



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

*Regular Meeting – April 9, 2021 - 2:00 p.m.  
Teleconference*



**Members Present:** *Kaye Kelley (Chair), Michelle Krug, Sherie Kainz Ibarra, Rickeena Boyd Kamei, Suzanne Ditmars and Jessica Kramer*

**Members Absent:** *Shannon Pagano*

**COSD Staff:** *Kate Maxwell*

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by Chair Kelley; introductions followed.

### **Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes**

#### Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2020

Michelle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Rickeena seconded the motion: committee approved.

### **Non-Agenda Comment**

#### **Housing and Community Development Services**

John Waters, Housing Program Analyst with HHSA

John reviewed the mission of the Housing and Community Development Services and their two primary programs:

Rental assistance: the overall program has nine specific programs below it including Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Public Housing Program, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, etc. Funding for these programs comes from the federal government.

Community Development: the overall program has seven specific programs below is including Emergency Solutions Grant, No Place Like Home and Innovative Housing Trust Fund, etc. Funding for these programs comes from the federal government, state funds and County funds.

John reviewed Section 504 requirements established by Housing and Urban Development. The County enforces these requirements for all local programs as well. This includes new construction for multifamily dwellings to include accommodations for persons with disabilities; these requirements include minimum numbers of units with accessibility. The County currently funds 94 properties with 136 units that are set aside for persons with disabilities.

John explained that the inventory he presented only encompasses the County funded properties but individual cities have their own relationships and funding with HUD for public housing. There are eleven entities in the region that manage public housing and receive HUD funding.

The County does not currently have a housing ordinance that sets a minimum percentage requirement for affordable housing, specifically for persons with disabilities. However, this is a topic that the County is currently researching and recommendations will be given to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

The County gave John feedback on concerns on behalf of the Committee and the population that includes the number of affordable housing but as well as the accessibility of these units. Affordable housing is not helpful to persons with disabilities if there is not accessible housing. Additionally, the committee relayed that the County and other local entities need to make housing resources themselves better known and accessible so that individuals can utilize these public services.

### **Public Housing**

Jessica Kramer, Committee Member

Jessica shared her personal journey with her illness and the resulting housing needs and barriers that she has experienced. After receiving a diagnosis after an extended period of time, she was directed to the County for services and found that despite her disabilities she did not fit into any programs for housing assistance, resulting in her experiencing homelessness. Her experience included working with seven case managers and her medical providers simultaneously and they were still unable to find a resolution for her. She wanted to share her experience to demonstrate that although the resources exist, they are extremely difficult to access.

The committee discussed accessibility to housing being a future area of research so that the committee can identify what they can do to advocate for the community. Jessica's recommendation is that the County needs more case managers and housing specialists, specifically those with ADA training and access to other agencies, such as SSA. Through her experience, she has found that case managers don't have proper access and contacts at other organizations in order to coordinate assistance for those in need.

### **Handicap Parking and Entrance Accessibility at Local Businesses**

Kaye updated the committee to let them know that she met with Claudia Silva from the County of San Diego's Office of Ethics and Compliance to discuss the letter to Kaiser regarding accessible parking. Kaye will be redrafting the letter and will send out to the Committee for review.

### **Committee Membership and Administration**

Kaye has been in contact with Supervisor Lawson-Remer's office and they have several applications that they are reviewing and will be making appointments soon.

Michelle will be reaching out to Supervisor Vargas' office to inquire about application status and if they need assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

### **Recording of Meeting**

[Zoom Recording Link](#)

Passcode: 3h#\*aF1z

**The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm on Zoom. Meeting will have video and presentation capabilities, as well as a dial-in phone number.**