

# Behind the Scenes



## Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board Operations Committee met on June 28, 2021.

The Committee approved the following changes to the Board meeting cycle for July/August 2021

- > The Board Committee Meetings for Monday, July 19, 2021 are cancelled.
- > A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 19, 2021. The main topic will be Board Officer Elections.
- > A Board Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2021.
- > The Board Meeting for Monday, August 16, 2021 is cancelled.

The Board will return to the normal meeting cycle for September/October 2021 with committee meetings on September 20 and the full Board meeting on October 18.

**Andre Colaiace**  
*Executive Director*

## Access to host Virtual Community Meetings



Access will host the 2021 Virtual Community Meetings, using Zoom, on Saturday, July 31, 2021. There will be two meetings on that day. The first meeting will be in Spanish and will begin at 11:00 am; the second meeting will be in English and will start at 1:00 pm.

The purpose of our annual Community Meeting is to provide a forum where Access staff and service providers can engage with Access riders, while exchanging information promoting public involvement and participation. The agenda includes an operations update and overview; updates on the Where's My Ride App, Eligibility and Renewals; and an update on Rider 360. At the same time, Access riders will have the opportunity to ask questions of Access staff and service providers in attendance.

As always, we are looking forward to the Community Meeting as a great opportunity to engage with our riders.

For more information on this and other events, please visit Access' website at [accessla.org](https://accessla.org) and scroll down to the News and Access Events section on the left side of the page. You can then click on the Virtual Community Meeting event for further information. In addition, if you would like to stay up to date on all planned events and customer information, please sign up for alerts through our website or contact our Customer Service department at 800-827-0829 (Option 5) for assistance.

**Randy Johnson**  
*Director of Government Affairs & Outreach*

## Access Board appoints new CAC members

The Access Services Board of Directors recently appointed three new members to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). One of two advisory committees created by the Board, the CAC provides community input and advice to the Board and staff concerning operational and policy issues to help improve Access' transportation program.



### Bhumit Shah

As a natural born leader and long-time supporter of disability rights, Bhumit was recently named the new Systems Change Advocate for the Dayle McIntosh Center (DMC). Bhumit truly has a passion of bringing people together to come up with common sense solutions that can be mutually beneficial for all of the stakeholders. He started advocating for himself at the early age of 13 when he forced a transition from a special education program to a junior high school in his local area. He was also instrumental in ensuring that accommodations are made throughout his academic career. Over the past 4 years, Bhumit has worked tirelessly at

the DMC as the Personal Assistant Services Coordinator, where his role was to advocate for consumers to receive long-term care services and remain in community-based settings.

Bhumit holds a Master's Degree of Science in Health Care Administration from California State University, Long Beach. Prior to working at the DMC, he worked with Wellpoint a Fortune 500 company, where he served on several committees to ensure diversity in the workplace.

### Scott Baron

Scott received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from California State University Fullerton. After graduation, he joined Disability Rights California as a coordinator for the Developmental Disabilities Peer Self Advocacy Unit. Scott provided self-advocacy trainings to clients throughout the state on a variety of topics including voting, clients' rights and emergency preparedness. In 2013, Scott became an Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) Southern California Peer Advocate. He provides self-advocacy trainings to regional center consumers and community organizations. He also serves on committees that affect the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and is passionate about advocating for the rights of individuals in restrictive settings.



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### **Kimberly Hudson**

Kim holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and brings an extensive background of experience in disability advocacy to the CAC. As a person with a disability, she has been working with the disability community for over 30 years and worked as a social worker for persons with chronic illnesses for over 20 years. She currently works with artists who have disabilities and serves on Pitzer College's alumni advisory board. Kim possesses an in-depth knowledge of cross-disability expertise through her affiliation with organizations such as United Cerebral Palsy Los Angeles (UCPLA), Service Center for Independent Life (SCIL) and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

She is excited about serving on the CAC because she understands how essential reliable transportation is to everyone and knows that her professional and personal experience will be useful on the CAC.

Please join me in congratulating the newest members of the CAC.

**Matthew Avancena**  
*Director, Planning and Coordination*

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## **Commendations**

"Access' program helped my father Edgardo Cayentano go to his dialysis treatment every Saturday. As his daughter who lives in Wisconsin, it gave me peace of mind that such a program can assist my dad during this difficult time. The customer service department is very helpful, friendly, and understanding, especially if I have to cancel. Thank you to all the Access team for your exceptional help."

**Wendy Cayentano for Rider Edgardo Cayentano**  
*Rider since May 2021*

"I am filing a smile for Access's dependability. My experience has been pleasant and reliable. For someone that depends on Access's transportation services for my livelihood, it means the world."

**Christina Perlata**  
*Rider since March 2021*