get back to staff with the answer about the DRC database to help disseminate information about the Legal Portal.

6. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Paravagna suggested including a discussion at a future meeting on developing accessibility standards for electric vehicle charging stations, as suggested during public comment.

Chair ElHessen suggested including a discussion on facilitating additional radio announcements or interviews with local channels.

7. Recognition of Executive Director Event

Chair ElHessen announced that Executive Director Jemmott has been appointed by the Governor as Bureau Chief of the California Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers. She thanked Executive Director Jemmott for her dedication and contributions. She presented Executive Director Jemmott with a resolution in appreciation for her years of service with the Commission and wished her all the best in her new role.

Commissioners, Committee Members, staff, and members of the public expressed their thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for Executive Director Jemmott and her work over the years.

8. Adjourn

Chair ElHessen stated the next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 18th. She adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.