**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

**Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)**

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2022

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Department of Rehabilitation, Public Zoom Meeting

# In Attendance

**DAC Members:**

* Emily Alexander; Deaf/Hard of Hearing
* Miguel Castaneda; Physical Disability
* Lisa Cushman; Mental/Behavioral Disability
* Jonathan De Jesus; Cognitive Impairment
* Jonathan (Jona) Deguzman; Other Disability
* Chelle Ellis; Heart/Circulatory Disorders
* Subashree (Suba) Krishnamurthy; At Large Member/Ally
* Jennilee Ruggirello; Blind/Visual Impairment
* Bonita Wahl; Traumatic Brain Injury
* Michelle Zavala-Pizano; Learning Disability

**DAC Members Not Present:**

* Cory Lemings; Neurodivergent Disability
* Jordann Nelson, Respiratory Impairments

**DOR Advisors**

* Rosa Gomez

**DAC Subcommittee Members in Attendance**

* Belinda Boylan
* Benjamin Smith
* Monica Casas
* Roberta Arrellano

**Other DOR Staff in Attendance**

* Andrew Beaken Carrie Viarnes Araya
* Brandon Leyton Charlotte Rose
* Cheryl Ruck Craig Wright
* Cynthia Bryan Dana Mitchell
* Deyanire Villachica Gerri Williams
* Greg Lang Gregory Combes
* Gregory Ramos Jeffrey McKey
* Jessica Farrington Kate Bjerke
* Kim Rutledge LeNae Liebetrau
* Makena Hammond Mali Loftalian-Rizk
* Marissa Lockett Matthew Morgan
* Melanie Wong Nicholas Weis
* Nick Sabia Olivia Flores
* Ofelia Medina Rungnapha MacKinnon
* Pamela Stegall Tara Celli
* Shamika Rauls Valerie Dignadice
* Teresa Viramontes Vanessa Nava
* Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia

**Members of the Public in Attendance:**

* Noel Ahedo

# 1) Welcome and Introductions

* Chelle Ellis, Vice Chair, reviewed the purpose of the DAC, conducted a roll call, and established a quorum.

# 2) Approval of DAC Meeting Minutes and Review of Action Items

* March Meeting minutes brought forward and unanimously approved.
* No action items to review.

Public Comment Invited

**Announcement:** The Disability Access Section (DAC) Overview has been rescheduled for the May 8th Meeting

# 3) DOR Reasonable Accommodations Office Introduction

* Carrie Viernes-Ararya, Statewide Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator, helps the DOR managers understand what the best questions are to ask to identify the most effective accommodations for each staff member needing accommodations. Michelle Zavala-Piano states that the DAC Subcommittee appreciates the offer of collaboration from the DOR Office of Reasonable Accommodation. Carrie suggests that if DAC attendees have questions about reasonable accommodation, to call or email her. The email address is: [ocr.ra@dor.ca.gov](mailto:ocr.ra@dor.ca.gov)

Public Comment Invited

# 4) DAC Subcommittee Agenda and Meeting Information

* Rosa Gomez, DAC Leadership Designee, led the discussion on next steps for the six DAC Subcommittees and meetings.
* The first meeting will be held on 4.17.23.
* The meeting will be set up to have breakout rooms for each subcommittee.
* Committees will need to identify a facilitator and note taker.

Public Comment Invited

# 5) Office of Legislation and Communications Presentation

* Kim Rutledge, Deputy Director, Legislation and Communications, Cynthia Butler, Public Information Officer II and Nicholas Weis, Legislation Specialist talked about the efforts of the DOR Office of Legislation and Communications to protect the rights and to promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in employment.
* The Legislation and Communication Office serves as a liaison and represents the disability community to the Governor’s Office, Legislators, state agencies and the public.
* Cynthia Butler, the Public Information Officer, manages any interaction with the press, social media and events planning.
* Nick Weis works as Legislation Specialists to track bills through every legislative session, sifting through the rules to support legislation that results in best outcomes for people with disabilities. She works with the DOR District Offices to promote local events and highlight success stories.

Public Comment Invited

# 6) Information Technology Services Division (ITSD)

* Brandon Leyton, Information Technology Associate, presented on the role of ITSD in consulting on assistive technology solutions for reasonable accommodations for DOR employees.
* He explained the process of filing a request and answered several questions.
* The email address for Accessible technology services is [AccessibleTechnologyservices@dor.ca.gov](mailto:AccessibleTechnologyservices@dor.ca.gov).

Public Comment Invited

# 7) Roundtable

* Bonita Wahl announced the Playbook series of events for hiring managers and job seekers that is co-sponsored by the DAC Other Events Subcommittee on 4/10, 5/9 and 6/13/23.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m**