

February 6, 2025 Minutes of the Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee

PRESENT: Sharon Campbell, Chair; Tura Cowan, member; Laura Leyba, walk/roll audit chair; Don Bruestle, member; Tiffany Garcia, member; Rita Gonzales, member; Anna Jones, member; Mary Leonard, member; Joe Treanor, member; Charles Roy, Pueblo ADA Coordinator; Todd Berisford, Pueblo ADA Asst. Coordinator; Dylan Goodman, PACOG; Weston Burrer, Pueblo County ADA; Joshua Johnson, Emergency Planning; Thad Stetler, Pueblo Library; Chris Harner, Pueblo County; Kent Tompkins, Pueblo Transit; Olivia Leyva, Health Department; Ronald Sasaoka, Health Department; Lexi Romero Stewart, Housing.

ABSENT: Mikiel Ghelieh

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM with the video on the computer not working. Roll call was done on paper, and we skipped introductions as there were no new attendees. The January 3, 2025 minutes were approved unanimously. There were no members of the public to comment.

Transit Report: As Kent Tompkins needed to go to another meeting, he presented the Transit Report out of agenda order. There is an upcoming change to our university route. We will be adding a new stop down at the bottom of the on the side there from where the current stop is over by the campus housing in an effort to help those people that live there. But the Belmont bus will still pick up at the same stop at the university at the top of the hill. Because it is a new stop, it will add a bit of time to the route. When I have some updated maps, I'll get everybody that information just so that you'll know what the route looks like and everything. That's all I had.

Guest Speaker: Tiffany Garcia explained how she is able through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to educate business owners about why they should be hiring qualified people with disabilities. She dispels the usual myths about why it is a bad idea, pointing out that their Worker's Compensation premiums won't go up, there will be no more accidents than usual, and absenteeism won't be a problem. There are many resources available through the agency and elsewhere.

Committee Member updates: Laura's report on the PURA Communities Relations Committee was on the agenda and will not be repeated here. Sharon Campbell reported that one of the main doors at Skyview Middle School does not have the push-button door opener, and she will make sure that it is installed.

As Chris Kregel was not present, there was no information on CitiLift this month.

City Report:

Charles Roy reported on the current state of the street projects underway. There are a LOT of potholes in the roads, and they are repairing them as fast as possible. However, they can't use the hot asphalt that is more effective than the cold patch that the weather forces them to use and the repairs will not last as long. It is going to be a long winter. Because the City isn't getting as much money as it did in past years, there will be fewer projects in future years, including now.

There is a proposal by City Council to raise taxes, and they are working on a very specific plan for exactly where any money raised by the new tax will go in the next 5 years. Then, when the citizens see that the

projects were actually completed, we hope that they will vote to renew the tax for another 5 years.

Upcoming work on Bonforte Boulevard will create some problems for the Transit Department, and Chuck and Todd will work with Kent on sorting that out. One member of the Committee complained that the street light in front of her house was out of order. Unfortunately, the City has a contract with Black Hills Energy to maintain all of the lights in the city, and they are understaffed. All Chuck can do is forward the need for repair to take its place on their list.

County Report:

Weston Burrer reported that there is very little money to work with and there is very little happening. They are looking at opening a new Motor Vehicle satellite office in Pueblo West, but probably not until summer.

Emergency management:

Ron Sasoka reported from the Health Department that there are a lot more people ill, and RSV is on the rise, as is influenza. Covid is also on the rise. There are some outbreaks in long-term care facilities and assisted living homes, as well as day cares and schools. So, we need to social distance, wash our hands, and if you feel ill, wear a mask. If you notice at some facility where the staff is not washing their hands, call the Health Department and then we will track it down, too.

There was a question about the vaccination status of the hospital patients. Ron believes that a lot of victims have not been vaccinated. I think people are over getting vaccinated is really what it is One way to persuade people to get the RSV vaccine is to point out that they can pass it on to young family members. Young parents might want to say

no RSV, no see your grandbaby. The Health Department has tried approaches like that, but the younger generation that are in that 18 to like 30 age range they're not into vaccination. They do what they want.

It's kind of hard to tell them that this is the best practice for health. This is the reason why you want to do it. That way you don't end up in the hospital or, you know, your kid ends up in the hospital and you spend like 10 hours or five weeks in the hospital because of that. And then the public gets to pay for it.

Joshua Johnson reported that there are meetings being held in the Emergency Management building and the people running the meetings do not know how to use the assistive listening technology properly. Because of that, they are getting a simpler system that hopefully the groups will learn to use. They also need to tell their members and speakers how to use the microphones and actually talk into them. And they need to be reminded repeatedly during the meeting.

The Mount Carmel Veterans Center puts on a food bank on the first Wednesday of the month. And organizations can go out there and bring a table. It was yesterday for this month and I want to say 200 plus folks were out there. They had families out there and it truly is a food bank so you can go grab food and have your table there. It is outdoors in the parking lot behind St. Mary's. I will send out a flyer to everyone so you can share it.

The department is updating its emergency operations plan and encourages ADA Committee members to participate in the Functional Needs section. Chris is really taking the lead on that and wants to come to a Work Session in the next two or three months. Or Committee

members can come to their office to discuss the plans. The April Work Session will be devoted to this.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Laura Leyba reported that she requested at least 10 working days' notice to conduct walk audits and review plans. She also emailed everyone on the committee the Front Range passenger rail plan. And that is all for the ADA issues for the TAC.

OLD BUSINESS: Assistive listening devices and OWL microphone: Will also be reported on at the March meeting. Dylan Goodman reported that the OWL microphone is used in another department and is very capable.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Campbell

WORK SESSION: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 1-3 PM , Center Toward Self-Reliance

Topic: Committee Annual Report drafting