

# COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## MEETING MINUTES

1:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday, January 21, 2010  
Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room  
11 Mahaolu Place, Kahului, HI 96732

### I. QUORUM

**Commissioners Present:** John Briley, MD; Karen Hue Sing-Ledesma; Linda Liddell; Tracy Souza; Andrew Valentine.

**Commissioners Excused:** Marguerite Rowland; Feliciano Sales; Charlotte Seales; Elsie Santos.

**Staff Present:** Deputy Corporation Counsel Kimberly Sloper; ADA Coordinator Dennis Schwind; Parks Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado; MCOA Planner James Mariano; DHC Staff Jan Roberson.

**Others Present:** State Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist Mary Matsukawa; Past President Charlotte Smith; MEO Transportation staff George Reiou; Joseph Crugnale; Nani Watanabe (HCIL); Ellen Kamaka; Napua Kamaka; Abraham Kamaka.

II. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 1:45 p.m.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 10, 2009.  
Commissioner Souza MOVED to accept the minutes.  
Commissioner Liddell SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

### IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY –

**Ellen K. Kamaka:**

*My name is Ellen Kamaka and I am a disabled citizen in our Wailuku community. My disabilities include blindness and renal disease.*

*I attended the County Fair this past October. While leaving the fairgrounds thru the front entrance I was denied access to my disability bus by the public shuttle. I was forced to walk 300 yards to my disability bus.*

*I called the County Fair the next morning and spoke to Avery. I explained my incident and expressed my concern that my rights as a disabled were violated. He immediately became defensive and said, "No your rights were not violated because all you had to do was call us and make special arrangements."*

*I am a public citizen and I should have the same consideration as the public citizens on the public shuttle.*

*Therefore, in an effort to be proactive, I would like to extend several recommendations.*

*First: The curbside fronting the front gate should be designated for the special needs public community. The public shuttle should be set up 300 yards from the front gate. They are healthy and can walk the distance. Insert (loved ones)*

*Secondly: Please advise the designated areas for drop off, pick up and parking for the special needs community and who to contact to make special arrangements if needed. Contact all agencies transporting the disabled to the fair of these arrangements.*

*Last: Inform and educate all volunteers and workers with the fair on the rights of the disabled.*

*Mahalo, Mrs. Ellen Kamaka*

## **V. REPORTS**

### **A. Americans with Disabilities - DJ Schwind**

- Project Civic Access: Everything is on track. Some police and fire issues will be resolved within the one-year extended timeline.
- Circulated plans from Chris Hart and Associates on street and sidewalk improvements to Makawao.
- Service animals: Per Fair Housing and ADA must allow tenant to make reasonable accommodations for a service animal. A distinction is made between service and therapeutic animals.
- Mary Matsukawa suggested inviting a representative from Hawaiian Canines for Independence to make a presentation to the group to explain the differences and regulations regarding service and therapeutic animals.

### **B. Aging Disabilities Resource Center – James Mariano**

- Through ADRC and one-stop shop concept, MCOA is forging partnerships, breaking down barriers, building bridges between

public and services, to bring resources together so people can work together rather than compete for funds.

- Ongoing public meetings with service users and public to discuss Aging and Disability Resource Center. Next ADRC planning meeting is 12:30-3 p.m., January 27, 2010 at the Cameron Center Conference rooms A & B.
- Goal is for ADRC to have a welcoming atmosphere rather than an institution-like setting.
- Updating Aging with Aloha Resource Directory before inputting the information into the new ADRC website: [hawaiiadrc.org](http://hawaiiadrc.org). Call 270-7349 for more information.

### **C. Hawaii Centers for Independent Living - Nani Watanabe**

- HCIL Maui new executive director, Gordon Fuller, is from Idaho.
  - He is blind and his vision for HCIL Maui:
  - Increase HCIL presence on AKAKU community television
  - Update the HCIL Maui website [www.muhcil.com](http://www.muhcil.com)
  - Serve as a service business training center for people with disabilities and to help them get to work via federal grants.
  - Hire disabled people to serve other disabled as they understand needs better.
  - Improve broadband capabilities to Molokai and Lanai
  - Find an interpreter for Molokai.
- Call Nani at 242-4966 or email [naniw@pacificil.org](mailto:naniw@pacificil.org).

