

July 16th, 2020

Seattle Disability Commission

Also known as;

Commission for People with DisAbilities

Meeting Notes

07/16/20 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

Commission Members Present:

- Via Zoom: Eric Scheir, Jessica Williams-Hall, Hannah Wilson, Jayson Morris, Kaitlin Skilton (pending commissioner), Anquida Adams.

- Absent: N/A

- Unexcused Absence: Khazm Kogita
- Excused Absence: ChrisTiana ObeySummer, Kristina Sawyckyj

Guests: Robin Tatsuda - ED of The Arc of King County, Markio Lockhart - OCR, Alex (public guest)

OCR: Janet Stafford, Mariko Lockhart

Facilitators: Maralise Hood-Quan, Antasia Williams

Meeting Called to Order at 4:08pm

Meeting Norms

- Reviewed.

Announcements & Public Comment

- Guest shared that they enjoy attending citizen commissions and that they were excited to have the opportunity to listen in.

Approval of the Minutes

- June minutes – minutes approved

Guest Speaker: Robin Tatsuda, ED of The Arc of King County

Robin – I was asked to share about The Arc / of King County and what we do as an organization as well as to seek the commission's opinion regarding work the organization has been doing related to COVID response and how that's working for people with disabilities.

The Arc of King County is one of 600 or more branches across the country. The organization was started 85 years ago by parents of people with developmental disabilities. The Arc formed as a parent group that worked together to advocate for their kids who were systemically institutionalized. Originally, they advocated for their kids to get better service within the institution. Eventually, the organization shifted to focus on community-based services that address the life span of people with developmental disabilities.

Every Arc branch does different work – they are not all the same. Some offer services, others local and/or national advocacy, and some offer a mix of both.

The Arc of King County offers independent living services through a state contract with the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The purpose is to help people with developmental disabilities live as independently as possible, in the community, when they no longer live with their families. They currently serve about 50 people.

The Arc of King County also engages community-based work via family supportive services - like helping families navigate resources and systems - as well as policy advocacy. All services are provided free of charge. The Arc of King County's services focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization also facilitates trainings and community education focused on disability being a form of diversity.

Commissioner - COVID19 is impacting budgets all over the world, nationwide, and statewide. How has COVID impacted the operations of your organization?

Robin - Arc is doing really well right now. 1) The supportive living program is a Medicaid waiver program. So far there have not been any cuts. Moreover, the federal government has actually provided relief packages that have allowed the organization to get an increase in payments to help cover excess costs related to COVID. 2) King county has committed to keeping Arc's contracts in place. No layoffs have occurred nor has the organization had to seek business protection.

Commissioner – What is the Arc of King County's goal in coming to us as a commission? What do you see as a type of support and where do you see playing a role in that?

Robin – The commission and Arc could work together on advocacy issues. For example, the Arc was really involved in work related to closing the subminimum wage loopholes and this commission was really involved in subminimum wage work. Arc's advocacy team has been involved in looking at housing affordable housing and housing stability for people with disabilities, and I believe the Commission has done work on that.

This commission is the only commission of its kind that is locally informing government of the needs across the whole of the disability community. It is my hope that if there are things that the Commission is working on and you need community allies, that The Arc could be that for you. Likewise, if there are things we are working on, that you'd be open to us bringing it to you to consider how you could engage with it.

The other item the commission can work on with the Arc of King County is advocacy for the disabled community around COVID response. Issues include lack of protection, service within hospitals, lack of accessible testing, as well as lack of data collection as it relates to COVID case and COVID deaths within the disability community. Other issues include lack of communication to the disability community about COVID as well as communication to business owners about best practices, safety protocol, and how to be inclusive and accommodate people with disabilities.

A key issue right now is the face mask covering mandate – no one has considered the disability community. The mandate is not fully accessible to the disability community. There's not clear direction on what it means if you have a disability or what it means if you are a business owner and you have a patron who has a disability.

The Arc has been in conversation with the Alliance of people with Disabilities about these issues. Both organizations have been raising issues at both the city and county levels, and a bit at the state level.

