



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 – July 16, 2025 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Chair Dr. Karolyn Smith, Janette Shelton, Susan Madison, Michelle Krug, Jessica Kramer, Laura Handzel, and Paul Houston Sr.

Members Absent:

County Staff: Todd Hood and Katie McKnight

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm by the Chair

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

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

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2025

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

Non-Agenda Comment

- Public comment giving appreciation for board activities

MTS Accessible Transportation

Guest Speaker: Diana Hernandez, MTS Access and Brent Boyd, MTS OnTrack

- Diana Hernandez presented an overview of MTS Access services in compliance with ADA requirements and their paratransit services.
 - Paratransit services are available for individuals who apply for and receive an MTS certification.
 - There are three types of eligibility: unconditional, conditional, and temporary, based on an individual's disability
 - Availability is within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of an existing MTS stop

- Same Day Paratransit Pilot – this is a new program effective 7/1/2025 that provides same day transportation, based on availability.
- MTS Accessibility Advisory Committee is made up of 15 members from various disability advocacy organizations throughout San Diego. The committee meets quarterly with their next meeting on 9/18/2025.
- Committee feedback:
 - Questions about approval process for MTS reduced fare pass
 - Enhance service between north and south county regions for paratransit services
 - Concerns with limited evening hours for paratransit services
 - Recertification requirements for disability for permanent disabilities
 - Support for people with behavioral health conditions, i.e., verbal outbursts
 - Concerns about Paratransit service limit of proximity to a bus stop
- Brent Boyd presented on MTS OnTrack:
 - Four light rail lines and almost one hundred bus routes
 - Ridership has returned to pre-Covid levels but the budget deficit is growing
 - To address their budget shortfall, MTS has:
 - Delayed expansions
 - Slowed transition to zero emission buses
 - Increased fare enforcement
 - Completing a fare study for potential increases
 - Conducting an assessment of services and future demands/needs
 - Community outreach to determine community priorities
- Committee feedback:
 - Committee requested information on disability awareness training for employees
 - One way fare for PRONTO Pass

Sheriff Blue Envelope Program

Guest Speaker: Heather Clark and Edith Sanchez Cruz

- Heather reviewed the history of the Blue Envelope Program and the adoption by San Diego County
- www.sdsheriff.gov includes a link to the Blue Envelope Program.
- Contact Card is now available with a badge lanyard

- Sheriff Deputies now have a visual card that allows an individual to point to a concern if they are unable to communicate verbally
- Committee feedback:
 - Be careful to describe materials for those that can not see them
 - State the website URL in the marketing video for the visually impaired
 - Use open dyslexic font specifically accessible to individuals with dyslexia as well as braille
 - Include Hate Crime considerations in training
 - Use positive verbiage to potentially improve reception of materials
 - Consider partnering with the Veterans' Administration for promotions

LiveWell Advance Conference and School Summit

Guest Speaker: Cameron Clay

- Event is scheduled for Wednesday October 22nd
- This is an opportunity for the committee to engage with the community and talk about their work
- The committee will apply to have a booth again in 2025. Decision is anticipated in August. Let Jessica know your input by the 7/23 deadline date.

ADA Anniversary Proclamation

Guest Speaker: Evan Bridgham Community Engagement Manager for Supervisor Lawson-Remer

- Evan presented a Proclamation in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The Options For All representative was not able to make the meeting, but is interested in working with the Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Committee Business

- **Election – Vice Chair**
 - Nominations were opened. Laura Handzel was nominated
 - A motion was made to elect Laura Handzel by acclamation as Vice Chair; the committee approved
- **List of Invisible Disabilities for District Attorney – VOTE**
 - Edits:
 - Move warning note below the header for visibility
 - Remove the word “comprehensive”
 - Change “common disabilities” to “some disabilities”

- Add version dates
 - Note that this document can be updated in the future for changes and additions
 - It was moved and seconded to approve the document with the above edits. Jessica Kramer and Michelle Krug abstained. Committee approved
- **Meeting Debriefs/Agenda Planning**
 - Held after regular meeting

New Business – Future Agenda Items

- Behavioral Health Services Request for Modifications
- HCDS ADA Reasonable Modification Request Processing

Meeting Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm.

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

[Committee for Persons with Disabilities Meeting – July 16, 2025](#)

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday August 20, 2025, at the following address:

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

Alternatively, guests may participate in the meetings via the below Zoom link or teleconference.

- [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- One tap mobile: +14086380968,,82997774664#
- Call 408-638-0968 and enter Meeting ID 829 9777 4664 when prompted

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/>