

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

2 p.m., June 18, 2009

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu Place, Kahului

I. QUORUM; CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: John Briley, III, M.D.; Linda Liddell; Charlotte Seales; Elsie Santos; Tracy Souza; Andrew Valentine.

Commissions Excused: Marguerite Rowland

Commissioners Absent: Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma;
Feliciano Sales

Administration present: Director of Housing and Human Concerns Lori Tshako; Deputy Corporation Counsel Kimberly Sloper; ADA Coordinator Denny Schwind; Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado. Commission Staff Jan Roberson

Guests Present: Ramoda Anand; Anthony Simmons; Charlotte Smith; Nani Watanabe; Colleen O'Shea Wallace; James Mariano.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 9, 2009. Commissioner Liddell MOVED to approve the minutes; Commission Vice Chair Seales SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. Discussion on letters

DHHC Director Lori Tsuhako: If you vote to write a letter to the mayor or some other body, those letters should be drafted here in the commission and come back to commission so everybody knows what is going out under the commission's name. Director Tsuhako has final editing over the tone of the letters not substance.

To clarify who letters should be addressed to, as an advisory body letter should be addresses to the mayor. Director Tsuhako proposed that before drafting, reviewing and sending letters to others, the commission check with Denny Schwind, Jan Roberson or Kim Sloper before proceeding.

Linda Liddell: Where I live, they habitually park in front of three accessible ramps. Can we send a letter to the company? Director: As an individual you are free, but it's not part of the Commission's work.

Commission Chair Valentine: What about Commission sending letter to improve public awareness?

Kim Sloper: Letters promoting public awareness should come through the Department so that the Director can be aware of what the Commission is doing. Repeated parking violations are most easily handled by calling MPD, Police Commission or Internal Affairs.

If the Commission votes to invite a department director as a speaker, commissioners write letter to mayor specifying dates, then Mayor would refer the matter to the director in question.

IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY - None

V. REPORTS

A. ADA Coordinator

Mr. Schwind provided an update on the Skaff Lawsuit report, and he suggested the Commission recommend via the mayor that the project manager be invited to give an overview to the Commission. Courts are monitoring the progress of the lawsuit. He will provide staff with a copy of the report for commissioners.

Mr. Schwind circulated photos of walls that had to be removed after accidents had occurred. Parks had received a complaint about an incident that occurred during Special Olympics swim meet at regarding War Memorial. It was not an ADA concern, however it was a safety issue that will be addressed by removing the wall, painting it, or other measure.

A complaint regarding the ramp at the bowling alley is not a matter for Americans with Disabilities Act. County has no authority. Refer complaints to owner and manager and if no resolution, send letter to Department of Justice.

Regarding Project Civic Access, Mr. Schwind has not heard from DPJ, and “no news is good news.” He said they are continuing to make substantial progress to meet requirements.

One employee with Muscular Dystrophy requested accessible parking stall for work related driving. It is not technically required, but administration will provide accessible stall.

Commission Chair Valentine: At One Main Plaza, if we have some recommendations for additional surface parking signage, it was recommended that the Commission send a letter to the Mayor. Commission Chair Andrew Valentine will draft the letter. Mr. Schwind added that it should be discussed at the next meeting because a crosswalk might be needed.

B. Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado

I. Concern regarding Wailuku Pool Hoyer Lift: A concern by a pool user was received 6/5/09 discussing the fact that the pool guards refuse to assist people with the hoyer lift use. Follow up is being conducted with the Aquatics Division, the Inclusion Specialist is recommending the we have terms and guidelines for pool equipment that also defines the roles and responsibilities of the guards and public use. The process of implementing guidelines will take routing time to the Division Chiefs, Department Director and Corporation Council for review. Once guidelines are in place public awareness training and Aquatics staff training will be implemented. Until such time the Inclusion Specialist will continue to work with the public in a one-to-one basis on equipment usage and guards on inclusion training.

II. In-Service Inclusion Training completed for Moloka'i recreation staff, PALS staff and all site inspections completed except for Halawa community center. All Access concerns were noted and reports will be completed and processed.

III. Wheelie Tennis Program continues, next class scheduled for June 21, 2009 (Sunday) from 9-11 am at the War Memorial Tennis Courts. Beth Arnoult will instruct. Room for nine chairs.

IV. Follow up to last meeting:

1. Smalley Kaiwi recognition request received from Director via the Mayors office, assigned to the Inclusion Specialist for follow up, will be notifying the sibling of Smalley to gain more information and background history for the Director of Parks and Recreation.
2. Kalama accessible table label request not found, Kamaole parks have accessible tables and placards were requested for users to identify accessibility for users. The parks picnic tables remain available on a first come first serve basis. Public awareness and common courtesy will remain a community effort.

C. Molokai: None

D. Parks and Recreation: None

E. State Council on Developmental Disabilities –

Transition Events: One-hundred five people attended the May 13, BIG MAC Transition event at the Cameron Center Auditorium. Feedback was very positive. The target group was high school students with IEP plans.

The Moving to the Middle Transition Event at Waena School was also a success. The target group for this event was students with Special Education needs moving from elementary school to Waena Middle School.

1. Maui staff continues to participate in the Sexual Violence Prevention Planning group for Maui
2. Maui Disability Alliance (MDA) has scheduled its 14th Annual Legislative Forum for October 22, Thursday, at Wailuku Community Center from 4 – 7:30 p.m.
3. For information on the Maui Tri Isle Older Adults and People with Disabilities consumer Survey through the Aging with Aloha Coalition and its partners, Call Mary
4. Fully Accessible Playground opened in Central Maui Keopuolani Park – behind MACC, below soccer fields. Accessible walkway is opening at Kalama Park on June 9 at 10 a.m.
5. Sign waving campaign was held on May 9th for Children’s Mental Health Awareness in front of the Wailuku State Building.
6. Disability Communication Access Board – Informative videos on line at www.hawaii.gov/health/dcab
 - (a) Designing an accessible parking stall,
 - (b) Obtaining a parking placard, and
 - (c) Rights and responsibilities of placard holders

The three videos are captioned. They can be accessed from the home page or under the ‘Parking Link’.

The videos answer questions one may have on accessible parking.

DCAB also has the equivalent information in printed format downloadable from the web site. Should you need additional information, contact Bill Nakamatsu at william.nakamatsu@doh.hawaii.gov.

F. Transportation

Commission Chair Valentine passed out Easter Seals Foundation materials, stating that the Commission needs to be aware of changes and modifications to paratransit so it can make better recommendations to the County.

G. Volunteer Parking Enforcement Program - deferred

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Event planning

Director Tsuhako advised the Commissioners to collaborate on a workshop with Mary Matsukawa on the Annual Legislative Forum to do one signature event, share the workload, costs and staff time.

Commissioner Liddell MOVED to combine efforts with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to produce an October event to promote awareness of issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Briley SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

VII. AGENDA SETTING

1. Paratransit recommendations
2. Lahaina Gateway shopping center
3. One Main Plaza surface parking signage, etc.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Mariano from the Maui County Office on Aging invited everyone present to attend an ARDC planning meeting on July 6 and 7. He distributed informational materials.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.