

April 16th, 2020
Commission for People with DisAbilities
Meeting Notes
04/16/20 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Zoom Conference Call

Commission Members Present:

- Via Zoom: Hannah Wilson, Anquida Adams, Eric Scheir, Kaitlin Skilton (pending commissioner), Kristina Sawyckyj, Jayson Morris, Khazm Kogita
- Absent: ChrisTiana ObeySumner, Jessica Williams-Hall
- Unexcused Absence:
- Excused Absence:

Guests: No guests

OCR: Janet Stafford

Facilitators: Maralise Hood-Quan, Antasia Williams

Meeting Called to Order at 4:02pm

Announcements & Public Comment N/A - OMPA Act and Governor's Guidance

Approval of the Minutes N/A - OMPA Act and Governor's Guidance

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Report

OPMA Act and Governor's Guidance:

Commission needs to put a pause on work that is not COVID related and is not necessary or routine. Does not mean work cannot be done?

- Subcommittees can continue however monthly commission meetings are exclusively limited to COVID.
- No actions or votes can be taken; this means taking a pause on approval of the minutes.
- It's also important to have accessibility for the public and since some people do

not have phones, access to the internet, etc... then accessibility is limited.

- . For this reason, it has been recommended to pause on meetings or if meetings continue, to put a pause on specific items such as public comment.

Commission Response: Commissioners would still like to meet. It's important to relationships – dialoguing and staying connected so that when things go back to normal, there will still be a rhythm.

Commissioner noted that meetings are not accessible to all commissioners, specifically those experiencing homelessness. With libraries and other public spaces being closed, limited to no access to Wi-Fi, as well as an ability to charge electronic devices were named as the highest barriers.

Ideas brainstormed around accessibility barriers:

- . Most medical center's lobbies are still open and lobbies could be utilized to charge phones (issue of comfortability noted). If you

park next to a Starbucks location you can pick up on their wifi.

- Commissioners offered to give phone chargers as well as to host commissioner(s) who need wifi / meeting access.
- A state of Washington program is offering ipads / laptops to deaf and hard of hearing people. Commissioner will look into that resource and see if they can secure a device for the commissioner(s) who need them.
- Its free to park downtown Seattle for the time being.
- Commissioner offered to share masks and gloves for commissioner(s) who decide to host / join together to engage meetings.

Formation of a Task force: The Commission has suggested the formation of a task force to solve issues of accessibility for all as well as to figure out ways to support commissioner's needs.

Anquida & Hannah will schedule a zoom within the next couple of days to explore how the task force would be moving forward.

- Commissioner pointed out that the action of a taskforce is outside of the scope of the commission's responsibilities and that OCR should step in. Also highlighted individual responsibility to communicate needs up front.

COVID-19; through a disAbility justice lens;

How can we as a commission communicate with and on behalf of our community?

A commissioner proposed the commission continue to meet with a focus on getting the word out about COVID emergency resources for the commission's constituents.

Meetings: Commissioner proposed a main speaker at every meeting. The selected speaker would share resources and findings geared toward the disabled community, with the first meeting possibly having a representative from The Arc (Advocacy and innovation for and with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, <https://thearc.org/covid/>).

The goal of this proposal is to have different types of speakers who can be of services to the commission and the its constituents during this public health emergency. Commissioner proposed utilizing social media, and specifically Facebook to spread the word, collecting questions and build momentum about the speakers who will be presenting during the meetings.

Commissioner proposed a meeting format where the first part of the meeting would be dedicated to taking care of the internal business of the commission, the second part would be reserved for guest speakers.

Resources on Website: Commissioners proposed on the resources tab on the commission's website to add COVID Emergency Resources at the top.

It was proposed that all commissioners pool their information and host the collection of resources. Send information to Anquida and Janet.

Another suggested keep clear the commission's role is to advise the city on what

they should be doing – not doing the actual work. It is the obligation of the commission to advise the mayor and the city to do these things (the items being discussed).

As Commissioners we have power and access, it is important to provide as much support as possible to the commission's constituents, especially to those who have a disadvantaged economic status and lack access to resources. The commissioner stated that this the work of the Inclusion Development and Outreach committee. The commission has a responsibility to make sure that its constituents have access to resources the commission has.

The proposing commissioner will reach out to an Arc representative by Wednesday, April 23rd to see if they can present at the upcoming meeting.

OCR shared that they have recently received information regarding some requirements of using Google Docs and Zoom that might affect

they commission. Janet will be reaching out via email with details.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:36pm_____

Action Items

- Send resources you have to Anquida (a.adams.disabilitiescommissioner@gmail.com) and Janet
- Anquida find speaker for next meeting, by April 23
- Kristina share her EOC resources
- Taskforce meet to support with Meeting Accessibility for Commissioners
- Social media promotion (Khazm)

Resources shared via chat

211 or 411 or Northwest Access Fund for equipment <https://www.nwaccessfund.org/>
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus/data-dashboard.aspx>
<http://2020census.gov>

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Future Agenda Items

1. Guest Speaker
2. Issues that commissioner is requesting to be addressed;
 - Handwashing stations
 - Drinking water
 - Bathroom accessibility for wheel chairs