DC Commission on Person with Disabilities (DCCPD)

February Meeting Minutes­­­­

February 16, 2017, 10am-11:30am

441 4th St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Denise Decker, Commission Chair, at 10:10 AM.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Alexis Taylor Director, ODR

Beatrice Schmidt, Public Affairs Specialist, ODR

Dr. Denise Decker, Chair of the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities, Shakira Hemphill (participating by phone)

Roslyn German, Public Member

1. The Chair reviewed January 26 meeting minutes and suggested that the calendar of events be attached with the meeting minutes.
2. ODR Director Taylor asked Commission for permission regarding recording minutes.
3. The Chair stated since we do not have a quorum therefore Commission is unable to vote on the January 26 meeting minutes.
4. The attendees briefly discussed the bylaws of the Commission including what constitutes excused absences.
5. The ODR Director Taylor stated that she will send out revised calendar and ensure that there are not too many events scheduled. Some events may need to be forums rather than full day events.
6. ODR Public Affairs Specialist asked for updated contact information from all Commissioners to ensure that there is clear and updated contact information that corresponds with their preferred method of contact.
7. Director Taylor provided an update on Commission appointments.
8. ODR Director Taylor stated that a full Commission is approximately 15 members and there will be approximately 14 Commissioners after the March the swearing in date, which is March 3 at 5 PM.
9. Four of the current Commissioners terms will expire in September and more information about reappointments will be provided by the Mayor’s Office of Talents and Appointments.
10. The ODR Chair suggested the time and frequency of Commission meeting should be revisited.
11. The ODR Director suggested to revisit time and frequency of meetings after new members have been appointed.
12. The ODR Director suggested that the bylaws need to be revisited.
13. The Chair discussed some of the Commission rules which state that only Commissioners have the ability to take official actions. Only commissioners can speak during the official portion of the meetings. The public has a role during Public Comment periods.
14. The Director also indicated the need to ensure that each Commissioner participates in commissioned planned events.
15. The Chair also suggested having a training from the Board of Ethics and Governmental Accountability (BEGA).
16. The Meeting also included a review of the calendar of events for the Commission.
    1. In March, we will likely host a Beyond White Cane Day event, but the ODR Director suggested waiting until the new Commissioners have been sworn in to finalize the date.
    2. The Director also mentioned doing the "Suicide-Let's talk about it" event in March or April.
    3. Roslyn German, public member participant suggested that in order to encourage participation, it might be best to remove the call-in option particularly for the March 16 meeting when new Commissioners will be appointed.
    4. The Chair suggested holding the Fall Prevention workshop either on March 22 or March 23.
    5. ODR Director stated that in April there will be a Deaf Awareness Forum and an event on fair housing. ODR will be looking to have the Office of Human Rights as a cosponsor for this.
    6. The Director suggested moving Veterans with Disabilities event to November.
    7. It was suggested that for the month of August Commissioner Shakira Hemphill may consider that instead of a forum, submitting an opinion paper on the topic. It was also suggested that we review students with language barriers.
    8. Roslyn German stated that perhaps focusing on the rights of children with disabilities as a possible topic.
    9. The Chair stated that rather than have a community forum on cable access she would like to work on disseminating a contact list that could be used as a resource for accessible technologies such as audio description and how to access closed captioning.
17. The ODR Director stated that she will send calendar events just for suggestions on the Commission can formally provide feedback on it later.
18. The Chair, Denise Decker adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and thanked everyone for their input.