

MINUTES
WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY
MEETING OF 9/9/93

1. Present: Z Zimmerman, Paul Alleyns/RTD Representative, Vivian Sauer/West Hollywood Senior Center, Perri Sloane/City of West Hollywood, Barbara Kowalski/Business Representative, Leslye Sneider/West Hollywood Disability Services.

Absent/Excused: Michaeljohn Horne, Renae Dean, Deirdre Hays, Jane LaRue, Louise Mebane, Carmen Apelgren, Jodi Curlee.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. New members Barbara Kowalski from Stella's Deli and Paul Alleyne from the RTD were introduced. Leslye gave an overview of the meeting structure which will be similar in format to the Human Services Commission meetings. The committee reviewed the 8/12 meeting summary.

2. Committee Direction: Leslye described the three main goals she has suggested for the COD, based on a review of the Task Force Final Report:

a. Access/Empowerment:

- Increase COD membership (key City reps, more business, community and agency reps.
- Create ongoing access review of City programs and contracted agencies.
- Establish and increase employment opportunities for disabled persons within and without City Hall.

b. Education/Outreach:

- Create new brochure for Disabilities Program.
- Increase usage of PSA's, CATV and other p.r. outlets.
- Expand ongoing programs/info forums.

c. Safety:

- Sensitivity training for sheriff's dept.
- Provide training for Public Safety Coordinator and staff to ensure disability awareness.

Comments:

- Z suggested that the City encourage relationships with vendors who employ people with disabilities (PWD's)
- Vivian stated that getting PWD's on the COD has always been a problem and that perhaps we could create a PR Master Plan. This plan would include targeting City contractees with info on the COD, an open house during Disability Awareness Month in October, an ad and story in the L.A. Times Westside section (Leslye), asking City businesses to distribute COD info (Barbara) and

- utilizing the RTD ads on all pertinent City lines.
- Paul suggested working with RTD marketing.
 - Barbara asked what the purpose of this campaign would be: to increase COD membership. There are currently 9 members. Barbara asked what number we're aiming for. Leslye suggested at least 20. Barbara stated that this number could be the ultimate goal of the PR Master Plan.
 - Z expressed a concern that the meetings are held during the day. Perhaps they could take place in the evenings or weekends? Also, we could add a suggested time for meetings on the COD application form.
 - Leslye suggested that the meeting take place from 6-8 p.m. during the week. There is a problem in asking City staff to come in on the weekends. Sub-committees could meet at agreed upon times as schedules permit.
 - Leslye also suggested that we could establish a regular program on the City Cable channel.
 - Leslye will work on the Disability Services brochure.
 - We are hoping to finish the awareness video with the City Council in time for Disability Awareness Month.
 - The suggested goals need to be further discussed and agreed upon.
3. ADA Transition Plan/Progress Update
- Asst. City Manager Bob Edgerly has asked for input from the COD for his final report to the City Council. Perri suggested that we might include the info gathered from the Public Comment sessions.
- Comments:
- Z expressed concern about the limited participation in these sessions and suggested that we solicit info from some of the community advocacy groups. Or we could give Bob our new goals. Z asked how specific the transition plan is.
 - Vivian suggested that we could report on the Disability Services program, the Public Comment sessions, the COD activity and the new goals. Or Bob could give us some input on the overall report before we offer our feedback.
4. Disability Specialist Report
- Leslye gave an overview of what she does, who her clients are and how the Case Management process works.
 - This will be a regular agenda item.
 - Leslye's experience and work have been in the areas of advocacy, policy and programming.
5. Old Business Follow-Up
- a. Remaining Public Comment Sessions
 - Comments - Should we do the Medical Disability session? We would need to do more outreach and maybe schedule it for a better time. We will table it for now.

- b. Video Update
We are trying to schedule a meeting for next week with Jane, Z, Leslye, Perri, Jodi and Michaeljohn.
- c. Infoline for Visually Impaired
Leslye will gather the info on this project and give an update at the next meeting. Z suggested that it could be expanded to a Disability Hotline.
- d. CityLine Access
Non-wheelchair users continue to have difficulty with the steps. We will submit the problem to the Transportation Dept. and inquire about their monitoring of the program.
- e. RTD Cooperation/Division 7 Rep.
Paul will transmit our suggestions to the main office.

6. New Business

- a. Partnerships in Policymaking - This is a program sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10. One of the participants, Marty Sweeney, is the parent of a child with a disability and is a businessperson. Leslye knows him very well and thinks very highly of his disability knowledge and commitment. We will ask him to join the COD.
- b. Disability Awareness Month
As previously stated, the video is one aspect. Leslye would like to do a Disability Culture forum and maybe an ADA and Business Forum. She will begin work on this.
Z suggested that we have CATV videotape the forums and include them in the West Hollywood Park Film Festival.
Another possibility is an art exhibit by PWD's.
- c. Z requested that the minutes and agenda be sent out in advance of the COD meetings, for better feedback and preparation.
- d. Barbara offered to help recruit COD members through her restaurant.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Report

SUMMER 1993

INSIDE

New Harris Survey
Results

1

N.O.D. ADA
Celebration

2

NOPW Washington
Meeting and Awards

3

Religion Program
Plans Conferences

4

Community Partners
Meet in Saint Louis

6

Community \$25,000
Awards Deadline

5

CEO Council
Seminars Set

3

Conferences
Announced

4

Expand the
Participation
of Disabled
Citizens and

ALL OF

AMERICA
GAINS
SUPPORT
TO GET
INVOLVED?

New Survey Shows People With Disabilities Not Well Informed On ADA

People with disabilities, those most affected by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), remain largely uninformed about it. This is the finding of the latest nationwide Louis Harris survey on the ADA, which mandates the elimination of discrimination against the nation's 43 million individuals with disabilities.

"Only 41% of the American people are aware of the ADA—and, disturbingly, among those directly affected, people with disabilities themselves, only 29% are aware of the law," said Humphrey Taylor, Harris president and CEO, as he reported on the survey. The poll, commissioned by N.O.D. in conjunction with the third anniversary of passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, was based on 1,253 telephone interviews during the last week of June.

"The lower ADA awareness among people with disabilities is understandable," Taylor said. "As our previous poll, conducted for N.O.D., have shown, people with disabilities in general have less education, lower employment and income levels, and less access than their non-disabled counterparts. This gap in the level of participation in American life means they are going to be less informed on most issues."

"We're committed to closing this participation gap, and the ADA presents a great opportunity to further this goal," stated Alan Reich, president of

N.O.D. and a wheelchair user. "Implementing this law in communities, government at all levels, businesses, institutions and throughout our society will benefit not only people with disabilities, but all Americans. We now know there is a real need for a strong public education campaign focusing on people with disabilities, as well as on the general public. This is our challenge! I am enormously pleased that this poll also shows the public is with us." Reich said.

According to the poll, a large majority of the public supports greater access, as called for by the Americans with Disabilities Act in response to a question about making workplaces, transportation and public buildings accessible to people with disabilities. 50% of the American people think the nation is not moving fast enough; 44% think the pace is "about right." Only 5% responded, "too fast."

The poll also shows that Americans want to see more people with disabilities in the nation's work force. Fully 92% of the public favors efforts to increase the number of people with disabilities in paid jobs. "This is heartening," said Reich, "because two-thirds of people with disabilities of working age are not employed, and two-thirds of them want to and can work. The ADA will help, but to correct this deplorable situation, we need the support of the public, especially employers!" Taylor pointed out that these and

other results of this survey show a distinct improvement over the results of the 1991 Harris poll commissioned by N.O.D. He added that the trend in public opinion supporting increased participation of people with disabilities in American life—the goal of N.O.D. and of the ADA—is favorable. He suggested as a beacon for N.O.D. and the entire disability movement the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Public sentiment is everything — with it, nothing can succeed."



Special Transit Service Expands to Northeast, East L.A.

Metro Access, the specialized transportation service initiated in response to the Americans With Disabilities Act, now serves communities in Northeast and East Los Angeles (see map).

Unlike regular local dial-a-ride services that are often restricted to city boundaries, Metro Access vans and taxis are able to go beyond local limits. Curb-to-curb trips are provided to any location that is also served by a regular bus, meaning a disabled person can get to a job, doctor's appointment or any other destination.

The service has been operating in the 29 cities of the San Gabriel Valley since 1991 and is being phased in across the county over the next several years.

Westside service

By the end of the year, Metro Access will expand west to Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, and parts of West Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles International Airport area.


"The expansion opens new doors for members of the disabled community in East Los Angeles and Northeast areas," said MTA Chairman Richard Alatorre.

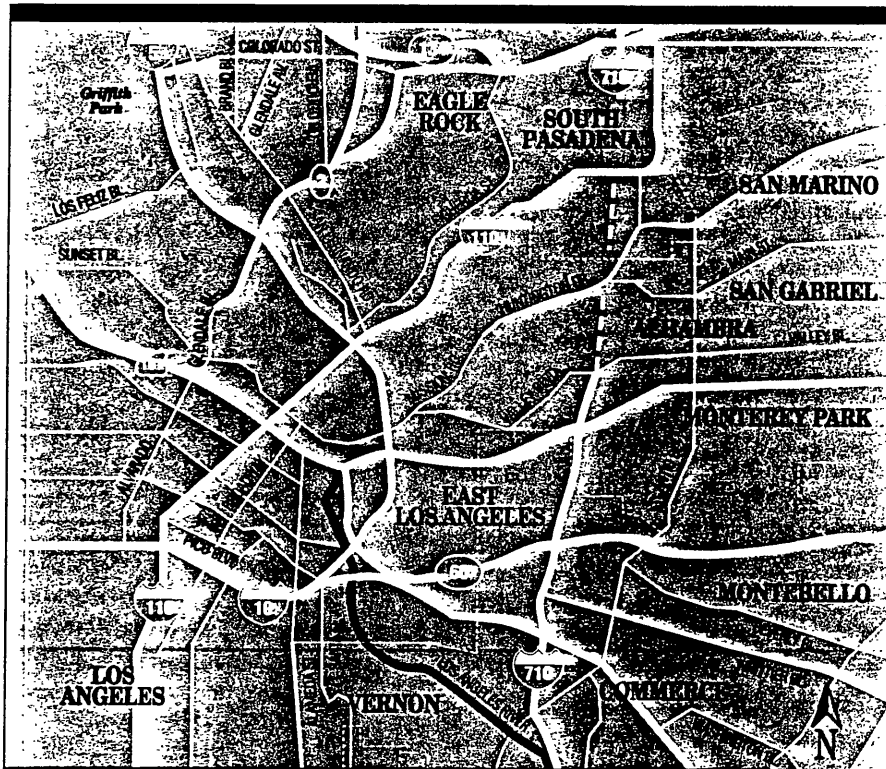
Several major care facilities are located in the expanded service area including Altamed, an outpatient and long-term care agency, Community Rehabilitative

Services and the East Los Angeles Regional Center.

The program is highly specialized in that individuals must be certified for Metro Access service. Candidates are persons with disabilities who can't board, ride or exit from a bus or rail system. For information on the certifi-

cation process and to arrange trips, call 1-(800)-827-0829, or for the hearing impaired, 1-(800)-827-1359.

For information on the expansion of Metro Access, call the MTA's Consolidated Transportation Services Agency at (213) 244-6284. 



Access area — High-quality dial-a-ride service for individuals with disabilities is now available in Atwater Village, Boyle Heights, Chinatown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights and Mount Washington.

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