



COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

MINUTES – 08/28/2025

Commission on Disabilities (CoD) General Meeting

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Item No.	Item Description
1.	<u>Review and Approval of Minutes and Agenda:</u> • Roll Call ○ Commissioners Present: Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Benjamin McMullan, Evan Milburn, Angela Piazza, Timothy Ponti, Lisa Weiner, Florence Wong, Michelle Yoshimine ○ Absent: Michael Donovan, Kathryn Murdock, Gurpreet Padam ○ Excused: Maya Escudero, Tryn Miller, Alexandra Seeber ○ Staff: Shawne O'Connell, Lee Pullen, Melissa Sanchez, Anna Sawamura ○ Public present: Sheraden Nicholau ○ Virtual attendees: Michael Donovan, Maya Escudero, Connie Franco, Helen Lo, Alexandra Seeber, Mary Yung, • Approval of Minutes from June General Meeting and today's agenda ○ Motion to approve both the minutes and agenda by Commissioner Cadigan Hearn, second by Commissioner Weiner. Approved unanimously.
3.	<u>Public Comments:</u> • Ben McMullan requested to record the meeting for note taking purposes, no objections by anyone present. • Commissioner Piazza reported that on Thursday, September 4th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM there will be a simulated healthcare facility evacuation to test county emergency plans and protocols in multiple sites countywide. They are looking for 10 more people to be involved in the event. Commissioner Piazza will send a flyer to Staff Liaison to share with the commission. • Commissioner Seeber shared that The Miracle League adaptive baseball games take place September 21st through October 26th at Hawes Park in Redwood City. The games will take place every Sunday, all ages from 5-100 are invited to play or be a volunteer.
4.	<u>President's Report</u> • Community Enrichment Project advisory committee ○ President Wong attended second meeting for the Community Enrichment Project Advisory Committee. It was assembled to address the loneliness with the senior and disabled community. They are working with consultants from RDA to assist. The meeting seemed very heavily focused on seniors and not on people with disabilities. President Wong made comments on the commission's behalf to see if there is a more balanced emphasis.
5.	<u>Staff Report:</u> • Lee Pullen, Director of Aging and Disability Services

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	○ Director Pullen acknowledged President Wong’s feedback and will emphasize this to the consultants so the disability community will not get lost in the process. ○ The Public Authority Advisory Committee has resumed meeting. The Advisory Committee confers with the Public Authority about aspects of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program that relate to home care providers. ○ The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) was launched one year ago but faced delays due to issues with staffing. Fully up and running now. It is a partnership between Aging and Disability Services (ADS) and the Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities (CID). ▪ Last week was the first statewide convening of ADRCs, Director Lee is the chair of the Planning Committee. ▪ Convening was successful and attendees came together to discuss three focus areas; funding, education, and advocacy. ○ American Public Health Association is recruiting for their Disability Justice advisory board. Deadline to apply is Sept 15th. They are looking for people with different lived experiences. Commissioners who did not receive the email Director Lee sent on the 26th should reach out to him or Staff Liaison for more information. ○ Questions from commissioners • Commissioner Ponti asked if there an update on the CalAim reforms. Director Pullen stated that Federal landscape is better than it was 5 months ago and adds that nationwide advocacy helped this positively. In regard to CalAim which is more of a Medicaid program, the negative impact is going to happen with the undocumented. • Commissioner Cadigan Hearn asked for more details on who can join the enrichment project advisory committee. Director Pullen clarified that there are current representatives from the Commission on Disabilities, Commission on Aging, Parks Department, Libraries, San Mateo Economic Development Association, and SamTrans. Focus is on individuals with agencies or organizations providing services to the community, not individual community members.
6.	<u>Presentation:</u> • Disability Etiquette Training. ○ Presented by Sheraden Nicholau, Deputy Director, Regional Office Operations at the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Ben McMullin, Systems Change Advocate at the Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities ○ Slides available upon request. Please contact Staff Liaison; Shawne O’Connell, soconnell@smcgov.org
7.	<u>CoD Committee Reports:</u> • Executive Committee – Florence Wong, President ○ San Mateo County Transit Authority South County Multimodal Strategy

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	▪ Transportation authority gave a presentation on the 101 Corridor Connect program. ▪ Recommendations for Mid and North County are complete. Now they are focusing on South County. ▪ Staff will share the link to the website; https://www.smcta.com/101CC ○ October annual report to the Board of Supervisors ▪ Name change from Work Plan to Annual Update for the BoS ▪ Commission reviewed the current draft of slides. ▪ In the next general meeting, commissioners will vote for the annual update. ▪ Connie Franco will work with Shawne to find a date in October to present the annual plan. • Special Events Committee – Angela Piazza, Chair ○ Inclusion Festival Planning wrap up ▪ Successes: less food waste this year, safer for wheelchairs, tables and vendors in same place, registration was faster since vendors chose their table, 100% of vendors said they would return. ▪ Challenges: lower attendance, less engagement, people didn't really stay to hang out. ▪ Ways to improve for next year: invite more speakers, move it to earlier in July to celebrate more of Disability Pride month. ○ Disability Arts Showcase ▪ Center for Creativity on October 18th from 1-3PM. The participants can live in SM or work for San Mateo County. The workshop will be on October 25th. ▪ Looking for artists, not vendors. ▪ Open to artists who live or work in San Mateo County. • ADA Compliance Committee – Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Chair ○ Workplan discussion ▪ Working on slide for the presentation at this time for the BoS presentation. ▪ Committee in need of more Commissioners to join. • Legislation, Advocacy and Outreach Committee – Evan Milburn, Chair ○ Update on Cooling Centers project (Commissioner Weiner) ▪ Letters have been sent to the Mayors and/or City Managers ▪ Some have already replied ▪ Commissioner Weiner will follow up with those who have not replied. ○ American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) "Disability Power Day on the Hill," (Commissioner Weiner) ▪ AAPD are a big lobbying group in Washington DC. ▪ Lisa and Angela are attending the 2nd Annual AAPD Disability Power on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC from September 7 to the 11th.

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	• Accessible Transportation Committee – Timothy Ponti and Matthew Cadigan Hearn, Chairs ○ Confirmed with SamTrans that the permanent paratransit stop will be on Winslow Street for 500 County Center. ○ Ben shared how to become a San Mateo County Paratransit Advisory Council member. ○ SamTrans confirmed that an ADA coordinator has been hired and is going through onboarding process.
9.	<u>Ex-Officio Member Report Outs</u> ○ Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities – Ben McMullan reports that CID participated in federal lobby days and spoke to legislators about bills that impact Medicaid and Medicare benefits, they also addressed funding at large for independent living. Hoping to see Congressman Mullin host a town hall in the future. ○ San Mateo County SELPA - Mary Yung, advocating for HR 2598 IDEA Full Funding Act introduced by Congressman Jared Huffman, advocating for Congressman Mullin to be a co-sponsor. SB 1277 is a similar bill, introduced by our two senators from California, Padilla and Schiff so SELPA is happy about that. Finally, SELPA is fully staffed and looking forward to partnering with the Commission on the Transition to Independence Fair again.
10.	<u>Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting</u> • September – Review finalized presentation for Board of Supervisors and possible presentation from Brae Hunter, County Title II ADA Coordinator
11.	<u>Final Comments</u> • None
12.	<u>Adjournment:</u> • Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Cadigan Hearn, seconded by Commissioner Piazza. ○ Next Meeting Date: ▪ September 25th, 3:00pm – 5:00pm ▪ Location: 500 County Center, Manzanita Hall, Redwood City, CA

Aging and Disability Services Division
Lee Pullen, Director

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