



MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
City Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522
June 11, 2007 at 6:00pm
ADA Coordinator - (951) 826-5427
TDD (951) 826-5439

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:02 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Suzanne Puffer
3. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Paul Van Doren, Vice-Chair Gigi Welch, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Debbie Keller, Donald Hawecker.

ABSENT: Terry Gregersen (excused), and Lesley Robinson. Lesley Robinson arrived after roll call.

Also present were City Communication Technician Scott Brosious, Administrative Services Manager Susan Cox and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

4. **Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of May 14, 2007

M/S Brosious/Hawecker to approve the minutes as corrected.

AYES:8 (Stream, Brosious, Puffer, Welch, Garcia, Keller, Hawecker, Robinson); NOES – 0, ABSTAIN – 1 (Van Doren); ABSENT – 1 (Gregersen)

5. **Introductions and Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any subject matter that is within the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. Old Business

In order to ensure that enough time was available for the presentation (7A), the COD agreed to hear item 7A before item 6A.

- A. **Discussion** concerning final proof for Utility Bill Insert and Bookmarks – submitted for printing as noted – 200 copies each COD member.

7:10 pm, regular agenda order resumed.

7. New Business

- A. **Presentation** by James Stream concerning abuse of the disabled (20 minutes – actual time 55 minutes).

Commissioner James Stream discussed the purpose of Arc Riverside, which focuses on the developmentally disabled (formally referred to as the mentally retarded). He specifically discussed issues concerning abuse issues and law enforcement interaction of the developmentally disabled.

Commissioner Stream distributed handouts concerning abuse of the developmentally disabled:

1. Victims with Disabilities: The Forensic Interview. This DVD & Training Kit is a technical guide concerning law enforcement training on communication and interaction with the disabled, specially the developmentally disabled.
2. Abuse of Children & Adults with Developmental Disabilities, distributed with Arc Riverside. This packet outlined:
 - a. The frequency and types of abuses experienced by the developmentally disabled.
 - b. Negative attitudes common in the criminal justice system concerning the developmentally disabled and what commonly happens to the developmentally disabled who come in contact with the criminal justice system.
 - c. Discusses some barriers to Risk Reduction (of abuse) for the developmentally disabled.
 - d. Outline of what can be done to improve this situation.
 - e. Current efforts and ways to help
 - f. How Arc can help
3. Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for the State of California. A report of: Protection and Advocacy, Inc., State Council on Developmental Disabilities, USC University Affiliated Program, The Tarjan Center for Developmental Disabilities, UCLA. Provided were 3 findings and 8 recommendations:
 - a. Finding I – Abuse and neglect of people with developmental disabilities is a serious public policy issue warranting the highest level of attention.
 - i. Recommendation 1 – Eliminating abuse and neglect of people with developmental disabilities must be made a public health priority in California
 - ii. Recommendation 2 – The Legislature must designate a lead agency with authority and responsibility to coordinate system reform.

- iii. Recommendation 3 – An integrated data collection system must be implemented to document the incidence of abuse and neglect and track the outcomes of criminal investigations and prosecutions.
 - b. Finding II – The current system of protections is inadequate for victims with developmental disabilities
 - i. Recommendation 4 – Regional centers must have an increased and uniform role in coordinating the response and services provided victims.
 - ii. Recommendation 5 – Incidents of abuse or neglect in long-term care facilities must be investigated by law enforcement or APS, not the long-term care Ombudsman.
 - iii. Recommendation 6 – Victims with developmental disabilities must be provided new protections from perpetrators.
 - iv. Recommendation 7 – The Department of Developmental Services must continue to implement the Department of Justice recommendations regarding the law enforcement division of developmental centers.
 - c. Finding III – Individuals within the abuse response and criminal justice systems lack training and expertise in working with people with developmental disabilities.
 - i. Recommendation 8 – All agencies involved in the abuse response system must receive mandatory training regarding working with individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 4. An Arc Riverside publication which discusses how: We must end the silent acceptance of violence & abuse against people with developmental disabilities

B. Riverside Neighborhood Conference 2007 – COD Attendance – June 15, 2007
Registration Deadline.

Each COD member was registered for the Neighborhood Conference by staff.

C. **Project Update** from Parks and Recreation concerning Universally Accessible Parks – Andulka and Fairmont. (This item will be mailed under separate cover when available.)

The following concerns were communicated by the COD concerning the Universally Accessible Parks project update:

1. The COD would like assurance that Park and Recreation includes COD representatives in the Joint Commission Task Force for the universally accessible playground project.
 - a. Although new facilities will meet ADA requirements, they may not be universally accessible
 - b. The COD is concerned that the planning of parks should be an ongoing process which include universally accessible play grounds
 - c. Play areas should have accessibility for wheelchairs
2. The COD is very interested in this project and looks forward to being included in the Joint Commission Task Force meeting.

- D. **Report** from Terry Gregersen concerning site visits to local Commissions on Disability – Item deferred to the meeting of July 9, 2007.

Chairperson Van Doren noted that he plans to visit the City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability in August 2007. Their meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month.

- E. Commission on Disabilities photos (individual and group) will be taken for COD Brochure development

City Communication Technician Scott Brosious was present to take a group photo as well as individual photos for the upcoming COD Brochure. At this point, biography interviews need to be scheduled to go along with the photos. This information will be used for the brochure and added to the COD website.

- F. **Information** concerning Neighborhood Housing Service of the Inland Empire (Gigi Welch).

Vice-chair Welch noted that the Neighbor Works Program is administered by the Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire, Inc. The Neighbor Works Program helps with homeownership opportunities by offering down payment assistance to residents meeting their qualifying criteria. The requirements vary by community, and some of the criteria are:

1. Be a first-time homebuyer
2. Purchase a home within City limits
3. Family must have a need
4. Prospective homebuyer must be educated on the home-buying process

Since many disabled fall into the low income category, this program may be helpful to City of Riverside disabled and low income residents. It was noted that the County of Riverside also has a similar program.

Chairperson Van Doren noted that one of the qualifying criteria is that you have not owned a home in the last 3 years, not just being a first time homebuyer.

8. **Items for future Commission Consideration**

- A. Good Neighbor Award
- B. **Discussion:** Hotel/Motel Disabled Access competition and rating system. (suggested by Margaret Johnson)

9. **Adjournment:** 7:45 pm

Attachments:

1. May 14, 2007 meeting minutes (Item #4)
2. Final design for Utility Bill Insert and Bookmarks (Item #6A)
3. Riverside Neighborhood Conference 2007 Flier (Item #7B)
4. **Status Report** from Parks and Recreation concerning Universally Accessible Parks (Item #7C)

5. Neighborhood Housing Service of the Inland Empire Information (Item #7G).

These minutes were approved at the regular July 9, 2007 Commission on Disabilities meeting. There are no video or audio recordings of this meeting.

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