



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

CAMERON CENTER • 95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CPD)

June 14, 2018, 2018

12:30 p.m.

J. Walter Cameron Center
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793

Call to Order: 12:30 p.m.

Introductions

Members Present: Faraz Azizoltani, David Courson, Cranston Kapoi, Kevin Souza, and Kimberly West

Members Excused: Ricky Sanches and Sheila Villanueva

Members Absent: Petrina Castillo

Guests Present: Oliver Caberto, Janelle Cuman (MEO), Roxann Kehus (State Council on Developmental Disabilities), Gail Sibonga (MEO)

County Staff Present: Kevin Dusenbury (Office on Aging), Jennifer Oana (Dept. of the Corporation Counsel), Darren Konno (Department of Transportation), and Deborah Stone-Walls (Office on Aging)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the May 3, 2018 meeting minutes.	Commissioner Courson moved to approve the minutes without the reading. Motion to approve minutes carried unanimously.



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Public Comments and Testimony		
New Business	<p>a. Opportunities for children with parents with disabilities (Commissioners Castillo and Villanueva) (tentative)</p> <p>Deferred due to the absence of Commissioners Castillo and Villanueva.</p> <p>b. Discussion to identify a presentation topic regarding Section 8 Housing and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Commissioner West informed the Commission that she spoke with the program specialist for the County of Maui Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, Ms. Gail Rumbaoa. Ms. Rumbaoa informed Commissioner West that she would like to attend August's meeting to discuss reasonable accommodations, alternate housing projects, and other potential housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Commissioner West notified the Commission that she will contact Ms. Rumbaoa to re-confirm her availability for August's meeting.</p> <p>c. Discussion regarding paratransit services and the County of Maui FY2019 budget</p> <p>A brief discussion occurred between members of the Commission as to the intent of agenda item (c), Discussion regarding paratransit services and the County of Maui FY2019 budget. While some meeting attendees believed that Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) was providing a presentation regarding the paratransit program changes, Chair Souza reminded the Commission that the agenda item did not include a presentation. In lieu of a presentation, the Commission was seeking further information about the paratransit policy changes.</p>	



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Ms. Gail Sibonga, MEO's Chief Operating Officer, informed the Commission that Mr. Harry Johnson, MEO's Transportation Director, is unable to attend today's meeting due to a work related conference. Mr. Darren Konno, Transportation Specialist for the County of Maui, informed the Commission that the transportation contract with MEO will change on July 1, 2018. The upcoming changes include the elimination of the general monthly pass for paratransit services, and the senior (age 55 plus) monthly pass will increase from \$30.00 to \$45.00. For the paratransit services, fees include a \$2.00 fare per boarding or \$4.00 for an all-day fare pass.

Mr. Oliver Caberto inquired about the monthly student bus pass, and Mr. Konno informed Mr. Caberto and the Commission that the County Council made the changes to the paratransit monthly passes. Mr. Caberto also inquired how the County discerns whether a student is active or not, and Mr. Konno shared that the student identification card should have the current school year date printed on the ID card. Mr. Konno also notified the Commission that the monthly senior bus pass was removed in the budget deliberations, but it was reintroduced in the first reading of the budget with an increased fare. Mr. Konno shared that the County Council did not discuss the topic of changing the monthly paratransit passes with the department.

Ms. Roxann Kehus, representing the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, shared her opinion regarding the removal of the monthly paratransit bus pass. According to Ms. Kehus, the removal of the monthly bus pass will directly affect persons with disabilities under the age of 55, especially those who are low income. At the budget hearings, Ms. Kehus shared her concerns with MEO and the County Council for the developmentally disabled community because of their limited monthly income and the large increase in fare cost (\$120.00 per month versus \$45.00 per month).

Commissioner Azizoltani sought clarification regarding this matter, and Ms. Kehus explained the removal of the monthly paratransit bus pass. Without the pass,



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Ms. Kehus further explained that individuals with disabilities will need to purchase a daily fare, while seniors (aged 55 plus) and students will still be able to obtain a monthly pass.

Mr. Caberto expressed his concerns regarding the bus pass decision, especially the negative impact on his life because he cannot afford the daily bus fares. Mr. Konno provided the results of a five-year short-range plan study and an audit of the County's transportation services. The reports identified paratransit service trends throughout the United States, and the report noted that most areas across the United States do not offer a monthly pass. Additionally, Mr. Konno also informed the Commission that the cost for paratransit service is rather high. In order to sustain the service, the County Council made changes to the monthly passes for paratransit services.

Commissioner West expressed a concern whether the County Council considered Maui's unique, rural setting. According to Mr. Konno, the County Council did not consider geography with their final budget decision. Commissioner West inquired if there is a subsidy or financial assistance for individuals affected by the new bus fare policy. Mr. Konno informed the Commission that the County does not have the ability to subsidize paratransit fares, but some charitable organizations, churches, and Medicaid will assist consumers with transportation expenses. Mr. Konno also notified the Commission that Maui County provides significant transportation options compared to the neighbor islands, such as Oahu and the Big Island.

While Ms. Kehus understands Maui offers more options than the other islands, she expressed her concerns on how the bus fare decision negatively affects the quality of life of the paratransit participants.

