**Sacramento County Disability Advisory Commission (DAC)**

**Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2025**

**Members Present:** Gene Lozano, Chair; Kathy Sachen, Vice Chair; Isabel Arreola (via Zoom); Yetta Brown, Patty Gainer, Troy Givans, Ex-Officio; Joshua Green, Ex-Officio; Randy Hicks, Dustin Knott, Hang Nguyen, Ex-Officio; Tremmel Watson.

**Members Absent:** Angela Talent, Rami Zakaria, Ex Officio.

**Guests**;Anne Geharty, Washington Commons Cohousing.

**Staff: Cori Stillson, Cheryl Bennett,** Diane Marlow, Disability Compliance Office (DCO); Mindy Scates-Gonzales, Department of Personnel Services; **Garnik Mikaleyan, Chris Martin, Sheri Thompson-Duarte, Department of Airports: Melissa Jacobs, Senior & Adult Services;** Vanessa Cummings, Public Health; Mallory and Sydney**, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters; Sierra, ASL Student Observer, Norma Rease, CART captioner**.

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order, with a quorum present. Staff took roll call of members and guests introduced themselves.

**Approval of Individual Members’ Requests to Participate via Zoom**

It was moved and seconded (Hicks/Gainer) to allow Isabel Arreola to participate via Zoom.

**Approval of the Minutes**

**The January 2025 meeting minutes were approved with a minor amendment. The February 4 meeting minutes and the February 26 special meeting minutes were approved as submitted.**

**Public Comments**

**No members of the public were present.**

**Hearing Health – Personal and Community**

Anne Geharty spoke about the Washington Commons Cohousing community where she resides. It includes the technology and equipment that supports hearing loops, which help people who are hard of hearing. She advocates for this technology to be included in all public buildings, especially airports. Gene Lozano noted the upcoming Division of State Architect meeting where there will be an opportunity to advocate for this technology to be included in the CA Building Code. Ms. Geharty also shared that she is working with local deaf and hard of hearing advocates including DAC member Tremmel Watson to start a chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America in Sacramento.

**Consider Draft Documents “ÐAC Introduction to Service” and “DAC Members Job Description”**

Gene Lozano presented the documents and spoke about their background and purpose. A robust discussion ensued regarding the expectations of DAC members and how they are reflected in the document. Mr. Lozano stated that he would convene a Task Force in the near future to further develop this document.

**Chair’s Report**

Gene Lozano thanked Cheryl Bennett for conducting the DAC 101 Orientation Training last month. He presented a letter that had been presented to the Board of Supervisors as testimony in support of adopting the draft Local Aging and Disability-Friendly Action Plan (LADAP) and asked for ratification. It was moved and seconded (Hicks/Gainer) to approve the letter as submitted. Approved unanimously. Lastly, he announced the Chiefs of Staff briefing scheduled for March 27 at 4:00 PM. The Chair, Vice Chair and Subcommittee Chair will attend. Members are encouraged to give input at the Executive Committee meeting on March 18 at 3:00 PM when the Agenda for the Chiefs of Staff briefing will be determined.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

Troy Givans noted that the Board of Supervisors is considering a Sidewalk Ordinance which will aim to reduce sidewalk obstructions by providing regulations for businesses that have outdoor seating, signage and other potential obstructions. He suggested inviting the Environmental Management Department (EMD) for a presentation to the DAC. He also noted that the Building Permit and Inspection Department (BPID) is launching a new online process that will improve efficiency for the public applying for permits. In response to questions regarding accessibility, he offered to help arrange for BPID to make a presentation to the DAC in the near future.

Hang Ngueyn announced that there are no elections scheduled in Sacramento County in 2025. She and her staff at Voter Registration and Elections is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for vendors of new electronic voting systems. She pledged to involve the DAC and disability community in the selection process.

Joshua Green spoke about the Capiral Improvement Plan and some anticipated projects for the coming year. A major concern at this time is the development of the new Intake Health Services for the Jail.

**Disability Compliance Office (DCO) Report**

Cori Stillson announced that the consultant from CPS-HR will return with an update on the DCO review. Cheryl Bennett gave an update on her trainings at the Department of Human Assistance.

**Programs and Services Access Subcommittee Report**

The Chair was not present to report.

**Human Services Coordinating Council Report (HSCC)**

Randy Hicks noted that the HSCC gave input on the proposed FY 25-26 County Budget. They continue to work with the consultants Valley Vision to develop the new HSCC structure. They are also creating some recruitment tools and strategies for their Member Advisory Boards.

**Physical Access Subcommittee Report**

The Subcommittee did not meet last month.

**Homeless Services and Housing Task Force Report**

The report was deferred.

**Unfinished/New Business**

**Kathy Sachen and Yetta Brown shared an overview of the discussion and actions taken by the Sacramento Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on February 27. Ms. Sachen entered the DAC motion into the record. It appears at this time that the Commission will open the service road to public access despite the strong opposition displayed by large numbers of community members in attendance.**

**Chris Martin and Garnik Mikaleyan gave a brief update on the Airports Self Evaluation and Transition Plan process. They are experiencing some technical difficulties that have delayed forward progress. A new signage plan is under development. Members shared recommendations regarding newer technology to consider to assist people with disabilities in navigating the Airport facilities independently and safely.**

**Community Announcements**

**Members shared events of interest to the disability community.**

**Proposed Topics for Upcoming Agenda**

**The CPS-HR consultant will return for an update on the DCO review.**

**DAC Member Comments**

**There were no additional comments.**

**Adjournment**

**It was moved (Hicks) and seconded (Sachen) to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.**