



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 – November 26, 2025 – 3:00 pm (*rescheduled from November 19, 2025*)

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

Members Absent: Paul Houston Sr.

County Staff: Todd Hood and Jaime G Monreal

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:03pm by the Chair

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

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

- None
- Jessica Kramer via teleconference per ADA Modification Request

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2025

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes; committee approved. Julie Neward, Laura Handzel, and Brennan Pearson abstained.

Non-Agenda Comment

- John Brady with Lived Experience Advisors informed the committee that HUD is making changes to appropriation of funding and moving away from permanent housing solutions.
- Jessica informed the committee that federally funded emergency housing vouchers are now being cancelled, and the county has no plans for permanent supportive housing.

- Sergio Padilla expressed concerns regarding paying for handicap parking at for-profit entities and Sentry for Mexico border crossings for medical visits. Requesting literature or legislation for free handicapped parking at for-profit entities.

LiveWell Advance School Summit and Conference Debrief

- Sue informed the committee the session worked out well even though we had fewer attendees than hoped for, but they were engaged.
- Janette informed the committee District Attorney Summer Stephens answered questions and stayed for a while to network afterwards.
- Todd confirmed that feedback from the committee was forwarded to Liz Wellbrock for the LiveWell Debrief session.

Hazard Mitigation Plan - Office of Emergency Services

- Tabled to future meeting.

Working Session – Strategic Focus Areas

- Emergency and Public Safety Accessibility
 - Sue and Laura reviewed the Office of Emergency Service's (OES) Personal Disaster Plan document.
 - Sue emphasized that people with disabilities need to get notified when there are emergencies and recommended everybody sign up for Alert San Diego <https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/alertsandiego.html> [provided for subscribing].
 - Brennan asked about correlation between Amber alerts, how emergencies are differentiated and whether auditory alerts are an option.
 - Dr. Smith suggested Watch Duty which also has an auditory alert and may synergize with Alert San Diego.
 - Sue pointed out that residents should prepare a Go Kit
 - There are two versions of the County of San Diego OES Personal Disaster Plan - <https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/make-a-plan.html>
 - General version
 - For People Who May Need Assistance version
 - Laura complimented the design of the publication For People Who May Need Assistance but noted that it is lacking a Table of Contents and glossary (which was included in the non-disabled version).
 - Graphics may be overwhelming for some people with sensory sensitivity.

- Laura requested the committee provide input for next version of the publication and recommended various formats such as a shorter version.
 - Sue requested screen reader friendly version be available online.
 - Dr. Smith recommended a braille version and using Open Dyslexic font for publications.
 - Laura is considering including more information for service dogs.
 - Consider perforating elements to be pulled from the document
- The committee viewed the companion video for The Personal Disaster Plan - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrLVJD2ibzA>
- Julie offered to share a copy of a manual she created as an example.
- Committee is requested to review and provide input on the Table of Contents and the Brief Overview she has drafted.
- Sue recommended collaborating with the OES Department before the Board of Supervisors and potentially host a workshop at the next Live Well event showing collaboration with OES.
- Behavioral Health Services/Crisis Stabilization
 - No comments
- Transportation Accessibility
 - No comments
- Housing Accessibility
 - No comments

Committee Business

- Organizational Goals
 - The committee agreed to table recognizing community members for now
 - Recommendations could be made to Supervisors
 - How does the committee desire to participate in Board of Supervisors meetings?
- Future Meeting Structure
 - The Committee likes the intimacy of room 306A, so Todd will investigate for 2026 meeting schedule.

New Business – Future Agenda Items

- Sue will draft thank you letters for Live Well presenters
- Committee elections are coming up in January
- Committee agreed to add complimentary handicap parking at for-profit businesses to the agenda; committee approved.

- Todd reminded the committee that issues outside their jurisdiction can be channeled through the Economic Development and Government Affairs department

Meeting Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:38pm.

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

[Committee for Persons with Disabilities Meeting – November 26, 2025](#)

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday December 17, 2025, 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/>