Commissioner – People are using the ADA Act and HIPPA exemptions to justify not wearing a face mask. It's important to acknowledge that because it's not the purpose of the ADA act.

Robin – Arc has been in conversation with the Northwest ADA Center to understand what ADA means right now for the disability community. Our current understanding is that ADA requires that there are reasonable accommodations, but defining 'reasonable' is the hard part. Each business gets to define for themselves what is considered reasonable but most don't realize they need reasonable accommodations. Also there is

no mandate or standard of 'reasonable'. So how can we ask about it and what can we really expect from businesses?

Commissioner – the only exemption I am aware of, as it pertains to face masks, is that businesses can remove face covering long enough for deaf patrons to read their lips, then put them back on.

Robin - Unfortunately most businesses are not aware of this exemption.

If you are interested in further this conversation, we are assembling an unofficial commission of people who service the disability community to brainstorm how to hold the city and state accountable right now. We want representatives from every disability community so we don't miss anyone or leave anyone behind. Also, I am willing to come back to the commission to provide updates. rtatsuda@arcofkingcounty.org

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Report

udget – The balance is currently at \$2,000 through 2020. I propose that there be some time allocated to discuss how this is going to be disbursed for the rest of year, or if there's somebody who is interested and wants to propose some items. Usually this budget is used for the Jubilee event, any kind of co-sponsorship, other events that might be occurring, and donations that are made to organizations.

- Commissioner – would like to purchase cheap laptops or tablets just so that when we do go back to some type of normal and we have like actual meetings, we will have a computer to like log in people for it and also will have them to like we can kind of keep the information so that we'll have it for responding to our constituents and creating a constituents log.

Name Change – There is an update regarding the disability name change: I have looped in a policy member whose name is Helen, who will be guiding the process through Council and Law. We have met and have started to get that process going. I propose to have her join us in August to give a quick update on where we're at, or at least to have her provide some updates before then, if she has any, by email.

ADA Event - the ADA 30th event that's happening on the Seattle Channel, Channel 21, on Sunday, July 26, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. That is the event that the Commission co-sponsored. I believe I sent out that information about a week or two ago.

Five Chair Meeting – Meeting will be on August 12th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm with commission chairs and is also open to commissioners at

large. It's an opportunity to collaborate on projects and get to know one another.

Training on Public Records Act and Records Retention - I have sent a doodle poll for availability. Training will be recorded. It will be a 90-minute training.

reappointments - We are wanting to know if you are interested in renewing a two-year term. If so, please send your updated résumé to me, as we are working with City Council and the Mayor's Office to push forward these appointments. If you have any questions regarding that, you can specifically reach out to me.

Mariko Presentation

I'm here to give an update on what work we are doing and how COVID has impacted it. I would also like to share an opportunity for you to have input into what's happening with the idea of defunding the Seattle Police Department and learning more about that process.

OCR's ability to support the commissions have been difficult due to COVID. I've recently put in another waiver request with Seattle IT to allow Zoom meetings and we are currently trying to schedule a meeting with the IT Director Saad Bashir. We are hoping that at least one representative from the Disability Commission can be present because it's important for him to understand your needs.

We also recognize that we are missing the relational aspect of things when meeting online. In person we can check in with each other, have brief meetings in the hallway, etc.

Commissioner – To keep the lines of communication open, is it possible to receive a contact list of different names, phone numbers, and email addresses for key contacts throughout the city?

Mariko – I'm happy to do that – need a little clarification on who exactly you'd like on the list. I will work with Janet to put something together.

OCR has 3 big bodies of work. 1) Enforcing Civil Rights laws – getting documents and people on the phone during investigations has been difficult during COVID. We are also understaffed which impacts our productivity. There is a hiring freeze in the city. We currently have a backlog of 85 people who hasn't even been assigned an investigator. 2) The Race and Social Justice Initiative – OCR holds this work. We support all City departments in advancing racial equity in their work and in their

workplace by providing hands on technical assistance, which includes training. OCR is not currently allowed to facilitate in person training so trainings are now in the process of being revamped to ensure emotional safety for online participants. Also, the hiring freeze has taken away our ability to employ a training for a cadre of city employees to become trainers themselves. 3) Policy team – advises elected officials to develop policies. Right now, three people on the policy team are focused on criminal legal system alignment and change, and are looking at the harm caused by the criminal legal system and alternative methods to the criminal legal system.

