

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 14, 2012
Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

- I. **Quorum established and meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.**
 - a. **Commissioners Present:** Ramoda Anand; Gayle Burton; Cesar Gaxiola, Chair; Yolanda Mau, Vice Chair; Charlotte Smith; Mikey Tomita.
 - b. **Commissioners Excused:** Joseph Felipe, Paulo Sabado.
 - c. **County Staff Present:** County Executive on Aging Deborah Arendale; Deputy Corporation Counsel Gary Murai; Commission Staff Jan Roberson.
 - d. **Guests Present:** Sable Bissen, Chivo Ching Johnson, Eliza Goodhue, Chelsea Grimm, Rachael Heckscher, Karen Hue Sing, Tiffany James, Mary Matsukawa, Elaine Ota, George Reioux, Kevin Souza, Nani Watanabe, Bryan Zoellner.

- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 10, 2012**
 - a. Commissioner Burton **MOVED** to approve the minutes as is. Commissioner Tomita **SECONDED**. Motion **CARRIED**.

- III. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. No one testified.

- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. **Questions for Mayor Arakawa on commission priorities and Makawao Accessibility.**

- i. Can the mayor appoint a specific person whose sole task is to ensure Maui is accessible?
- ii. Can the county change the building code or county code and train inspectors to ensure all new buildings are accessible to the public, and have certificates of occupancy be withheld until the buildings comply with ADA laws for accessibility?
- iii. How can the Commission on Persons with Disabilities work with the county to help in the event of a natural disaster or emergency event?
- iv. Can the county pass an ordinance or policy to give placards for specific family members to get through road blocks when notifying a person with disabilities of impending emergency and to assist with relocation?
- v. Can the county pass an ordinance or policy to allow people to register for emergency notification and assistance? Perhaps the form can be placed in the phone book?

Commissioner Smith **MOVED** to forward the above questions to the mayor without change. Commissioner Anand **SECONDED**. Motion **CARRIED**.

b. **Review and finalize letter to Parks Director Glenn Correa regarding Kepaniwai Park accessible parking stalls presenting a safety hazard.**

- i. Commissioner Mau **MOVED** to accept the letter as written. Commissioner Burton **SECONDED**. Motion **CARRIED**.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Video Subcommittee Report June 2012 Report

- i. The subcommittee is comprised of three commissioners: Charlotte Smith, Mikey Tomita, and Paulo Sabado, chair.
- ii. The subcommittee did not meet.
- iii. Below are suggestions of the chair:
- iv. Televised meetings should run for 30 minutes edited.
- v. Key points made, resolutions, suggestions, captioned during highlight reel of meeting.
- vi. CUT IN: Images, Video of topics to compliment meeting concerns, engaging viewers with visuals and sound.
- vii. PSA's of services offered by the County to people of disabilities.
- viii. Overall a news program to support people of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

b. Presentation by Rachel Heckscher, MPH, Health Educator, Maui District Health Office.

- i. Ms. Heckscher invited commissioners to join the volunteer emergency preparedness planning group with meets quarterly.
- ii. Commissioner Burton volunteers to attend for and report back to the commission
- iii. Ms. Heckscher emphasized the importance of personal evacuation plans, personal preparedness, and the plan should include sheltering in place rather than relying on shelters.

- iv. Ms. Heckscher and her supervisor Marc Nishimoto reported that FAST teams, that is Field Assessment Teams will be trained and go from street to street in their areas to check for “functional needs,” including sanitation, mental health and damages to utilities, and report back to the Department of Civil Defense.
 - v. Mr. Nishimoto stated that the county will manage the emergency, and call upon the state and federal resources as needed.
 - vi. Ms. Heckscher supports the idea of families registering in advance to have a placard to get through roadblocks to assist a disabled loved one.
 - vii. Ms. Heckscher said it’s up to Civil Defense to work with phone book people to add information on disaster preparedness in the phone books
 - viii. Ms. Heckscher stated folks can register for NIXLE at www.NIXLE.com to register for public safety messages. Text your **ZIP CODE** to **888777** for SMS notifications only.
 - ix. Mr. Nishimoto stated that during disasters, the state has a crawling message across the bottom of the television so people who are hearing impaired can still read it. Folks who have vision impairment can hear the words being spoken.
- c. **National Trend: Aging and Disability Resource Centers** – Deborah Arendale, Maui County Executive on Aging.
- i. Ms. Arendale reported on the trend to combine Aging and Disability services.

- ii. As of April 16, 2012, the Administration on Aging was combined with several federal agencies that administer disabilities programs.
- iii. New assessment tools take longer but allow data tracking and are more person centered.
- iv. Older adults and persons with disabilities share many common issues. For instance, sidewalk accessibility, hearing and vision loss, etc. are common to both populations.
- v. The senior and disabled populations would have more clout if they banded together. Disability community has success in getting ADA compliance, and senior citizens represent the biggest voting block so lawmakers listen to them.
- vi. The **Community Living Program** is a pilot program targeting people who are discharged from the hospital and who also receive disability- or age-based Medicare.
- vii. The aging network anticipates the need to transform service delivery to allow baby boom generation more choices, control, and independence. The program identifies seniors and disabled adults of any age who are capable of managing services for which they are eligible under Older Americans Act guidelines. With CLP, consumers receive funds for authorized services, and employ either formal agencies or individuals such as family members and/or friends to deliver the services. They may also save their monthly funds to renovate a bathroom for accessibility.

- viii. Under CLP, services will be income-based so that the neediest individuals receive monies sufficient to acquire the appropriate level of service. Funding will stretch further as monies are redirected away from administrative costs. Additionally, CLP allows those living in remote areas to employ family members and/or friends when no service provider exists in the area.
 - ix. The pilot program started with a limited number of slots and the focus was on Molokai, Lanai and Hana. The program is currently full.
 - x. MCOA is preparing to implement a **Hospital Discharge Planning Program** to reduce the incidence of re-hospitalization for those on or likely to need Medicaid. This project is designed to increase service provision, support elders in their homes, and avoid costly re-hospitalization and/or institutionalized care.
- d. **Disability Legislative Forum September 2012**
- i. Mary Matsukawa reported that the forum will take place Thursday evening, September 13 at Maui Waena Intermediate School.
 - ii. The next legislative planning meeting is 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fri., Jun. 22, Cameron Center Conference Room.

VI. AGENDA SETTING

- a. Mayor Arakawa will be a guest and discuss questions prepared by the commission.
- b. Invite Maui Office of Veterans Services to present at a future meeting. Jan Roberson to call.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Next meeting is set for 1:30 to 3 p.m., Thursday, July 12, 2012** at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room at 11 Mahaolu St., Kahului.
- b. **County Department of Transportation invites the public to attend the dedication of 13 new paratransit vehicles** at 8 a.m., Monday, June 18 at Roberts Hawaii Base yard near the airport. The wheelchair accessible vehicles include 10 buses and 3 Dodge Caravans to serve qualified applicants who live within three quarters of a mile of an existing bus route. Call 270-7511 for more information.
- c. **Nani Watanabe from Hawaii Centers for Independent Living announced:**
 - i. Cutbacks at HCIL Maui office have reduced staff to one half-time position, and all other staff members have been let go.
 - ii. HCIL Maui has low vision equipment and magazines from Freedom Scientific.
 - iii. Assistive Technology Resource Center will have a workshop for hearing loss.
 - iv. Please refer candidates with hear loss to HCIL for free caption devices for telephone landlines.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.