

## HCOD Meeting Minutes for 5/11/2017

The Houston Commission on Disabilities met on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the Houston Metropolitan Multi Service Center (MMSC), 1475 West Gray, Houston, Texas 77019

Richard Petty, opening remarks- There is serious concerns about Healthcare for People with Disabilities and Transportation.

Roll Call was done by Eddie R. Jessie, Vice Chair, at 4:00pm.

Commissioner Bienvenu motion to approve Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2017, Commissioner Townsend, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve from last Month.

**Commissioners Present:** Michael McCulloch, Eddie R. Jessie, Benigno Aceves, Lesa Jackson (Lazard), Roland Bienvenu, Shelly Townsend, Tina Williams, Frankie Sims, Richard Petty, Karen Cunningham, Maria Palacios

**Commissioners Absent:** Toby Cole, Asha Dhuka, Emmanuel Eziashi, Elizabeth Delladera (will be resigning from commission due to family obligations).

MOPD Director: Maria Town

MOPD Present: Angel Ponce

Ex Officio: Matt Russell, ADA COORDINATOR

Legal Present: Tiffany Evans

**Public Comments: No Comments**

## **Presentation:**

**Emergency Preparedness in Houston, Michael Walter**, Office of Emergency Management, City of Houston – Management for the whole community OEM, in an emergency team to meet the needs of the resident in an emergency. They follow preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation. Emergency response is located on the northside of town, web EOC, news, other response agency.

FEMA and the state of Texas use a variety of terms that should be understood first; whole community, access and functional needs, functional needs support services. They work closely with MOPD and the community of disabilities to help with the needs of the people.

Houston UASI, the urban area security initiative provides funding and a platform is incorporated into the plan. A lot of emergency happen on a regional level. They are including everyone's needs, and offer training in emergency plans. September 2017 is when they plan a training here at MMSC.

Hurricane Evacuation Hub Exercise, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, OEM will be hosting a full scale [Melanie.manville@houston.gov](mailto:Melanie.manville@houston.gov). community Preparedness STEAR Registration meals on wheels (for Seniors) and flyers at [houstonoem.org](http://houstonoem.org). ASL preparedness video at [houstonoem.org](http://houstonoem.org). They also will have the Disaster Preparedness Guide. You can now call 211 from anywhere in the world. Transportation Assistance Registry which eventually became the STEAR.

Communication this is to make sure information is available and assessible for ASL/CDI content on Alert Houston. OEM will also have available translators and they are also working with the media.

Accessibility of Services; shelters, planning helps us, and all service animals are permitted in shelters/service centers.

OEM work with FEMA, they look at the disaster area to see where they need to go, and that they are assessible to everyone.

Rewriting their Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Anything that you think is needed in the plan as an important information. You can sign up for City E. News.

Questions: Commissioner Townsend, question on STEAR application. She heard that if a person is registered, but they would not take the parents. Is that Volunteer half a day or all day? Michael, all day. If you want to Volunteer contact Melanie.

Michael Walter, we going to keep families together, if you hear that let him know.

Tina W., is will it keep you on the system. Is there a PC notice to the Community?

Michael Walter, keep your information updated in March. Metro provides the transportation or other transportation that will be needed.

Commissioner Petty, one thing that is helpful, is when people come and do case management, if they are people with disability, works better. It has been problems in the past. Michael, they are pre-examining those who would be good for the city position, handling management. In the past, you would have seen a special needs shelter, but now it is a disabled shelter. Richard, would like for Michael to explore this further and incorporated in the plan.

Matt Russell, how many people are registered for STEAR. Michael about a couple 100 thousand, there still is a need to register.

Maria Town, have there been any reach out to nursing homes. Michael, nursing homes are required to send them the information, so they can work with DARS on the information.

Michael Walter, the Red Cross is good and assisting during a hurricane.

### **Presentation:**

**Commissioner Michael McCullough**, Disability Pride and Unity Celebration, Michael McCullough, On the way on planning for the disability. Michael will discuss the background; presented disability pride Houston idea to HCOD on December 10, 2015, started meeting with MOPD in April 2016 to combine with DAMK event, held successful DAMK event on September 30, 2016 in conjunction with MMSC Renovation celebration.

Michael worked closely with Jay Stiteley, after the passing of Jay everything came to a haunt. There were several who help bring the event together; Angel, Maria, Mary, Lesa, Bernie MOPD got involve.

Now they are starting off in 2017 to keep the event going, and worked to come up with a good name, Disability Unity and March.