With the murder of George Floyd and protests demanding new solutions and defunding of police, as well as an investment in Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities OCR is being asked for participation in a lot of decision making.

he Mayor's Office, OCR's budget office, and the Police Department would like to offer the Disability Commission a session where you will be provided an overview of how the police budget works and the things that are proposed to be taken out of it, as well as to answer your questions and to get your thoughts. I anticipate there will be a PowerPoint presentation of the budget and how it works as well as an opportunity to speak with representatives from the Mayor's Office, the police department, and the City budget office. I also have an offer that if you would like to meet with the mayor directly, we can also work to schedule that. The format of the meeting(s) could be – one meeting, or you could first have the meeting where you learn about the budget and then follow up with an opportunity to meet with the mayor.

Mariko - Is the commission interested in participating in this meeting? Would you all like to attend or just send a representative? Would you like

to meet with the Mayor? What needs to happen to make that a successful engagement for you?

Commissioner – It's a really exciting opportunity. I think it would be best for them to give us the information and presentation so we will be prepared when we talk to the mayor. I am asking for the presentation to be sent in advance.

Commissioner – I am very interested in participating and providing input. All commissions should get the Mayor's and Chief Best's letter.

Commissioner – I am very interested in participating. It's very meaningful to me as I lost a paraplegic friend, black man, who was shot and killed by police in federal way.

Commissioner – I am very interested in participating. It's important to highlight intersectional violence that happens with black disabled individuals.

Commissioner – I agree, I'm interested. Whatever everyone decides, I want to be involved.

Commissioner – Yes if I am available. A deaf and hard of hearing person was shot dead by police. He couldn't hear the officer's command. He was an indigenous man.

Mariko - We need as much input as possible for the budget before August 10th.

Utilizing zoom is a reasonable accommodation.

Commissioners – Do the following time spans work for you to meet

8am-12pm (3 votes)

12-4 (4.5 votes)

4pm-6pm (4.5 votes)

6pm-8pm (5 votes)

Jubilee Celebration

OCR – I reached out to Holly Delcambre Regarding the possibility of the combining or having some kind of partnership for the Disability Month.

Her response was that they are still looking at coordinating that. There are a few committees that put that together so we would have to reach out to those committees if it's something that the Disability Commission wants to push forward.

Commissioner – Let's co-sponsor the ADA event, let's not do any awards in 2020.

Commissioner – It would be difficult to have the event.

Commissioner – feels important to have awards during COVID so that we can articulate that we still see members of our community and celebrate them. It's a way to uplift the community and is one of the few ways we engage our constituents.

Commissioner – I am organizing a panel with LGBTQ commission – it could be a nice place holder in place of the jubilee as well.

Commissioner – I agree with everyone – I don't have anything more to add to that.

Commissioner – we had a commissioner (Khazm) who said he'd help with the awards.

Commissioner – last time we had a lot of people who were nominated but didn't receive an award - I think we should consider those nominees.

Facilitator – In your strategic planning, you all wanted more planning time. We are currently behind – I don't think you have enough time based on your stated goals.

Commissioner – last time we posted on our social media outlets. Let's use last year's process. I think we are making it too hard.

OCR – consider staying open to collaborating with others – maybe bring them in the next meeting to further discuss.

- Independent event or ADA combined
- Selection Criteria
- Awards

Committee Updates

Inclusion and Outreach committee has someone who is willing to come and talk about housing. - how they've been dealing with Covid and disabilities.

Technical Check-out

Meeting Adjourned at 6:01pm

Action Items

- Committee updates via email.

Future Agenda Items

- Jubilee awards – Collaborative events; Representative from LGBTQ commission and Hannah Wilson; Representative from ADA 30 (Holly Delcambre)
- Budget - how does the commission plan on spending the \$2,000 in the budget.
- OCR Policy guest - Helen talking about name change
- Guest speaker – housing focused resource