



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

MINUTES – 06.26.2025

Commission on Disabilities (CoD) General Meeting

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Members present: Florence Wong, Evan Milburn, Timothy Ponti, Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Robert Hall, Tryn Miller, Gurpreet Padam, Angela Piazza, Alexandra Seeber, Lisa Weiner, Michelle Yoshimine

Member excused: Kathryn Murdock

Member absent: Michael Donovan (participated online as member of the public), Maya Ong Escudero (participated online as member of the public)

Public present: Lupe Ramos, Douglas Kunz, Benjamin McMillin, Gabriela Solval, Helen Lo, Ava Marie Romero

Staff Attendance: Lee Pullen, Anna Sawamura, Anna Dyer, Andrew Eng

| Item | Minutes |
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| 1. Review and Approval of Minutes and Agenda | <p>President Wong called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Roll call was conducted and quorum established.</p> <p>Commissioner Cadigan Heart motioned to approve minutes from 5/22/25 General meeting; Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Commissioner Wong motioned to add to the agenda a resolution presentation during the Executive Committee report; Commission Cadigan Hearn seconded motion. Motion passed.</p> |
| 2. Meeting Etiquette | <p>Commissioners and the public were reminded of meeting etiquette.</p> |
| 3. Public Comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ava Marie Romero introduced herself as a potential future CoD Commissioner, chef and content creator, born with autism, resident of South San Francisco and commends Commission for advocacy work. Also made a comment on importance to get Department of Rehabilitation budget completed by July 1st.Helen Lo asked if CoD received her report, Chair Wong responded yes, report was received. |
| 4. President's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commissioner Wong attended Community Enrichment Advisory Group at invitation of Director Pullen. Advisory Group is made up of representatives of CoA, CoD, Service providers and is looking at loneliness and isolation.As a member of the public, Chair Wong sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors to ask that they not drop funding for Special Olympics for the 2026-2027 budget. |
| 5. Staff Report | <p>ADS Director Lee Pullen reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Community Enrichment Advisory Group convened on 6/24/25 to advise on recommendations regarding loneliness and isolation for older adults and people with disabilities. It will meet 7-8 more times and bring recommendations for opportunities for social connections to the BoS for potential Measure K funding. Committee representation includes: Parks |

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| | <p>Department, libraries, public health, Commissions on Aging and Disabilities, and soon representatives for economics and volunteerism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State IHSS funding outlook improved, for instance there will not be a cap to overtime as was proposed. ○ Home Safe, a program within Adult Protective Services to help people who are not able to care for themselves, is now likely to continue to be included in the state budget, thanks to advocacy effort. ○ The Health department budget was presented to the BoS on 6/23/25. There are no plans for reductions. Several new positions for APS and supportive services are pending. For nonprofits receiving Measure K funding, the County can only guarantee first year of funding for this next two-year budget cycle. • Director Pullen likes to meet with new Commissioners, will be meeting with Commission Yoshimine next week; sent an email invitation to others as well. • The new Aging and Disabilities Services canopy will debut at the Inclusion Festival |
| 6. Commission Officers Election | <p>Commissioner Seeber, Nominating Committee member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Slate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President: Florence Wong ○ Vice President: Evan Milburn ○ Secretary: Timothy Ponti • Commissioner Milburn requested a point of clarification regarding BoS approval of new bylaws which will convert the Secretary role into a Co-Vice President Role. CoD will continue to use current approved bylaws until changes are approved by the BoS. • No additional nominations • Candidates made comments about their interest and appreciation for their roles. • Motion to support slate of officer candidates by Commissioner Milburn, with second by Commissioner Hall. • Motion to approve slate of candidates passed with roll call vote of 11 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 abstentions. |
| 7. Presentation | <p>Be Red Cross Ready presentation by Douglas Kunze, Red Cross Volunteer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness essentials and planning tips for people with disabilities and other special needs • Suggests downloading Red Cross Emergency App (can find via search) to access weather alerts, safety tips, shelter locations |
| 8. CoD Committee Reports | <p>Executive Committee – President Wong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution presentation to Commissioner Hall to recognize his 12 years of service as a Commissioner; this is his last meeting as a Commissioner. • The CoD Commissioners have read the book <i>Demystifying Disability</i> by Emily Ladau and approved recommending to the BoS that the County of San Mateo encourage County employees to read the book. Motion to approve <i>Demystifying Disability</i> recommendation letter to BoS by |

Commissioner Milburn, with second by Commissioner Seeber. Motion passed with 10 approvals, 1 abstention.