Mission statement – celebrate the history, culture, advocacy, and contribution of the Houston disability community.

Goals – Bring greater Houston’s disability community, highlight the local talent, creativity, and stories, connect to agencies, maximize visibility, exhibitors, children activities, food and refreshments. The event is plan for September 30, 2017.

Mrs. Bernie is over the march of the event, they are planning it for next year 2018. If we have it here, marching down West Gray, the other option march the bayou park, because the park is beautiful, working on a Grand Marshall also.

Program with Mayor Turner or City council member. Theme “Moment in Time”. Looking at local talent, Melanie Lawson, Maria sent out the invitation.

Children activities will be included. Shelly is a possible person that Michael ask to help with this program.

Need to do some fund-raising also, contact the committees.

Commissioner Palacios, creating a panel of the young and old, Maria Town is working with her. They are going to work on a set of questions for someone interviewing. Looking for local talent.

Commissioner McCullough, wants other from the disability groups

**MOPD Updates: Maria Towns, Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities – Legislative Update” City of Houston Pensions (Texas Legislature);**

Angel Ponce: calls, report for April, call from family who is involve in different events where they were turned away. They call MOPD about this problem, the

recommend educating the event on what to do, and these companies are funding these events.

People called a parking assistance, Angel and Amanda been talking to these people to sign up for Section 8 – 12. Child and Adult care – 2, medical equipment – rsvp is back up and working repairing equipment – 3, employment – 3 people, May 24, hiring 8am at united way event and MOPD, workforce, home repair 3, legal 3, medical 1, offer at the office sidewalk repairs approved 3 and got in 13 spoke to 6, presentation 25 around the State and Vocational workshops 25 people, but expected 99, immigration has been added, helped 14 tax payers, transportation 2, utilities 2, blindness 3, waste management 3. Assisted 123 people.

Maria Towns, doing a lot of work with the the time to respond to people with disability and comparing their list. Closing out files from 2 years. Someone from MOPD has to go out and check the sidewalk problems. They are also working with Metro lift.

Check the email on Commissioners and Boards, on when someone is coming off, please check your individual appointments. Today the mayor received a reward from Hearts. Mayor Turner gave a great speech at the event.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Strategic Planning**, Toby Cole – No Update

**COH Policy Evaluation & Improvement** – No updates

**Marketing**, Frankie Sims – chair, please send any info for Facebook page to; frankie.sims@att.net.

**Emergency Preparedness**, Shelly Townsend, chair - June 3, 2017, Saturday, Extreme Weather Ready Expo, check hours to work 2 hours. May 1, 2017 met to see what they would need, and sent out a email, 2 hour shifts. Can arrange time.

Place a copy of the STEAR information to everyone. She has to do a lunch count. Please email if you will participate. Conference call with the disability, information on HCOD as partners, and power point. She will forward it to all the commissioners. Greater St. Matthews she attended the event.

**HARP** – Eddie Jesse, chair, looking for people, great position that will be available. Let Jesse know if you are interested. Applications must be submitted after app have been submitted.

**Employment** – Benigno Aceves, chair, no updates

**Public Education**- Karen Cunningham, chair, Special Ed events...school for the summer. August 16, school will start back for some kids. Bill for special education, Texas is 50 of 50 on special education. Abilities Expo give us a table for HCOD. Shelly and Lesa will be there at the table, [www.abilitiesexpo.com](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com), August 4 – 6, 2017. Set up August 3, Fri. 11-5, Sat. 11-5, Sun. 11-4.

**Parks & Accessibility Metro/Transportation/Parking** - Tina Williams, chair, Chase Bank has a assessible issue. 281-968-1045. Question to Tina. MOPD will work.

**Housing & Tenancy Issues**- Lesa Jackson(Lazard), chair, No Update

**Police Response to Persons with Disability**, Emmanuel Eziashi, chair – No Updates

**Metropolitan MSC Update**: Hannah for chuck is here, we are participating in Pasadena tournament. Summer camp accepting applications, will be at the abilities expo.

**ADA Update** - Matt Russell, COH ADA Coordinator, Responsible Accommodations on the books. Title 2 issues with our citizens. House bill ADA.....

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner McCullough, have anyone heard of this, Park Friends, helps to make local parks safe. It would be a good subject for a presentation.

**Adjourn** at 6p.m. Commissioner Jackson(Lazard) motion to end the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Bienenu.

Commissioner Lesa Jackson (Lazard), Secretary