



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.scccod.net

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday February 9, 2023

TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 AND CAL. GOV. CODE 54953, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.

VIDEO CONFERENCE INFORMATION

TO JOIN BY VIDEO: <https://zoom.us/join>

OR TO JOIN BY PHONE: +1 (669) 219-2599 (dial *6 to mute/unmute, dial *9 to raise your hand)

Meeting ID: 495-687-4858

Passcode: 192244

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve *January 12, 2023 Minutes*
5. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
6. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 6.1. Vista Center Title VII Grant Application Support Letter
 - 6.2. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - 6.3. METRO ParaCruz ADA Complementary Paratransit Service
 - 6.4. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group Representation
7. Commission Reports
 - 7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report
8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports
 - 8.1. Recreation Subcommittee Report
 - 8.2. Legislative Subcommittee Report
 - 8.3. Commission History Report
9. Staff Report
10. Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2023
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Remote Meeting
PRESENT: Rebecca Haifley (*1st District*), Stacie Grijalva (*2nd District*), Fay Levinson (*2nd District*),
Becky Taylor (*3rd District*), Richard Gubash (*3rd District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*Vice
Chair - 4th District*), Riley Hartmann (*5th District*)
EXCUSED: John Daugherty (*1st District*), David Molina (*Chair - 5th District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: 2 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order

Meeting convened at 12:33 PM.

Commission welcomed new District 5 Commissioner, Riley Hartmann.

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Review

4. Approve November 10, 2022 Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes As Written

Motion/Second: Levinson/Taylor

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

6. New/Continuing Business:

6.1. 2021-2022 Commission on Disabilities Biennial Report

Commission considered their Biennial report and discussed Commission goals and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The document was amended to include goals and recommendations related to digital accessibility and transparency; broader impact on public policy, support for adaptive playgrounds, improvements to transportation, capacity to secure financial support, and greater community resources to support residents with disabilities during an emergency.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Commission on Disabilities Biennial Report

Motion/Second: Haifley/Grijalva

Motion passed unanimously.

Hartmann left the meeting.

6.2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Leadership

Item pended to the February meeting.

6.3. Rio Del Mar Coastal Access Update

Staff provided an update on the current status of the case. County Counsel staff will be invited to the next meeting to update the Commission on how they can help.

6.4. Consider Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings

Staff reported that there is a strong likelihood that Governor Newsom will lift the pandemic-related State of Emergency on February 1, 2023 which could conclude the Commission's ability to meet remotely. President Biden's recent Federal state of emergency extension may allow at least three more months. Commission will discuss strategies at the next meeting.

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: Taylor/Gubash

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Commission Reports:

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report

Gutierrez-Baeza and Gubash reported that the first meeting of the committee was held in December. Twenty-two participants discussed issues impacting students with disabilities including remote attendance, remote counseling, and digital accommodations among other topics.

8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates:

8.1. Recreation Subcommittee:

Gutierrez-Baeza reported that an upcoming wheelchair basketball program is being planned.

8.2. Legislative Subcommittee: No Report

8.3. History Project Report

Research intern candidate Collin Edwards introduced himself briefly during public comment. Staff will share the internship description with new Commissioners in email.

9. Staff Report:

Staff reported that many County departments are involved in the County's response to the recent storm-related emergencies. Several evacuation centers have been established as the County continues to provide emergency response resources and services.

10. Emerging Matters: None

Levinson reported that National Parks are being made more accessible. Taylor shared information related to upcoming virtual meetings that may be of interest. Gutierrez-Baeza reported that Habitat for Humanity is building an ADA-accessible home locally. Grijalva reported that the Code Red registry process is not accessible to community members with vision impairments.

Haifley left the meeting.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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February 9, 2023

Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program

Re: Support for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Dear Older Individuals Who Are Blind Program,

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the Vista Center for the Blind.

Under the provisions of *Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.72.060*, the Commission on Disabilities is a Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors appointed advisory body tasked advancing the interests of persons with disabilities residing in Santa Cruz County.

Santa Cruz County has a growing population of adults aged 65 and older who report vision difficulties. According to ACS data, the percentage of such adults has increased from 4.7% to 5.5% and we anticipate the number will continue to grow as the population of seniors living in Santa Cruz County continues to grow.

Vista Center provides essential resources, education, and support to these individuals, many of whom are newly adjusting to their vision impairment as function of aging rather than as a disability that they've lived with for years. This confluence of elements to which they must simultaneously adjust could potentially leave them overwhelmed and feeling helpless were it not for the foundational services and support provided by Vista Center.

In Santa Cruz County, Vista provides nine in-person and virtual community offerings ranging from book clubs, arts and crafts and recreational activities to assistive technology workshops and support groups. Additionally, they provide four in-person individual and in-home services including needs assessment and evaluation, safe travel training, adaptive living skills, safety assessments and in-home supports as well as assistive technology. In 2022 alone, the Vista Center provided services to 170 individuals.

