



**Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019**

Council attendees: Julia Beems, Steve Ruge, Patrick Going, Rob Hernandez, Sarah Smith, Kathy Ciano-McGee (by phone), Mark Douglass (by phone), Kate Williams (by phone), Lindsay Menough (by phone)

Colorado Department of Human Services staff attendees: Eric Johnson

Public attendees: Patricia Yeager, The Independence Center; Teri Ulrich, ADA Surveys and Plans; Jeff Veres

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2019

No changes to the minutes were suggested. Steve motioned, and Pat seconded, that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Finance Report

Eric reported that the Council had spent about \$2,300 in operational funds as of January. He estimated that the Council had about \$40,000-\$50,000 in wiggle room in its FY 2018-19 budget because CDHS did not hire its new staff person until February. Julia said that she moved everything out of the storage locker and closed the account. Julia also said that she was still receiving a few calls on the 800 line periodically and that some of them were related to the parking placard info.

Staff Recruitment Update

Eric said that Michelle Downs would be starting as the Council's new staff person as of March 4, 2019.

Parking Program

Patricia Yeager of The Independence Center (IC) provided an update on the disabled parking program for which the Council awarded IC a \$150,000 grant. She said that Pat had created a podcast about the program. She also



said that once IC has more data from its surveys of parking lots, it would like to create an app to show where compliant/non-compliant parking lots are. She said that IC had now completed four parking lot surveys.

Patricia also talked about the need to educate companies that pour asphalt and paint lines for parking lots. She indicated that IC have reserved space on June 14th for a conference to talk to asphalt and construction companies (there will also be a webinar available on June 18th). She also said that IC has a contact with the head of the State's asphalt association. IC has also developed a guide for asphalt companies to follow when constructing parking lots. Julia said that this guide, and any other guides developed by IC, should be in Spanish as well because so many of the actual workers speak Spanish as their first language. There was also discussion about how it is difficult to know who is making decisions such as how to draw the lines for disabled parking spaces. Julia said that ultimately it is the parking lot owner's responsibility to make that decision but that, practically speaking, owners are going to rely on the asphalt companies to make that decision. Patricia said that the lack of inspections of parking lots is also a problem.

IC would also like to set up presentations with organizations like chambers of commerce to publicize the program.

Pat presented a power point for the June 14th conference. He also said that there would be a team of five people doing the parking lot surveys around the State. Pat also put together a display at the Council meeting location of the promotional/swag items that the Council currently has to promote accessibility for individuals with disabilities. He also showed a binder that the surveyors will give to the parking lot owners to promote compliance. He said that IC has a more extensive binder for Title II entities (state/local governments) and that they plan on visiting 30 cities to discuss these issues. He explained that Title II entities have a higher level of responsibility to provide accessibility than Title III entities (private companies and non-profits). Basically, Title III entities have to do what is "readily feasible," which is a lower standard than exists for Title II entities. Julia brought up an accessible parking etiquette brochure produced by the University of Kansas and suggested that IC include it in its binders.

Colorado Legislation

Julia went over a list of bills introduced at the 2019 legislative session that she thought the Council would want to support. These bills included:

- HB 1028 – Medical Marijuana and Autism
- HB 1054 – Disability Trust Requirements
- HB 1069 – Sign Language Interpreters Title Certification (Eric indicated that CDHS was already supporting this bill because it originated from another one of CDHS's boards.)
- HB 1134 – Identification and Interventions for Students with Dyslexia
- SB 5 – Import Prescription Drugs from Canada



- SB 72 – Bill of Rights Protected Person Under Guardianship

There was also discussion about the process that the Council would need to go through to get approval to put something on its website indicating that it supported these bills. Eric said that he would discuss this issue with CDHS's legislative liaison.

As part of this discussion, Julia also asked about the Council meeting with the Governor. Eric said that he would ask Mark Wester to discuss this request with CDHS's executive management team.

Julia also asked about whether the Council was a type 1 or type 2 board. Eric spent some time explaining the basic difference between the two types, which is that type 1 boards have more autonomy from their departments than type 2 boards do. Eric also said that his recollection was that the Council's reauthorizing statute (HB 18-1364) did not define the Council as either a type 1 or type 2 board, which means the Council is like any other division within CDHS and does not have any special powers.

National ADA Conference

Mark and Rob expressed interest in attending a national ADA conference in June in Texas using Council funds. The Council supported this idea with the requirement that Mark and Rob both will need to do a presentation about what they learned at the conference and bring back materials that could be posted on the Council's website. The Council also thought it would be a good idea for Michelle Downs to attend the conference, so that she could start learning about ADA issues. Pat made a motion, seconded by Steve, to provide Council funds to send all three to this conference. The motion passed unanimously.

Networking Event

Julia led a discussion about the Council holding a networking event with other disability organizations from around the State. The purpose of the event would be to help the Council ensure that it is looking at the right issues, that other organizations know who the Council is, and that these other organizations buy-in to the Council's mission. There was discussion about the location of the event, and it was agreed that the first event would focus on Front Range organizations, with subsequent events being held around the State in conjunction with future Council meetings. It was also agreed that the event site needed to be centrally-located, accessible, and on a bus route.

ADA Compliance

Council members provided updates on ADA activities around the State.

- Mark said that he was continuing to work with the small business community in his area to promote ADA awareness. He also said that he has done ADA assessments on $\frac{3}{4}$ of the parking lots in Pagosa



Springs. He also said that he is still seeing new bathrooms being built that are not ADA-compliant. He wondered how the drawings for these bathrooms are being approved by local officials. He speculated that architects may not be as familiar with ADA requirements as they should be. He indicated that he would be having a meeting covering Durango and Pagosa Springs to discuss this issue. Julia suggested that the Council meet with the State Architect to discuss the issue. Jeff Veres said that meeting with county planning/zoning departments would also be helpful.

- Rob said that he was hiring a new project manager for this department

Future Guest Speakers

Julia said that she would invite Chris Hinds to speak at the March meeting. She would like him to discuss HB 18-1285 ("The Chris Hinds Act") which created a new disabled parking placard that allows individuals with disabilities to park for free if they are unable to pay at a parking meter because of their disability (e.g., they are in a wheelchair and cannot see the parking meter display). There was a question about whether having this placard means that you can get free parking anywhere in the State, or does it only apply to parking meters. Also, does it only apply to public meters? For example, can the Auraria campus say that the new placard does not apply to the parking meters on their property.

Future Meeting Locations

The Council confirmed that it would be meeting in Castle Rock for the March meeting.

Other

- There was a discussion about having a table at the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies' (CASTA) meetings. Kate said that CASTA is having its spring conference in May in Denver. Pat said that he would contact CASTA about getting a table. Kate said that she would provide the contact information.
- Julia suggested that the Council should start thinking about what it would like to include on the Council website.