Mr. Konno offered information about a new fixed bus route that will commence in the near future. The route will travel to Waihee from the Queen Kaahumanu Center



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	<p>into Kahului five times per day. Since the fixed bus route is expanding, paratransit service will also expand to Waihee.</p> <p>d. Upcoming events Mental Health Kokua’s coffee shop, “Stepping Stones Café,” will have a soft opening on July 1, 2018 (tentative). Staff members of Mental Health Kokua anticipate the coffee shop to open to the public on August 1, 2018 (tentative). Commissioner West shared that the coffee shop is located at the corner Vineyard and Market St. in Wailuku. Individuals with mental illness will operate the coffee shop, which is focused on providing on the job training. All proceeds from sales will be utilized in the operation of the café and to further the program.</p> <p>The Maui Disability Alliance (MDA) Legislative Forum will be held on October 3, 2018 (time to be announced) at the Wailuku Community Center.</p>	
Old Business	<p>a. Status and report by Commissioner Kapoi of the recommendation letter to the Mayor and County Council in support of closed captioning of county meetings on Akaku and report of his testimony at the Budget Committee and County Council meetings supporting closed captioning of county meetings on Akaku.</p> <p>Commissioner Kapoi shared that he was unable to attend the Budget Committee hearing due to late notice and inadequate time to prepare for the budget meeting. Commissioner Kapoi informed the meeting attendees that he spoke with an individual that attended the budget hearing, and the Council did not discuss closed captioning or any other budget topics.</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, recommended the Commission to testify at next year’s budget hearing if they desire to share their opinion on the closed captioning concerns on Akaku. Ms. Sibonga and Ms. Stone Walls, Executive on Aging, recommended the Commission to provide verbal and written testimony at the Mayor’s community meetings in September. Ms. Stone Walls also shared an</p>	



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	<p>idea to send recommendation letters to the County Council and the new Mayor next year once the elected officials assume their positions in 2019. Ms. Kehus also shared that this topic can be discussed with the candidates at the Maui Disability Alliance Legislative Forum in October. Ms. Oana recommended an agenda discussion reminder for August's meeting regarding the public testimony at one of the Mayor's community meetings in September. The recommendation letter concerning closed captioning on Akaku for the Mayor and County Council will be discussed in December, and a Commissioner will be assigned at that time to complete the recommendation.</p> <p>b. Status and report by Commissioner Sanches of the recommendation letter to the Mayor to encourage County Departments and Divisions to participate with the State of Department of Vocational Rehabilitation's Summer Youth Employment Program.</p> <p>Deferred</p> <p>Ms. Stone-Walls shared that the Maui County Office on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center will have a Summer Youth Employment Program participant starting in their office next week (June 18, 2018).</p>	
Agenda Items for Future Meetings	<p>a. PowerPoint Presentation from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation regarding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (July 2018, tentative and pending availability of presenter)</p> <p>Since the Commission recently received a presentation from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Commissioner Courson recommended deferring this item until next year.</p>	Since there was no opposition from the Commissioners in attendance, Agenda Items for Future Meetings (a.) is deferred until next year.



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- b. Presentation from the Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 Program regarding the outcome of June's discussion (July or August 2018, pending availability of presenter)

Per Commissioner West's previous announcement during New Business (b), the presentation is tentatively scheduled for August 2018.

- c. Other suggestions for next meeting's agenda
Status and report by Commissioner Sanches of the recommendation letter to the Mayor to encourage County Departments and Divisions to participate with the State's Department of Vocational Rehabilitation's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Ms. Stone-Walls informed the Commission that July's meeting is too late to discuss this year's Summer Youth Employment Program. If the Commission would like to promote this program, Ms. Stone Walls suggested a tentative agenda item and discussion in March 2019.

Commissioner Azizoltani shared a concern about Maui's growth and the County's plan to accommodate new crosswalks, LED crosswalk lights, and sidewalks. Commissioner Courson shared his concern that the Commission may not have the scope or oversight in such a matter.

Commissioner Azizoltani shared his concerns about the agriculture lots in Launiupoko, especially since there are no sidewalks for pedestrians.

Mr. Konno shared a new alliance, the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (Maui MPO), which includes County Council members, department heads, and other key stakeholders. According to the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization website, the Maui MPO is "a government agency formed per federal regulations in 2016 by the State of Hawaii and County of Maui to facilitate comprehensive



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	<p>planning for federally-funded or regionally significant transportation systems on the island of Maui.” The website also stated that the Maui MPO and its partner agencies develop plans and programs for a multimodal transportation system that facilitates the movement of people and goods. However, the website also stated that the Maui MPO does not construct projects or implement these programs directly.</p> <p>Commissioner Azizoltani informed the Commission that he would like more information about this program, especially how it may assist persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Commissioner Azizoltani will contact Ms. Lauren Armstrong, Executive Director of the Maui MPO, with a presentation request at a future Commission meeting.</p>
Next Date	July 12, 2018 at 12:30 PM at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI.	
Motion to Adjourn	1:12 PM	Commissioner Souza moved to close the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.