



DR. KAROLYN SMITH
CHAIR

COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
5500 OVERLAND AVE., SUITE 370, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123
(858) 505-6628

LAURA HANDZEL
VICE CHAIR

Meeting Minutes



Regular Meeting – January 21, 2026 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Chair Dr. Karolyn Smith, Vice Chair Laura Handzel, Secretary Susan Madison, Janette Shelton, Jessica Kramer (teleconference), and Michelle Krug (teleconference)

Members Absent: Brennan Pearson, Paul Houston Sr., and Julie Neward

County Staff: Todd Hood and Kate McKnight

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:02pm by the Chair.

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances)

- Michelle Krug participated as Just Cause due to illness
- Jessica Kramer via teleconference per ADA Modification Request

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2025

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes; committee approved.

Non-Agenda Comment

- Dr. Karolyn Smith has submitted her resignation from the committee to Supervisor Anderson.
- Public comment: individual joined requesting guidance on advocating for reform related to parking fees for persons with disabilities.
 - Vice Chair Laura Handzel will email this guest guiding him to reach out to his Supervisor's staff and other resources to pursue.

Brown Act Teleconferencing Options/Committee Operations

Guest Speaker: Randall Sjoblom, County Counsel

Review of new teleconferencing options and updates to the Brown Act for the Committee:

- Confirmed that remote participation under ADA accommodations count as in person participation (including quorum and voting)
- Emergency provisions: 100% remote allowed during declared local or statewide emergencies; findings required every 45 days to the Board of Supervisors to continue, if applicable.
- ‘Just Cause’ and “Emergency Circumstances” have been combined under “Just Cause” to allow teleconferencing for permitted reasons (illness, caregiving, travel while on business for County, state or local agency, physical or family emergency, military service).
 - Limited to 2 times per year per member.
 - No committee vote is needed.
- New teleconferencing option for eligible subsidiary bodies (aka advisory boards) that the committee may consider:
 - The committee may petition the Board of Supervisors so that any or all its members may participate via teleconference. If approved by the Board:
 - The committee must vote to allow this option
 - There must still be a physical room with County staff present, available for members of the public to join the meeting
 - If approved by the board, the committee must submit findings every 6 months that this option is still needed by the committee.
 - Randall will provide a template request memo to the committee
 - This option is available through January 1, 2030.
- All committee members must receive a copy of the Brown Act
- Committee may end participation of a member of the public if they are being disruptive.

Follow-up for County Counsel:

- Provide the listing of BCCs eligible for teleconferencing
- Link to BCC Orientation materials -
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cob/sdcountybccs/BCC_Orientation/Orientation.html
- Next orientation will be held in the spring
- Committee would like to know if they are mandatory reporters for reported issues

Emergency Operations Plan Input

Guest Speaker: Nicholas Zobel, Senior Emergency Services Coordinator

- Reminder of the Emergency Operations Plan Public Workshop on Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. about the emergency operations plan (EOP).
- Visitors can click the Zoom link to join the meeting without registration.
 - <https://engage.sandiegocounty.gov/emergency-operations-plan>
- In March there will be a final draft of the public comment period and Nick will return to discuss feedback with the committee.

Officer Nominations/Elections - Vote

- Jessica Kramer was added as a nomination for Secretary
- A motion was made and seconded to table Elections until the February meeting for more representation; committee approved.

Committee Business

- Appointment of At Large Member:
 - A motion was made and seconded to table the appointment of the At Large Member until the February meeting for more representation; committee approved.
- Meeting Locations:
 - Primary location is Room 302 and Alternate location is 306A.
 - Committee requested conference microphone in Room 306A for better sound quality.
- Meeting Structure
 - Future meetings will focus on one strategic priority per session.
 - February meeting will focus on Transportation.
 - March meeting will focus on Emergency Preparedness

- Review Bylaws:
 - A motion was made and seconded to table the review of Bylaws for more representation until the February meeting; committee approved.

New Business – Future Agenda Items

- Resource document – the committee will create a resource document to post on the committee’s website.

Meeting Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:44pm.

Click the link below for a video recording of the meeting.

[Committee for Persons with Disabilities Meeting – January 21, 2026](#)

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday February 18, 2026, at the following address:

County Administrative Center
Room 302
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Committee for Persons with Disabilities website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hr/CPD.html>

County of San Diego Accessibility Awareness website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/oec/accessibility/>