Special Events Committee – Angela Piazza, Chair

- Inclusion Festival to be held Wednesday at the County Center courtyard, July 30th, 10:00am – 1:00pm.
 - Important to emphasize change of location from previous year; repeated emailing about this would be helpful.
 - Commissioners are requested to arrive by 9:00am; Volunteer duties sign-up sheet will be emailed to Commissioners for sign-up.
 - There will be food trucks, 31 vendors (so far), DJ who will also MC, and the Hope band.
 - July 16th, the County will raise Disability Pride flag and on July 30th Angela will provide presentation about its meaning. The flag will be up until July 31st.
 - Department of Public Works will move all furniture.
- Art Showcase will be held in October at the Center for Creativity gallery with reception and open to the public for extended hours with potential workshop.

ADA Compliance Committee – Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Chair

- June meeting was cancelled. Next meeting will be August 7, 2025.

Legislation, Advocacy and Outreach Committee – Evan Milburn, Chair reported:

- Discussed Cooling centers outreach and will distribute the spreadsheet to commissioners.
- State Council on Disabilities has an annual “There Should Be a Law” contest and take ideas from all over the state and choose 1-2. Commissioner Wong will be submitting idea about creating a Caregiver abuse registry. The Bay Area regional Advisory Committee for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities met yesterday; policy director notes that it’s unlikely to get laws established that have any funding needs attached. It is still important to submit ideas for future potential legislation. If an idea doesn’t require excessive staff time or money, it may pass. Submit your idea for legislation here:
https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQN1knIkvH6Gbog

Accessible Transportation Committee – Timothy Ponti and Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Chairs

- Last meeting was on Monday, 06.23.25
- Received an update from SamTrans on the proposed paratransit drop off location for County Center. Two alternatives are considered in light of flow of traffic, obstacles, safety, dimensions, enforcement. Option 1 (preferred): On Winslow; Option 2: On Middlefield.
- Commissioner Ponti attended the Accessible Futures conference. Link: [Accessible Futures Conference: Program | Metropolitan Transportation Commission](#)

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| 9. Ex-Officio Member Report Outs | <p>State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Gabriela Solval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom trainings offered on substance use and recovery for people with IDD, and healthy relationships and sexuality for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. • SCCD Council meetings to be held in July: Membership (7/8/25); Disability Advisory Committee (7/10/25); Council Meeting (7/22/25); Self Advocates (7/21/25). • Self-determination, statewide orientations are offered in July in English and Spanish. • SCDD Sponsorship opportunity for events promoting consumer and family self-advocacy, up to \$2,500. Request that applications submitted 3-4 months ahead of event. CoD/Inclusion festival applied for funding already. Read more about the request process: https://scdd.ca.gov/sponsorships/ • Share your story regarding Medicaid Services and impact to funding changes: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZSXFcBiTnqLjNdI7vUQXGDIi3_CKAgcXe7RFBDfOehn4bRg/viewform • Statewide trainings, SCDD Council and Committee Meetings: https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/ <p>Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie will be showing “Crip Camp” on July 9th, 2:30-4:30 p.m.at San Mateo Public Library; information to be emailed. |
| 10. Next Commission Meeting Items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation topic: Disability Etiquette – presented by Sheraden Nicholau and Benjamin McMullan |
| 11. Final Comments | <p>None</p> |
| 12. Adjournment | <p>Commissioner Cadigan Hearn moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion passed.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July Recess • August 28th 2025 <p>Location: 500 County Center, Manzanita Hall, Redwood City, CA</p> |

Aging and Disability Services Division

Lee Pullen, Director

Board of Supervisors: David Canepa • Jackie Speier • Noelia Corzo • Ray Mueller • Lisa Gauthier

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