



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 9, 2022  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Remote Meeting  
PRESENT: John Daugherty (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Stacie Grijalva (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Fay Levinson (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Becky Taylor (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Richard Gubash (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*Vice Chair - 4<sup>th</sup> District*), Michael Leimbach (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), David Molina (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*), Lynn Stipes (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)  
EXCUSED: None  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)  
GUESTS: Brian Buhrow (*National Federation of the Blind - California Board Member*) and John Heylin were present.

1. Call to Order  
Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve May 11, 2022 Minutes  
**Motion to Approve Minutes as written**  
Motion/Second: Molina/Daugherty  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Public Comment  
Stipes arrived.
6. New/Continuing Business:
  - 6.1. Access Technology Affordability Act Overview (H.R. 431/S. 212)  
Buhrow summarized elements of these bills providing a tax refund for people who purchase non-medical, access technology (e.g., screen readers, magnification technology, equipment designed to address learning or cognitive disabilities, etc.). The Senate's Access Board will determine allowable technologies. State legislators Panetta, Eschew, Feinstein, and Padilla all co-sponsored the legislation. Commission discussed allowable limits and eligibility. Buhrow emphasized the absence of a means-based test associated with eligibility for these tax refunds to minimize barriers. Legislative Priorities Subcommittee will consider this information and bring their recommendation back to a future meeting.

6.2. Consider Voter Accessibility Committee Representation

Molina appointed Levinson to represent the Commission on the County's Voter Accessibility Committee. Other members the Commission's subcommittee will attend in her place when she is unable to attend.

Gutierrez-Baeza left the meeting.

Gubash left the meeting.

6.3. Consider Condolences for Robert Ludlow

As an attorney, Ludlow advocated for accessibility and disability rights.

**Motion authorizing Daugherty, Molina, and Staff to send a letter of condolence to Mr. Ludlow's family pending the availability of contact information.**

Motion/Second: Molina/Leimbach

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6.4. Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings

**Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely if allowable under the provisions of AB 361**

Motion/Second: Molina/Leimbach

**Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Commission Reports:

7.1. History Report:

7.1.1. Commission History Project:

Daugherty reported that a recent screening of Crip Camp further solidified the importance of compiling a Commission history. Staff will continue to work with the VIP program to obtain an intern.

8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates:

8.1. Recreation Subcommittee

Staff reported that Simpkins has hired a swim instructor qualified to work with students who have adaptive swim needs. It is unclear how prospective students will differentiate between instructors. Staff will continue to work with Simpkins to obtain additional information.

8.2. Legislation Subcommittee: No Report

9. Staff Report

Staff reported that quantitative and qualitative *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Survey* data analysis has been completed and aggregate results will be shared at a future meeting.

10. Emerging Matters:

Commission congratulated Stipes on her retirement. Commissioners were invited to consult with Mr. Heylin (son of former Commissioner and disability rights advocate Peter Heylin) regarding outreach and community engagement for disability advisory bodies.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*