



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 – September 17, 2025 – 3:00 pm

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Laura Handzel, Secretary Susan Madison, Janette Shelton, Michelle Krug, Julie Neward, and Brennan Pearson

**Members Absent:** Chair Dr. Carolyn Smith, Jessica Kramer, Paul Houston Sr.

**County Staff:** Todd Hood and Katie McKnight

**Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by the Vice Chair

### Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

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

- None

### Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2025

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

### Non-Agenda Comment

- None

### LiveWell Advance Conference and School Summit

- Cameron confirmed the committee's LiveWell Advance and School Summit session proposal was accepted and that the LiveWell Advance Connection Hub booth is still pending approval.
- Sue presented an overview of the session. Sessions may have 75 to 100 attendees.
- The committee discussed the two roles, moderator and representative, on the panel that need to be filled by committee members.

- A motion was made for Jessica to be the committee representative on the Live Well panel; no second was received.
- A motion was made and seconded for Sue to be the moderator on the Live Well panel; committee approved. Julie abstained.
- A motion was made for Janette to be the committee representative on the Live Well Panel; committee approved. Julie and Brennan abstained.

### **Working Session – Strategic Focus Areas**

- The committee discussed the results of last month’s breakout session regarding the four strategic focus areas and reviewed handout.
  - Behavioral Health and Crisis Stabilization Accessibility
    - Brennan expressed interest due to life experiences.
    - Julie expressed interest due to previously having served on a mental health commission and connections with two counties in Northern California around county health with a person-centered approach.
    - Chair Dr. Smith and Jessica not present but previously expressed interest in focus area.
    - Brennan, Jessica, Karolyn, and Julie are assigned to the focus area to bring concepts and thoughts to the committee for recommendations to the board.
  - Emergency and Public Safety Accessibility
    - Laura expressed interest since focus area is timely given natural disasters and possibly less of a funding issue.
    - Julie expressed interest due to personal connection to recent natural disasters in California and connected to community members impacted by the Los Angeles fires.
    - Sue expressed interest since previously being a Co-chair on Red Cross committee Disability Integration Team.
    - Chair Dr. Smith not present but previously expressed interest in focus area.
    - Sue, Janette, Laura, Julie, and Chair Dr. Smith are assigned to the focus area.
  - Housing Accessibility
    - Brennan expressed interest since he currently works in this field.
    - Laura expressed interest specifically around service dog registration.
    - Michelle expressed interest and requested to provide ranked choices.
    - Jessica not present but previously expressed interest.

- Julie expressed interest since previously worked on technical guide with housing and desires to work with Brennan on establishing group homes.
- Brennan, Michelle, Jessica, and Julie are assigned to the focus area; Paul and Chair Dr. Smith tentatively assigned due to previous interest.
- Transportation Accessibility
  - Michelle expressed interest specifically around recertification policy.
  - Sue recommended focusing on one or two easy recommendations for efficient collaboration as well as timeline of fiscal year 2025-2026.
  - Chair Dr. Smith not present but previously expressed interest in focus area.
  - Michelle, Chair Dr. Smith, and Janette are assigned to the focus area with Sue and Laura resources.

## **Committee Business**

- **November Room Availability**
  - Todd stated our usual room may not be available in November
  - The committee requested to keep the date and use a different room.
- **Organizational Goals**
  - Sue recommended using same template across all four focus areas with main point of contact and structure to track progress.
  - Todd stated a previous committee member attended Board of Supervisor meeting regularly and granted awards for community members for awareness for consideration.
  - The committee discussed working closer with supervisor's staff to increase awareness of the committee with local cities and constituencies and providing quarterly updates to them to be shared.
  - A motion was made to work independently, via ad hoc committee, with no more than four members, to address four strategic areas and report back at each meeting; committee approved.
  - Julie recommended using Alameda County as a framework for best practices to celebrate wins and build community.

- **Future Meeting Structure**

- Todd recommended scheduling some meetings as working sessions while others will feature speakers on focus areas.
- Todd confirmed he can bring county resources and other community advisory groups to the committee for reports, presentations, and speakers.
- Committee members can schedule external resources and speakers.
- Todd recommended gathering information and presenting it at October meeting as a starting point.
- Laura encouraged members to do own independent research.

## **New Business – Future Agenda Items**

- **Behavioral Health Services Request for Modifications**

- Todd will connect with Jessica on clarifying next steps since this is a strategic focus area.

## **Meeting Adjournment**

The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:53pm.

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

[Committee for Persons with Disabilities Meeting – September 17, 2025](#)

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday October 15, 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/>

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