We respectfully request that you continue to provide funding and support to the Vista Center for the Blind as they are essential to the health, safety, and quality of life for Santa Cruz County seniors.

We appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of the disabilities community in Santa Cruz County.

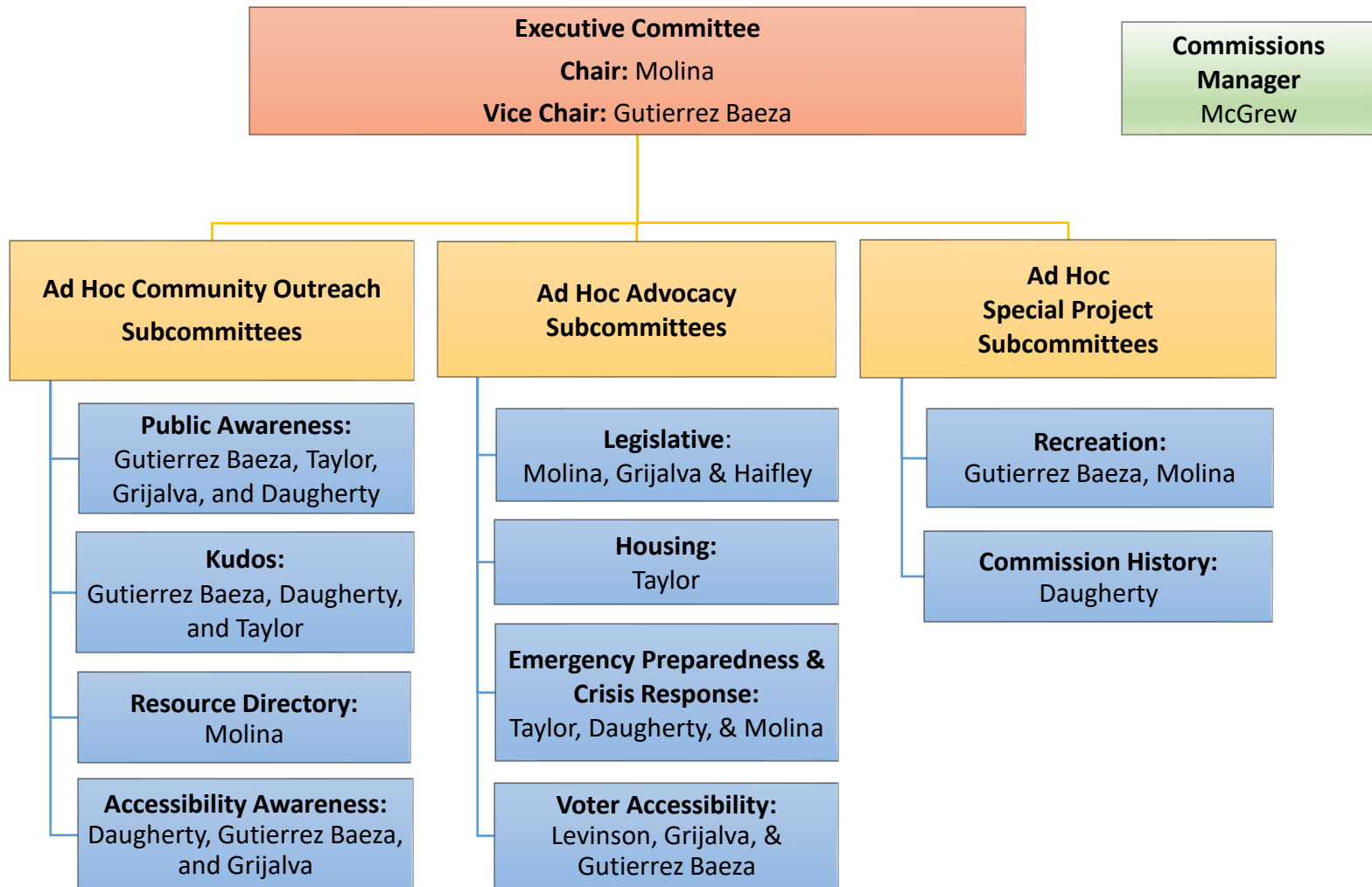
Respectfully,

David Molina, *Commission Chair*

On behalf of the *Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities*

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

January 1, 2023





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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2nd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor - Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 **unless held remotely**
REMOTE: Join Meeting: <https://zoom.us/join>
OR
Attend by Phone: +1 (669) 219-2599 (*6 to mute/unmute, *9 to raise hand)
Meeting ID: 495-687-4858 Passcode: 192244

*Unless noted otherwise below

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scccod.net as soon as information becomes available.

2023 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
February 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
March 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
April 13, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
May 11, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
June 8, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
August 10, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
September 14, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
October 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor
November 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwoods Conference Room 701 Ocean Street, 5 th Floor