



COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DCCPD)

As advocates for effective public policy, we protect the rights of all residents of and visitors to the District of Columbia, regardless of their physical or mental ability.

D.C. Commission on Persons with Disabilities (D.C.C.P.D.)

Thursday, March 22nd 2018 Meeting Minutes

10:00 -11:15am

441 4th St. NW 11th Fl.

Rm. 1117

Washington, DC 20001

Members in Attendance – On Site

- Kamilah Martin-Proctor, Chair
- Dr. Silvia Martinez, Commissioner
- Gerard “Gerry” Counihan, Commissioner
- Christina Mitchell (ODR – Chief of Staff)
- Julia Wolhandler (ODR – Public Affairs Specialist)

Members Participating by Phone

- Jarvis Grindstaff, Commissioner
- Charlotte Clymer, Commissioner
- Dr. Denise Decker, Commissioner
- Hope Fuller, Commissioner
- Tiffany Smallwood, Commissioner

Public Attendees Present at the Meeting

- Betty Dare (Department of Labor – By phone)

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kamilah Martin Proctor at 10:04 A.M.

2. Commissioner Roll- Call to verify Section 6. Quorum - The attendance of one-third (1/3) of the voting members of the D.C.C.P.D. - Kamilah Martin-Proctor

- Confirmed eight (8) Commissioners present

3. Meeting Lead – Gerry Counihan

4. Approval and confirmed February 2018 Meeting Minutes (Formal Vote)

5. ODR Overview and Welcome to New Public Affairs Specialist: Christina Mitchell provided a formal introduction to Julia Wolhandler, the new Public Affairs Specialist for the Office of Disability Rights (ODR) and Program Administrator to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. Julia was a former Commissioner of three years and has joined ODR from FEMA where she worked as a Disability Integration



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Advisor. Julia's position at ODR will include outreach events, annual community forums, forming Committees to do events, emergency preparedness plan with HSEMA. Julia gave a brief introduction of herself including the fact that she is a person with multiple disabilities (not visible) emphasizing that she does not just speak on behalf of the disability community but as part of it.

- Christina mentioned the importance of Ethics Training for Commissioners. Discussed the Hatch Act and emphasized that Commissioners are not allowed to campaign on behalf of the Commission but only as residents of DC.
 - Ideas by Commissioners for events, forums, surveys, tabling events, outreach etc. should be submitted to Julia who will then vet them through ODR. These events are important in letting the community know that there is a "listening voice". Forums can make a difference. An example of past community forums that made changes in DC include a Forum on Personal Care Attendants which led to a report that was submitted to the Ombudsmen Office of Finance and the Mayor's Office. Because of this Forum and Report almost all Personal Care Attendant Agencies were shut down until they could prove adequate care would be in place.
 - If anyone has questions they can contact Christina by phone or e-mail
- 6. BEGA ethics training** will be rescheduled at a later date. Due to the inclement weather this in-person meeting changed to a tele-conference and BEGA will be using a power point presentation during their training.
- 7. Undocumented Workers and Access to Language:** Commissioner Martinez brought up for further discussion the topic of undocumented immigrants and the use of personal care attendants as it relates to access to language
- 8. Bringing issues up at ANC Meeting:** Commissioner Counihan brought up the importance of knowing where your ANC meets in your Ward and to bring up topics as they relate to persons with disabilities. He stated that there will be a forum in Ward 6 to discuss topics related to persons with disabilities and this forum could be replicated in other wards.
- Prepare statements from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities prior to ANC Meetings
 - Events can take place in library's and community centers and not necessarily in Government Buildings
- 9. One-Pager:** Proposal to create a generic one-pager on the Commission and it can be published in multiple languages.
- 10. HR 620 (The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017):** Commissioner Counihan mentioned that he is working with Jen Benton of the National Catholic Convention on Persons with Disabilities to testify against HR 620 at the Senate Hearing. The



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Senate Hearing has not yet been scheduled. Counihan was previously hired by Senator John McCain after the passing of the ADA.

- Counihan mentioned that it is important for the Commission to let the public know about HR 620 and what it would do to the ADA
- **Proposal** to create a Commission specific letter opposing HR 620 – Commissioner Chair Kamilah Proctor stated that she had drafted a letter and would send it to the Commission for review
- The Commission has signed onto an opposition letter to HR 620 created by the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities
- Mayor Muriel Bowser has submitted a letter of opposition to HR 620 to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

11. Campaign and Guidance on use of ASL Interpreters and Caption: Julia (ODR) stated that she is working with the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment to create a Campaign and guidance on ensuring ASL interpreters are including on screen during Press Conferences.

- **Commissioner Martinez** mentioned creating a checklist of inclusive and accessible practices as it relates to ASL interpreters and captioning to be used by all Agencies. Commissioner Martinez mentioned that she may have a student who would be interested in working with ODR and the Commission on this
- **Commissioner Jarvis** mentioned looking at other cities that have successfully done this so that we may replicate their efforts

12. Emergency Preparedness: Commissioner Decker mentioned that she would like to work on a community forum and white paper regarding emergency preparedness and disaster relief with Julia (ODR)

13. Mayor's Disability Awareness Expo: The proposed date is October 25th 2018. The first planning meeting will be by phone on April 9th. Commissioner Fuller mentioned including resume preparation and private sector hiring practices as well as how to access Federal jobs, and bringing in partners such as OPM, EEOC, Starbucks, Walmart, Apple, and Howard University amongst others.

- All Commissioners will be included in the planning e-mails and meetings unless otherwise stated

14. Community Events:

- International Disability Rights and Inclusive Society through the Arts on Thursday March 29th. Commissioner Painter had previously sent out information on this event as it is being put on by the Library of Congress



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- Commissioner Proctor will be the key note speaker for Howard University Law School for the 2018 District of Columbia Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference, themed "Making the Member Connection: Mission Possible" on March 23rd.
- Commissioner Counihan is applying to be a TED Talks speaker
- The Developmental Disability Awareness Month Celebration put on by the DD Council and its partners was a success. Attended by over 100 people including Mayor Muriel Bowser who spoke and signed the Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March
- Commissioner Counihan will inform the Commission of the upcoming Best Buddies Prom

15. Floor Open for Public Comment: No public comment made and no public comments submitted. Public comment closed

11:19 AM - Meeting Adjourned