



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2026
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Coastlines Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PRESENT: John Daugherty (1st District), Leigh Kearns (2nd District), Tymothie Hale (2nd District), Becky Taylor (3rd District), Richard Gubash (3rd District), Jessica Liddy Hayford (4th District), David Molina (5th District Co-Chair), Mitali Weiglein (5th District)
EXCUSED: Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (4th District Co-Chair)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)
GUESTS: Bertha Paredez (IHSS Advisory Commission Staff Liaison) was present. No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting convened at 12:36PM.

Commission welcomed new 1st District Commissioner Leigh Kearns.

2. Agenda Review

3. Approve April 9, 2026 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written

Motion/Second: Daugherty/Hale

Ayes: Daugherty, Kearns, Hale, Taylor, Gubash, Liddy Hayford, Molina

Abstentions: Weiglein

Motion passed.

4. Public Comment

5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

5.1. CalABLE Savings Program Overview

In Gutierrez Baeza's absence, this item was pended to a future meeting.

Liddy-Hayford arrived.

5.2. Community Life Services & County Employment Partnership Update

Liddy Hayford provided an update on the partnership between Community Life Services (CLS) and the County. She met with staff from the County Executive Office and was informed that additional funding for support services is not currently available. However, CLS can offer paid internships funded through the Department of Developmental Services and they identified potential placements. CLS submitted five resumes from clients seeking full-time employment opportunities, including a paralegal student. The Commission will continue to monitor developments and receive updates as available.

5.3. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook Workshop Report

Molina summarized his experience participating in a recent Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook Workshop. The workshop focused on affordable housing solutions for seniors. Commission will continue to monitor implementation efforts.

5.4. Consider IHSS Advisory Commission Joint Task Force Participation

Commission discussed the possibility of participating in the IHSS Advisory Commission's proposed Joint Task Force to collaborate on issues impacting the disabilities, seniors and IHSS program participant communities. No action will be taken until the IHSS Advisory Commission establishes a more specific scope.

6. Commission Priority Reports:

6.1. Accessibility Awareness Report

6.2. Accessible Recreation Report

Molina reported meeting with Parks staff regarding several recreation-related matters, including strategies to revitalize the swim program despite funding constraints and address ongoing staff turnover. Discussions also included the status of potential negotiations with Siltanen Pool to allow County Parks to offer low-stimulation swim hours for children with disabilities in the San Lorenzo Valley, though questions remain regarding appropriate lifeguard staffing. Additionally, they discussed opportunities to incorporate more disability-neutral and disability-positive programming into summer recreation offerings. Molina also reported being in communication with Supervisor Martinez regarding these issues.

6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report:

Staff reported that Housing for Health Director Robert Ratner is scheduled to speak at the June meeting on housing and the disabilities community.

6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

Daugherty summarized Paracruz eligibility renewal challenges including no "trip-by-trip" eligibility screening. METRO has indefinitely postponed presentations to both the Commission on Disabilities and the Seniors Commission. Daugherty will contact METRO's disability outreach coordinator to request a walkthrough of their accessibility training process.

Gubash left.

7. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters

Kearns shared her background as a former intellectual disabilities case worker and her interest in safety, accessibility, and recreation. Taylor announced a donation opportunity for an almost-new motorized wheelchair, noted an upcoming voter education meeting hosted by Supervisor Martinez, and reported that the Treasure Cove grand opening has been rescheduled. Commissioners will consider art wall exhibit proposals at the June meeting.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*