

**CITY OF FRESNO**  
**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
City Hall, Second Floor – City Council Chambers

**APPROVED - MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING**

DAC Commission Members Present: Rachelle Taylor (Chair), Michelle Bronson (Vice Chair), Robert Hand, Mary Beth Randall, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

DAC Commission Members Absent: Dorothy Young, Jenelle Pitt

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary

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**Call to Order**

Call to order and self introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2011 and February 15, 2011**

Member Hand made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2011; the motion was seconded by Member Randall and passed. Member Randall made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2011; the motion was seconded by Member Bronson and passed.

**Member Reports and Comments**

Member Hand reported that Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) is planning a Youth Transition Conference that will be held November 3, 2011 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building. He also reported that he was elected as Chair of the California State Rehabilitation Council.

Member Bronson stated that the Valley Deaf Festival would be November 19, 2011 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building. The theme for the event will be a “Pirates Life for Me” and participants will be exposed to ASL and Deaf Culture.

## **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Kunz reported that the Fresno Municipal Code changes the DAC approved regarding access for people with disabilities were adopted at the March 3, 2011 City Council Meeting, to correspond with the March 15, 2011 effective date of the revised US DOJ regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Secretary Kunz also noted that she must manually switch between the microphone for the interpreters and that for the podium and apologized for any delay. Secretary Kunz also asked members of the public to come to the podium if they want to speak so their comments would be recorded.

## **Unscheduled Communication**

None

## **Presentation: Public Meeting Protocol**

Member Hand did a brief presentation on open meeting laws and Robert's Rules of Order as they are usually typically in public meetings.

## **Presentation: City of Fresno, Office of Emergency Preparedness**

Sean Johnson, the City's new Emergency Preparedness Officer, introduced himself. He stated that his office was in the process of reworking and revising the City's Emergency Operations Plan, including the evacuation portion. He briefly described his engagement with community partners on the issue of how to notify the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in an emergency and is exploring social networking and other technologies to assist in the effort. Mr. Johnson offered to answer the Commission's questions.

Member Hand asked whether all emergency shelters have been evaluated to determine whether they are accessible to people with disabilities. Mr. Johnson indicated that he has a list of shelters designated as accessible, and another list those that could be made accessible with some modifications. One of his projects is to survey some of those sites and confirm the accuracy of this information.

Chair Taylor asked whether the lists of accessible emergency shelters will be publicized on the website or other venues. Mr. Johnson said that he is working with the City communications staff get a dedicated page on the City website to publish those aspects of the emergency plan that are releasable, once the revision of the plan is complete.

Member Bronson thanked Mr. Johnson for working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) to improve communication with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in an emergency.

**Action Item: Formation of a Task Force to Address Captioning of Local Television News**

Member Bronson spoke to the need for a task force to address the ongoing challenge for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to access local television news, and asked to serve on such a task force. Chair Taylor opened the floor for a motion. Member Hand moved to form a Task force to address captioning in local television news for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. Chair Taylor seconded it, and asked for volunteers for the task force. Member Hand indicated that he wanted to also serve on the task force.

Member Bronson said that the Rosemary Diaz of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) is forming a community task force that will work with the DAC Task Force. Right now the community is observing and noting where and when captions and other visual information are being provided.

There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item: Letter of Support for Fresno Housing Alliance People's Housing Summit**

Member Hand provided background information on the People's Housing Summit. Secretary Kunz indicated that no text of a letter had been submitted, so the Chair would draft a letter of support at the DAC's request.

Chair Taylor opened this item up to public comment. Mr. John Ramirez indicated that he required more information about the Housing Summit, past City initiatives, and larger issues related to homelessness. Chair

Taylor indicated that the discussion was currently on the letter of support for the Housing Summit, and directed Mr. Ramirez to contact Secretary Kunz if he wanted to request that another item be put on a future agenda.

This item was briefly tabled until Member Randall reentered the room. Chair Hand took a vote and the item passed unanimously.

### **Report: Task Force to Review Selected Handy Ride Policies – No Shows**

Member Duarte gave a summary of the changes this Task Force proposed for the Handy Ride “Guide to Ride” based upon best practices report distributed as “Topic Guides for Discussion” in June of 2010. This group focused on “no shows” for paratransit, which are reservations that are made for trips that are not completed. Previously, the Guide to Ride had specified that a pattern of “no shows” for paratransit service was three in a three month period. Based upon the review of the best practices, the task force proposed that five “no shows” in a one month period would constitute a pattern and practice of no shows. Member Duarte thanked the members of the task force for their work.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.