

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: August 13, 2026

To: Equal Opportunity & Access Section

From: **DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

File No.: 034.18437.21620.ACPD_2026_ Third Quarter

Subject: **ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
2026 THIRD QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) 2026 Third Quarter meeting was held on August 13, 2026, at 1100 hours. In accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, if a member of the public was interested in attending the meeting, the designated location was the CHP Modesto Area office, 4030 Kiernan Avenue, Modesto, CA 95356. Because not all ACPD members were able to attend in person, the meeting was also held via Microsoft Teams.

INVITED MEMBERS:

Gerardo Serrato, Chairperson, Captain, Modesto Area
Phillip Mackintosh, Vice-chairperson, Officer, Northern Division
Rochelle Buteau, Supervising Program Technician II, Support Services Section
Aurora Carlson, Office Technician (OT), Human Resources Section
Dara Mezger, Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor I (PSDS I), Fresno Communications Center (FCC)
Sabrina Dimassimo, Analyst II (A II), Selection Standards and Examinations Section
Ivan Sandoval, Officer, Inland Division
Alana Leyva, Office Assistant (OA), Hayward Area
Ryan Monahan, Captain, Dublin Area
Jamie Brewer, Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD), FCC
Antonia Urena, PSD, FCC
Elsie Shumer, PSDS II, Golden Gate Communications Center

INVITED GUESTS:

Brian Odin, Supervisor II, Equal Opportunity & Access Section (EOAS)
Brittan Planinz, A II, EOAS



OPENING REMARKS:

Captain Serrato opened the meeting and conducted roll call. Members were reminded to state their name before speaking and to mute their microphones when not speaking. Captain Serrato also shared two files with committee members through the meeting chat.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Old Business

Social Media Accounts Update and Discussion:

The committee discussed ACPD social media activity and the need to generate additional content to maintain relevance and increase public awareness. Members discussed establishing clear expectations and assigning quarterly responsibilities for social media content. Captain Serrato will assign each member a month during which they will be responsible for developing content for an ACPD social media post. A II Dimassimo expressed an interest in being assigned January.

PSDS I Mezger indicated she would be willing to assume additional social media responsibilities after October. Officer Sandoval and PSDS I Mezger will assist with social media responsibilities. Members with current access include Officer Sandoval, PSDS I Mezger, and OT Carlson.

Action Items:

Captain Serrato will assign each member a month to develop ACPD social media content. Members are encouraged to contribute content and identify opportunities to highlight ACPD activities, community involvement, and disability awareness.

Recruitment for ACPD Positions:

The committee discussed the need to recruit additional members to assist with the workload and increase awareness of the ACPD. Members were encouraged to speak with coworkers and others who may be interested in becoming involved with the committee.

Action Item:

Members will actively identify and encourage qualified individuals to participate in the ACPD.

NDEAM Updates:

The committee discussed preparations for the upcoming National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) events in Northern and Southern California. A II Dimassimo is coordinating the events. This is her first year overseeing the program and has received considerable feedback during the planning process.

The State Disability Council will not participate in the Northern California event. The committee continues to work on establishing communication with the Department of Rehabilitation. Vendor participation and event logistics are progressing well. Approximately 25

agencies have confirmed participation for the Northern California event, while the Southern California event currently has approximately 14 vendors, with a goal of reaching 20.

The Southern California event location was changed to an area capable of accommodating approximately 20 vendors. Restroom facilities and American Sign Language interpreters are being coordinated. A II Planinz received restroom facility quotes and is working to obtain the necessary approval. Efforts are also underway to secure an ASL interpreter for the Southern California event.

For the Northern California event at the State Capitol, parking remains limited. The committee discussed having participating members meet at Headquarters and carpool to the event to reduce parking concerns. A table and tent will be transported to the event.

Members attending the events were reminded that staff have been approved to wear the new ACPD logo shirts. Wearing the shirts is not mandatory; however, members were directed to follow the Department's dress code for public events when representing the Department.

