

**SUMMARY OF ACTION**  
**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY**  
**CITY HALL/CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**200 LINCOLN AVENUE**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020, 10:00 AM**

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**NEXT MEETING**

**MARCH 19, 2020**

**7**

**ADJOURN**

**ADJOURNED**

**7**

**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY  
CITY HALL/CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
200 LINCOLN AVENUE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020, 10:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Mayors Committee on Disability was called to order by Aurore Bleck, Chair at 10:00 am, on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Aurore Bleck, Chair  
Hope Reed  
Angelique Montoya-Chavez  
Kendra Garcia  
Pam Parfitt  
Miriam Jawhar  
Vacancy

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kathlyne Gish, Excused  
Victor Hughes

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Tom Graham  
Carla Nichols, The Life Link  
Lara Yoder, The Life Link  
Nicholas Palmisano, The Life Link  
Analyn Schwaeger, The Life Link  
Brian Moya, Santa Fe Fire Department  
Greg Cliburn, Santa Fe Fire Department  
Eli Fresquez  
Jose Horta, NM Workforce Connection  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Reed, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve

the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Bleck said on page 2, the second paragraph it should say the Chamber “did not like the item.”

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Reed, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve the minutes as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **6. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. THE LIFE LINK HOUSING SERVICES LARA YODER, HOUSING SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER AND COUNTY NAVIGATION SERVICES, ANALYN “BAGEL” SCHWAEGL, NAVIGATOR FOR THE LIFE LINK**

Ms. Yoder did a power point presentation on their special needs housing initiative and other programs and services.

Ms. Reed asked how long is your waiting list for housing services.

Ms. Yoder said we have usually we have some openings, but we have a list we go off of. We don't choose who goes in HUD housing, the community does through the Homeless Coalition. We look at who needs the most assistance to get housing. For linkages it could be six months. For special needs programs, that is where the list is the longest. It is very rare that a unit comes available that someone who is disabled can afford.

Ms. Reed asked if a person has to wait for six months do you have other services for them during that time.

Ms. Yoder said yes, people can receive services from us.

Mr. Graham asked what is your relationship with the Civic Housing Authority. Do you do a lottery.

Ms. Yoder said we are the local lead agency and are responsible for making sure special needs units are being filled and that the services provided for those folks are put together. If a new property comes up that is when the lottery comes up. When Solaris Station opened she held a lottery for all the special needs people we had.

Ms. Montoya-Chavez asked if there was a grievance process.

Ms. Yoder said we do work closely with the shelters and providers. We would go in and meet with them together to find out what is going on.

Mr. Graham said this presentation is in response to the action list we sent out.

Ms. Schwaegel gave a presentation regarding the County Navigation program she is a part of including their reintegration program for those leaving incarceration.

Ms. Schwaegel said we go out almost every day and feed people and do anything we can to provide safety for them. We try to hook them up with services.

Chair Bleck said thank you for all you do.

Ms. Montoya-Chavez asked does the jail contact you.

Ms. Schwaegel said there is a platform we use and they refer through that platform or the jail will contact her or the client will show up at Petes Place.

Mr. Graham said thank you so much for your time and all that you do.

Nick Palmisano, Director of Operations for The Life Link, said grievance procedures and mental health treatment are coordinated through a State of New Mexico service called Treat First which allows us to rapidly access and provide treatment when they come in the door. We will provisionally accept folks for mental health issues, substance disorder and homelessness and you will be seen by someone. We work with people as they are walking in the door. We help them obtain food stamps and Medicaid and we follow up. Our goal is to provide and mediate pressing issues in the first three sessions of treatment. In the fourth session it is a comprehensive session with referrals. The Treat First program is now approved with Medicaid as a service. We have grievance procedures and policies. We are required to have those. Anyone at any time can file a grievance with us. Any client. Complaints as well. We also have suggestion boxes at our facility as well.

Ms. Parfitt asked what is the follow up to the provisional mental health assessment done when they walk in.

Mr. Palmisano said the provisional diagnosis is not the final diagnosis. We provisional diagnosis so we can work with those clients through the State of New Mexico. In the fourth session we complete a more comprehensive assessment. That diagnosis is ruled in or out as the final diagnosis. We have prescribing psychologists. We have two psychiatrists. One mental health provider provides Suboxone treatment in a program for opioid use disorder to allow them to safely withdraw and start the recovery process.

Ms. Jawhar asked is there a waiting list for the Suboxone program.

Mr. Palmisano said yes, but we have six openings right now.

Ms. Montoya-Chavez asked if you have an individual with cognitive disabilities who cannot comprehend the paperwork do you have someone to help them fill that out.

Ms. Yoder said for the special needs housing initiative they usually have an assistance provider. If they need help we help them. We also work with care coordinators to help them.

