

**CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 24, 2019

1. Call to Order

Chair Guy Leemhuis welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Executive Committee of the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. at the CCDA Hearing Room, 400 R Street, 3rd Floor, Conference Room 300, Sacramento, 95811.

The off-site meeting locations for teleconference were the Lighthouse for the Blind, 1155 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, 94103, and Law Offices of Guy A. Leemhuis, 7121 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, 92504.

Chair Leemhuis reviewed the meeting protocols.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present:

Guy Leemhuis, Chair (Teleconference)
Douglas Wiele, Vice Chair
Chris Downey (Teleconference)
Brian Holloway
Michael Paravagna
Betty Wilson (Teleconference, NAPL)

Staff Present:

Angela Jemmott, Executive Director
LaCandice Ochoa, Operations Manager
Taylor St. Mary, Marketing and Outreach Analyst

Also Present:

Nina Beatty, resident of Monterey, California

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (March 13, 2019) – Action

Motion: Commissioner Paravagna moved to approve the March 13, 2019, California Commission on Disability Access Executive Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

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

Nina Beatty, resident of Monterey, California, stated she has electromagnetic sensitivity (EMS). She suffers disabling health effects due to electromagnetic fields and to wireless

**California Commission on Disability Access
Executive Committee
April 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

emissions, including from cell towers, cell phones, WiFi, and smart meters. In 2002, the U.S. Access Board recognized electromagnetic sensitivity and that it could be disabling. People with EMS are often stigmatized and ridiculed but the health impacts can be life-threatening.

Ms. Beatty stated she has lost access to most public buildings and many commercial spaces in her community, and she is now losing access to streets because cell towers are now being installed in the public right-of-way over sidewalks and alongside streets next to homes and businesses. She stated she has lost access to ambulance services and hospitals.

Ms. Beatty stated she wanted to bring this to the Commission's attention because it is a hidden disability but it is a growing problem. No metrics have been gathered on EMS since 1998. Exposure is growing, access barriers are increasing, and discrimination continues with little or no effort to reduce exposure in the built environment, while requests for accommodation are often ignored.

4. 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 packet.

a. AB 63 (Fong) – State government.

This bill was amended April 3rd and now requires any agency who furnishes information or renders services to the public to utilize in their plain-language form available on the Internet an A-F grading system that individuals can use to rate their experience with the agency. Any comments, complaints, and grades received by the agency shall be made publicly available on the agency's website.

This bill is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

b. AB 1351 (Lackey) – Transit operators: paratransit and dial-a-ride services.

This bill was amended April 10th and now requires the transportation agency to conduct an assessment of the procedures that public transit operators use to provide dial-a-ride and paratransit services to individuals with disabilities who are visiting new territories but are already certified to use another in-state public transit operator's similar dial-a-ride and paratransit services. The bill would require the transportation agency to publish the assessment on its website by October 1, 2020, and this bill would authorize the agency to adopt guidelines in order to develop a statewide reciprocity program so that individuals with disabilities who use a public transit operation and have been certified to use one transit operation in one area of the state can then use a similar paratransit system in another area of the state, creating a reciprocity agreement.

**California Commission on Disability Access
Executive Committee
April 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

This bill is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

c. SB 53 (Wilk) – Open meetings.

This bill expands the definition of “state body” to include an advisory board, advisory commission, advisory committee, advisory subcommittee, or similar multimember advisory body of a state body that consists of 2 or more individuals with limited exception. It lowers the threshold from 3 or more to 2 or more individuals.

This bill has passed the Senate floor and is awaiting assignment to a Committee in the Assembly.

5. Review of Governing Statutes and Legislation to Develop New Strategic Plan Goals – Update, Discussion, and Action

- a. Current five-year strategic goal evaluated using Government Code sections 14985 – 14985.11**
- b. SB 1608 (Chapter 549, Statutes of 2008)**
- c. SB 1186 (Chapter 383, Statutes of 2012)**
- d. Programmatic need for Strategic Planning consulting services**

Executive Director Jemmott stated the full Commission recommended that the Executive Committee review the legislative mandates in relation to the goals. She reviewed the Current Five-Year Strategic Plan Goals Evaluated Using Governing Statutes document, which was included in the meeting packet.

Staff recommendation is to delete/discontinue the following goals for 2019:

Goal 1: Advocate for access curricula for all school programs.

Goal 5: Create financial and other incentives for access compliance.

Goal 7: Advocate to hold authorities having jurisdiction accountable for the built environment (both public and private) to avoid passive non-compliance for architectural and program access.

Goal 9: Expand methods of identification, obligation, and enforcement of barrier removal in the built environment.

MOTION: Vice Chair Wiele moved to delete/discontinue Goals 1, 5, 7, and 9 from the 2019 Strategic Plan. Commissioner Paravagna seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff recommendation is to continue the following goals for 2019:

Goal 2: Increase disability access awareness.

Goal 3: Create training programs for targeted constituencies.

Goal 4: Create and identify revenue streams to fund access needs (subject to increased CCDA staffing).

**California Commission on Disability Access
Executive Committee
April 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

Goal 6: Explore the development of a state level Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access office.

Goal 8: Maintain data on status of access compliance.

Questions and Discussion

Commissioner Paravagna suggested considering which subcommittees each goal can be assigned to. The subcommittee can provide input on how the goals should be measured.

Chair Leemhuis asked staff to assign the five remaining goals to subcommittees to provide recommendations to the Executive Committee on whether a portion or all of the goal should be retained, deleted, or changed. He asked that Executive Committee members get this information 15 days prior to the next meeting.

Executive Director Jemmott stated the Research Committee, which has been suspended, would be the best Committee to look at the data collection goal. Chair Leemhuis suggested assigning that goal to the Executive Committee for review.

Executive Director Jemmott suggested convening a facilitated meeting with the full Commission to vet these goals. Chair Leemhuis stated he preferred the prior model of running it by staff first, then asking some Commissioners, staff, and community members to spend a full day working it out and bringing recommendations to the full Commission. He noted that certain goals and/or objectives must be moved forward due to legislative mandate. It is important to indicate those items.

Chair Leemhuis also asked staff, as a first step, to do an analysis on what has and has not been accomplished, what goals were met or partially met, what the Commission must continue to do by statute, what is optional, and where the Commission is currently before getting further input. This would give Commissioners and the community a better idea of what to provide feedback on, what the Commission should spend time and resources on, and what can realistically be accomplished. He stated he would be happy to meet with staff to go over a framework to begin to do this. The completed framework will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. CCDA Executive Director Report – Update and Discussion

a. Administrative and Operational

Executive Director Jemmott stated May 3rd is the closing date for applications to be received for the staff analyst position.

b. 2018 Annual Report

Executive Director Jemmott stated the Annual Report is still at the Executive Office and DGS for review.

**California Commission on Disability Access
Executive Committee
April 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

7. Budget Report – Update and Discussion

Executive Director Jemmott deferred to LaCandice Ochoa to present this report.

LaCandice Ochoa, Operations Manager, reviewed the CCDA Fiscal Year 2018-19 Quarter 2 Budget Report, which was included in the meeting packet.

Questions and Discussion

Vice Chair Wiele referred to the Facilities Operation line item and asked why the Commission has spent four times the budgeted amount in half a year.

Executive Director Jemmott stated some of the reporting has lagged but the DGS's commitment is that the CCDA stays in the black. She noted that there is not currently a budget to support CCDA's rent.

8. Committee Membership Updates – Discussion and Action

a. Recommendation of adding new Checklist committee member: Melissa Barton, American Institute of Architects, California

Commissioner Holloway, Chair of the Checklist Committee, recommended adding Melissa Barton as a member of the Checklist Committee. Chair Leemhuis appointed Melissa Barton to the Checklist Committee.

b. Education and Outreach

1. Public Service Announcement Project

Commissioner Downey, Co-Chair of the Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee, stated the Committee's public service announcement (PSA) project is moving forward. The final production lines for the two PSAs were received from the Art Academy in San Francisco this week for approval and the PSAs will go into production next week.

9. Executive Committee 2019 Meeting Calendar – Discussion and Action

a. June 12, 2019, meeting

Executive Director Jemmott asked to cancel the June 12th Executive Committee meeting since the CCDA Southern California Community Gathering Event is scheduled for the same time.

MOTION: Commissioner Holloway moved to cancel the June 12, 2019, California Commission on Disability Access Executive Committee meeting. Vice Chair Wiele seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**California Commission on Disability Access
Executive Committee
April 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

10. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were offered.

11. Adjourn

Chair Leemhuis adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.