### **D. Parks - Tara Sabado**

- 2010 Goals
  1. Expand accessible recreation events including wheelie tennis, kayak, etc.
  2. Build partnerships with organizations that specialize in serving the disabled community.
  3. Promote public awareness.
  4. Increase specialized classes such as line dancing, yoga
  5. Increase swim program and beach access with Aquatics Division.

### **E. Molokai – Linda Liddell**

- Problem continues with illegal parking in accessible stalls at Hale Mahaolu Home Pumehana
- Mary Matsukawa suggested taking photos with time and date stamp and sending to Hale Mahaolu Executive Director Roy Katsuda and Chief of Police since calling the police is futile due to nepotism on Molokai.

### **F. Council Developmental Disabilities - Mary Matsukawa**

- Circulated a flyer inviting all to attend the “Big M.A.C – Moving Across the Community A Transition Fair,” set for 4:30 -7 p.m., Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at the Wailuku Community Center for students with individualized education plans and their families
  - Deadline to register is January 28, 2010 by calling 984-8218
  - Also call 984-8218 to arrange access transportation
  - Dinner will be served
- Report from Maui County Disability Alliance Legislative Forum Transportation breakout session October 22, 2009 with Andrew Valentine, Representative Joe Souki, Darren Kono, and MEO Transportation staff George Reioux and others from the Maui community. Needs identified include:
  - More staff training with equipment & equipment maintenance.
  - Use consumers in trainings to increase awareness of variety of devices and different disabilities.
  - Establish on-going monitoring of program’s operation / services.
  - Establish a rider ID system and training of riders to aid drivers in knowing who qualifies for accommodations.
  - ADA Considerations: Train riders how to use the program.
  - Increase communication to/with riders.
  - Improve awareness of riders of program (options / utilization).
  - Establish discounted fare options for disabled riders.
  - Increase public awareness of disabled rider bus usage.
  - Improve communication between groups and agencies that represent disabled persons.
  - Increase registration/certification of paratransit-eligible riders.

### **G. Transportation – Andrew Valentine**

- Reminds Commissioners and guests to advocate for no reduction of services for persons with disabilities during budget hearings.
- Ala Hou – people have gotten away from using this evening and weekend paratransit service due to the many denials of requests for service
- MEO now trying to be more creative in accommodating requests for services outside service areas and hours, so please call with service requests.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Questions for Parks regarding Skaff lawsuit – deferred.**

- Mr. Halvorson was unable to attend meeting to go over status of report on Skaff versus the County of Maui.

### **B. Letter re: Skaff lawsuit to Parks Director Horcajo - deferred**

- Response received but no time to discuss. See attached letter.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Commission Duties – Dep. Corp. Counsel**

- Corporation Counsel Kim Sloper requested the Commissioners be more specific in their request for information.
- Mr. Valentine clarified that Commissioners want to know under what circumstances the Commission needs to get approval for communications.
- Ms. Sloper clarified that the Commission's primary function was to advise the mayor.
- The Mayor has delegated oversight of the Commission to the Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC).
- Therefore, any letters expressing complaints or making recommendations need prior approval by DHHC Director.
- If an item appears on the agenda, it opens the topic for discussion. Any communication resulting from these discussions are also subject to the DHHC Director's approval.

- Letters or phone calls to ask agencies to clarify their policies, or invite representatives to serve as speakers are permissible without the Director of HHC's approval.

**B. Kareyann Oura / Sherri Grimes**

- Invite Kareyann Oura / Sherri Grimes to February meeting to discuss accessibility of County Fair.

**C. Akaku Video Taping of Commission Meetings**

- Send AKAKU meeting schedule.

**VII. AGENDA SETTING**

- Review County Charter step-by-step to see what duties are still relevant today compared to what was written in 1991 with assistance from Corporation Counsel.
- Reviving the Commission's disabilities resource fair
- Fair Accessibility – Sheri Grimes or Kareyann Oura
- Invite Hawaiian Canines for Independence to March meeting.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Next meeting 1:30 p.m., Friday, February 12, Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room, 11 Mahaolu Place, Kahului, Hawaii.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.