The committee discussed the upcoming logistics meetings scheduled for September 8th and September 22nd. The committee discussed the importance of promoting the NDEAM events through ACPD socials throughout September and October. The address on the event flyer for Southern California will also be updated. Discussion also focused on using NDEAM as an opportunity to recruit individuals with disabilities and invite state agencies to participate and interact with state government. Members were encouraged to help increase awareness of CHP employment opportunities and ACPD's role in connecting the Department with the disability community.

Action Items:

Members will promote NDEAM events through ACPD socials during September and October. The event flyer will be updated with the correct address. Members interested in attending the Southern California NDEAM event will notify their commander and follow their chain of command to obtain approval. Captain Serrato will send information regarding attendance and approval procedures.

Art Contest:

The committee discussed the annual ACPD Art Contest. Two winners will attend the Northern California NDEAM event to receive their certificates. The committee also discussed continued efforts to increase the visibility of the art contest and the work of individuals with disabilities.

Action Item:

A II Planinz will continue coordinating with the Graphics Unit regarding the winning artwork.

AWARE Newsletter:

The committee discussed the upcoming AWARE NEWS newsletter. Members were asked to submit photographs showing their involvement in the community with individuals with disabilities. The newsletter will be distributed to CHP employees.

Action Item:

Members will provide photographs and relevant content for inclusion in the AWARE NEWS.

New Business

Wall Dedicated to ACPD:

The committee discussed creating a dedicated display at CHP Headquarters showcasing winners of the ACPD's annual art contest. The proposed display will highlight the top four art contest selections, including the first, second, third, and runner up. The display will include the artist's name, location, and title of the artwork. The artwork will be updated annually following each year's contest. The goal is to provide greater exposure to the art contest, recognize the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities, and increase awareness of ACPD throughout the Department.

ACPD Polos:

The committee discussed ACPD Polos and associated costs. Members interested in obtaining an ACPD Polo were directed to contact PSD Brewer. Information regarding Polo options and cost will be distributed to the committee.

Action Item:

PSD Brewer will distribute information regarding ACPD Polos.

Uniforms for NDEAM Events:

The committee discussed appropriate attire for members representing ACPD at NDEAM events. Staff have been approved to wear ACPD logo shirts. Members are not required to wear the shirts but are encouraged to wear CHP apparel when representing the Department. Uniformed officers are required to wear tan uniform with campaign covers.

Disability Awareness Award:

Members were encouraged to advocate for individuals who make significant contributions to the disability community. The committee discussed identifying individuals who demonstrate exceptional support and submitting appropriate nominations through established Department channels.

ACPD Awareness Materials:

ACPD stickers will be provided to assist with increasing awareness of the committee and its mission.

Committee Responsibilities:

The committee established responsibilities for meeting administration. OA Leyva will be responsible for preparing meeting minutes, with A II Dimassimo serving as the alternate. PSDS II Shumer will be responsible for preparing quarterly agendas.

Roundtable:

During the roundtable, members discussed opportunities to increase ACPD's community engagement and awareness. Captain Serrato emphasized that ACPD responsibilities extend beyond NDEAM, the annual art contest, and disability awareness awards. Members were encouraged to engage coworkers and identify opportunities to bridge gaps between CHP and the disability community. The committee discussed developing additional relationships with organizations serving individuals with disabilities, including opportunities to establish or strengthen partnerships with schools for the deaf. Members were encouraged to share potential social media opportunities with Officer Sandoval and PSDS I Mezger. The committee also discussed continuing efforts to engage veterans and other members of the disability community and identifying additional ways ACPD can move its mission forward.

PSDS I Mezger and PSD Brewer indicated they are available to attend the Southern California NDEAM event. Members were reminded that attendance will require approval through their respective chain of command.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2026, at 1100 hours at California Highway Patrol Headquarters. Please submit agenda items to Captain Serrato and PSDS II Shumer via email.



G. SERRATO, Captain
Commander
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Chairperson

cc: Equal Opportunity & Access Section