Mr. Graham said thank you.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **A. MCD 2020 ACTION ITEMS UPDATE**

Mr. Graham reviewed the responses received from City Departments regarding issues of concern to the Committee. The first one was having safe relationships with authorities for persons with special needs. He received a response from Assistant Chief Greg Cliburn and Brian Moya from the Santa Fe Fire Department. They are both here and are ready to work with us.

Assistant Chief Cliburn said he is the Assistant Chief for emergency medical services and Mr. Moya is the Health and Safety Officer for the firefighters and paramedics. We are interested in getting better in engaging with everyone in the community. We are interested in exploring that and something like a sticker as you suggested. There are ways for folks to register with 911 so their disability is known and can be relayed to us for responding. There are a number of things we can explore. Fundamental to all of that is training for us as to know how to best engage with folks that need us. We need more support through training.

Ms. Jawhar asked have you had any trainings on people with brain injuries.

Assistant Chief Cliburn said we get some training, but we are always looking for

more resources.

Mr. Graham said he can put them in contact with the person at the Governor's Commission who does that.

Assistant Chief Cliburn said our main tool is our own assessment as we interact with our patients. In that moment we find out a lot. A window sticker may be something that would be helpful to us. We do so much problem solving in the emergency setting that the more tools we have in our head the better off we are in that encounter.

Mr. Graham said the Fire Department is ready to get with us to start looking at that.

Assistant Chief Cliburn said he will work with Tom on stickers and other ideas.

Mr. Graham thanked them for coming to the meeting and being willing to work with us.

Mr. Graham reviewed the responses to the list of action items the Committee had agreed on. He said all the City Directors are aware of our list.

The following items were reported on:

Rental Assistance, removal of vegetation from entry ways into government and agency buildings and pedestrian pathways, a pathway from Santa Fe Place to the Southside Transit Facility, ongoing sidewalk improvements, updated play areas in City parks with wheelchair access, the availability of hearing loops in all City buildings, 24/7 public access to public transportation, the new bus stop on Second Street and emergency evacuation plans for paratransit users and seniors.

The Committee members thanked Tom for all his hard work and said he did a great job.

Chair Bleck asked Tom to look into the access to Cerrillos Road where it crosses to the Gas Company and the Police Department. At the light at Wagon Mound and Camino Entrada. There is a big pole there that prohibits wheelchair access.

## **B. REVIEW BUSINESS BROCHURE**

Chair Bleck reviewed the business brochure.

There was discussion and it was decided to add focus in the items that surround the brain illustration.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Reed, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve the brochure as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Graham handed out the resource brochure.

Everyone congratulated him on a job well done.

**C. ACCESSIBILITY AWARDS: COMMEMORATING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA. Kendra Garcia, Eli Fresquez**

Mr. Fresquez said he was very excited to talk about a proposal for an event this summer. July 30<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the ADA Act. It is quite amazing. The Civil Rights Act did not include people with disabilities. They were not included until this Act. There will be commemorations throughout the country. It would be an amazing opportunity to present the first accessibility awards and highlight the work of the Committee and to get the community out and sharing information and resources and networking. It would be great to have elected officials be part of it and hear the voices of the disabled. This outline is a first step. We would like your support for the subcommittee to continue and to hash out the logistics of it.

Ms. Garcia presented the outline and reviewed it. The outline is herewith attached to these minutes as Exhibit "2".

There was discussion about possible locations for the event, the suggestion that the site be fully accessible, live captioning and interpreters working with local resources and other issues.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Montoya-Chavez, seconded by Ms. Parfitt, to approve the subcommittee's request to move forward with the plans for an event.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Fresquez and Ms. Garcia thanked the Committee for their support.

Ms. Parfitt was added to the subcommittee.

Mr. Fresquez said he would like to add Mr. Horta to the subcommittee.

**D. RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS FOR WEBSITE SELECTION OF OPEN**

## SOURCE VIDEOS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Bleck said there are lots of materials available for this on a variety of applicable topics. We would like to have Committee members look at them on line and decide which ones to recommend that we load onto our website. They can be viewed from your home.

Mr. Graham showed a sample short video as an example of videos we can have links to on the website. They are all captioned.

Ms. Garcia, Ms. Montoya-Chavez, Ms. Parfitt and Mr. Fresquez volunteered to view videos and make recommendations. A subcommittee was formed.

### 8. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. MCD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

#### B. NOISE LEVEL ORDINANCE SPONSOR UPDATE

Ms. Parfitt discussed why there is a need for a noise ordinance.

There was no report on progress in finding a sponsor.

Mr. Graham said he will add the issue of "captions always on" to the agenda for March.


### 9. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

### 10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the committee the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am. *12:05 PM*

  
Aurore Bleck, Chair

  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer