

## HCOD Meeting Minutes for 10/12/17

The Houston Commission on Disabilities met on Thursday, September 12, 2017, at the Houston Metropolitan Multi Service Center (MMSC), 1475 West Gray, Houston, Texas 77019

Commissioner chair Petty, opening remarks- We have guest present who will be responding to a letter written by the HCOD Commissioners. Then we will have Maria Town report and questions following the presentation. Some commissioners will continue as HCOD Commissioners. Mayor Turner has had the new appointees for a month. Commissioner Petty recommended that we give some consideration to the Mayor.

Roll Call: Commissioner Eddie R. Jessie,

Public Comments done by Eddie R. Jessie, Vice chair.

Commissioner Sims motion to approve Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2017, Commissioner Jessie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from last Month.

Commission Present: Tina Williams, Lesa Jackson-Lazard, Richard Petty, Frankie Sims, Eddie R. Jessie, Emmanuel Eziashi, Shelley Townsend, Toby Cole,

Commission Absent: Benigno Aceves, Michael McCulloch, Roland Bienvenu, Maria Palacios, Ashu Dhuka

MOPD, Division Manager: Maria Town

MOPD Present: Angel Ponce/Amanda  
Tiffany:

Ex Officio: Matt Russell, ADA COORDINATOR

Legal Present: Tiffany

Public Comments:

Audience Member: Erica Griffin, I want to speak about metro lift, but she can't hear them. I believe they need to receive instruction on how to speak to the deaf and blind. I wrote on a paper what I wanted, and they were rude to her. The driver grabbed her by the arm and sat her down. Very disrespectful to her, they were trying to film her, and told her to use a video phone.

Commissioner Williams, asked if it was the metro lift or yellow cab?

Erica, it was both

Commissioner Williams, yellow cab cannot use their phone.

Erica, the issue is when I am scheduling a ride, I must text to communicate. They should provide sign language classes to the drivers.

Commissioner Petty, can we reach out to Mr. Jackson to help with this,  
Commissioner Williams, yes, I will contact Mr. Jackson.

Maria town will announce the presentation:

Presentation: Disaster Preparation, Recovery and Response Activities (Maria Town, Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and other City of Houston Representatives) –

Carol Haddock, Houston recovery team, she would like to thank us first. The needs she wants to address: waste water, sidewalks, use this storm to improve our streets, sidewalks. Access to the things we need to hear to put plans together to put those needs together. Pedestrian we are going to fix that and move forward. The recovery team must be address and solved. It not going to quite raining and we want to help people more help. Make sure all agents are talking to each other. They will focus on housing, the actual houses, one letter is required any money is accessible. We require it upfront, she has the letter. And they want to record, define report to the community at large. Bluebird, nonprofit already working in the community. We are going to figure out how to do this, reach out and let them know. They will be working with HCOD and Director Maria Town.

Landon Taylor, from Mayor's office, carol said a lot of things. There was a lot of data not collected, you must be preparing, 35.000 damages that will be reported to FEMA. Working with the department of neighborhoods, along with the Mayor's daughters. We will make sure they are taking care of, we want to collect data. He will meet with Maria Town.

Health department representatives, Paula Johnson, Harris agency, AAA, shelter mold, mayor wanted to know what was going on with the people. Created an agency and started in early November and know what is going on. If Maria Town has an emergency need. They have older citizens, that serve Harris County, all 12 counties. Web city of Houston website, care connections. Funding has not come down from the state. Call center 8am – 5pm, 832-393-4301 or 211.

Debra Moore, ass. With the department of health, talk about the health department on the recovery effects, still working with people who have been missed places. With mold, damages, they have health dept. agents going in to help individuals and families. Team of medical personnel, a team, currently 40 cases to bring them back. As they get calls from the MOPD and any other they will send out case managers out, still very active. If someone is in need. Service provided is to help individuals stay in their homes and communities. Web or call Mrs. Johnson number. 832-393-4301 information and referral number. They have councilors, these are live people between 8-5, after 5 voice messages.

Justin McGinley with FEMA, there are some things that are different, 520 houses to inspect, 1200 agents in the field. New inspectors may have lost some things.

Loretta bonds, even not here, help with disabilities to relocate to other properties or stay in your home. You can speak to her individual after the meeting.

Michael Florence, office of disaster assistance along with FEMA, serving all 41 counties, they are pushing what they do. Strongly ask people to apply. He wants to make sure all 1 billion in approved monies to help families and want business to provide their service. Provided loans home loans, non-for profit. We want people to register. This is a big disaster, we will get through this.

Questions:

Commissioner Townsend, asked Michael how many loans have been applied for.

Michael Florence, 600 million to Houston

Commissioner Townsend, if they were renting, it is people can apply for a loan.

Maria Town, application for FEMA, SBA loan, and they don't apply for a loan.

Michael, encourage to apply, you will be put to another loan. SBA loan, if you comply and denied you are turned over to FEMA.

Richard, those with SBA or FEMA, provided the feedback when you have this, that it is important to complete the application. Many people are confusing on what is involved. The items on the FEMA that is there to identify and the functional needs that that person may have. Some may put no they are not disabled, when they are disabled.

Michael, we are sending out press release, it is not perfect, and we will take this back,

Justin with FEMA, referral from, you need to fill out the SBA form. When it comes to housing needs, limit 33,000. The word is not the best and is confusing to the individuals. 89 percent did fill out the form on line.

Loretta with FEMA, let them know what your concern is.

Commissioner Richard, people move through the application on line, take back with you with the language on the applications.

Commissioner Emmanuel, this has been a problem with many of the deaf communities. I support what you are saying, and what is the requirement. Many have been denied and Ricky was not satisfying with the money. Thank you

Justin, FEMA, there is many different reasons why someone will be denied. You are pending your case, so try to be acquired.

Michael, point of clarity, is there a certain language to take back.

Loretta will take back the information back to the main office, 202-705-1246. She will try to get an answer.

Tom Cavo, with housing and development, immediate around disaster response, shelter is in partnership with red cross, not to put the people in the same situation but 500 people have that housing option. Direct housing option through FEMA. Five activities, rental repair, mobile, MHU mobile housing unit. They want to bring something that could be as cottage in the back of someone home. Hub will be the long term as the dollars come. Number of medical individuals in the housing options. Whatever medical conditions.

Commissioner Williams, 500 people what time line is done. What happen to the individual who does not qualify.

Tom, 6months, fem has approved the 60days. They are trying to get the 6months approved. We are connecting them to other resources. If they are ready move them to longer housing. They are helping landlords get their units up to standard. They want to get back in a rental or housing needs, and they are building out. The grant dollars are what is left by the FEMA funds. We can help with identifying the need to get people back on their feet.

Commissioner Petty, the commission has prepared a letter, that has many of the housing issues. And had to modify their living to live there. That letter was written first, and there is a letter on disable that they will be sending out later to the representative s who serve the city.

Comments from the public:

Audience: application of FEMA, interpreters, videos, languages.

Loretta, we have interpreters.

Lucila, applying on FEMA grants, FEMA is denying people. Please appeal and don't expect to get it right away drtx.org 713-intake.

Paula area with aging Medicaid, encourage people to call, health related cases. End of the grant period, look at Harvey. Last result with personal assistance, care c, veterans who may need assistances. Under the health dept. they have a network of agency if there is a need. Case management agency. Everyone will be able to see, and we all are not putting all our needs across the city. They attend the meeting with the health department or direct them.

Maria Town, when people has been transferring, they can verify (area for aging) has been a great help to the MOPD.

Richard what system is in place

MOPD Director's Report to the HCOD:

Committee Updates:

Disability-Related Issues in Public Education- Karen Cunningham, Chair),  
No Updates

Disability Unity and Pride Celebration - (Michael McCullough, Chair), No  
Updates

Emergency Preparedness (Shelly Townsend, Chair), shelly, I know we are in  
preparedness roll for the city of talking to very Boards.

Employment (Benigno Aceves, Chair), No Updates

HARP (Eddie Jessie, Chair), No Updates

Housing & Tenancy Issues (Lesa Jackson Lazard, Chair), No Updates

Marketing (Frankie Sims, Chair), posted everything to the Facebook. Please let her know about Facebook page.

Metro/Transportation/Parking (Tina Williams, Chair), metro preparing for a meeting regarding some of the complaints on attitude of the dispatcher's date will be provided.

Parks & Accessibility (Tina Williams, Chair), No Updates

Police Response to Persons with Disabilities (Emmanuel Arizona Eziashi, Chair) HPD had a presentation on how to arrest, how to communicate, and gesture, and provide future education.

Strategic Planning (Toby Cole, Chair), No Update.

Metropolitan MSC Update (Chuck French / Hannah Walker), No Updates

ADA Update (Matt Russell, COH ADA Coordinator), No Updates

Sherry Miners with Red Cross, whole team of people working here and in Dallas. Remaining a immediate need. Helping to replace iPad to other disable community.

Commissioner Townsend, working with a child who lose their child wheelchair, they are not able to pay that they lose their house.

Commissioner Emmanuel, some people have ask for help with the hurricane, heard of many deaf people who did not get the assistance through the red cross. Ricky with him, but he posted a video, hearing people have got the money from FEMA.

Ricky did a video for the deaf communities. My neighbors have got their money fast.

Sherry have a meeting for the deaf community, and Emmanuel would like to get the information for him and Ricky can be there at the meeting. Equal assistance.

Commissioner Comments:

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cole, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Townsend.

The HCOD meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

Minutes submitted by Lesa Jackson-Lazard ([lesajackosn2010@yahoo.com](mailto:lesajackosn2010@yahoo.com)) 281-690-9912