

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUE**

**July 11, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth McNally, Chairperson, at 1:50 pm. Introductions were done. There was not quorum so the minutes for June meeting couldn't be approved.

**Chairperson's Report:** Ms. McNally was out of the state for 3 weeks but was able to attend an Airport Access meeting and a VOAID – vulnerable populations meeting. One item that has been discussed but not resolved at VOAID is what happens to people with disabilities who choose to shelter at home and are not affiliated with an agency but needs some help either before or after a storm. The way the system is set up it requires some type of affiliation with an agency in order to receive help. Ms. McNally had also brought to VOAID –Vulnerable Population subcommittee the idea that they look into developing an at risk data bases similar to Broward for persons who are disabled or elderly but independent and have no connect with agencies. Ms. McNally had brought this idea to Heidi Johnson-Wright so she might be able to bring this idea to OEM&HS. There was no Riders meeting for July but there will be a Riders meeting on August 14 from 6:30-8:30 at the South Dade Regional Library. There was some discussion on emergency planning: it was mentioned that there is a new ADA Coordinator for OEM&HS. Heidi Johnson-Wright mentioned that our office is expecting to be on the mock exercise steering committee and will be including CODI in the exercises. She also said that staff from Hands On Miami and County employees will be utilized in an emergency.

**Employment Committee:** Damian Gregory had nothing to report but Mr. Wood said that in 1985 he was trying to get the County to set goals for hiring people with disabilities. Mr. Gregory had said that his committee had discussed goals and a type of set aside system but they decided the best way to achieve the goal of bring people with disabilities into the County was to establish the internship program.

**Housing Committee:** Ronald Fulton reported on housing issues. There was some discussion about the VCA and the ADA Coordinator. Ilene Hyams explained that Danny Howe is responsible for the implementation of the VCA (Voluntary Compliance Agreement with Federal HUD) and Priscilla Coq is the ADA Coordinator for Housing. Since there were questions involving housing programs and the VCA it was requested that both Mr. Howe and Ms. Coq be invited to a CODI meeting in the fall. Mr. Fulton asked if he could attend a VCA training that Mr. Howe is overseeing and I suggested he call Mr. Howe to find out the date.

**Access- Transportation Committee:** Denise Valkema reported on the new initiative – studying accessible parking and the use of placards. Ilene Hyams read the minutes from the June 26<sup>th</sup> committee meeting on the new initiative. Mr. Wood explained the precedent set, he believes, was set when the Miami Dade Police allowed a photograph to be used to ticket his vehicle that was parked slightly over the access aisle.

**Membership Committee:** There was no membership meeting this month but Ms. McNally reported that paperwork of proposed CODI members had been delivered to Commissioner Rolle and Commissioner Edmonson.

**Old Business:** Ms. McNally asked about the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be five CODI members out of town on that date. It was agreed that there would not be a formal monthly meeting but would be a workshop meeting in August to go over the CODI Ordinance and Bylaws. Ilene Hyams will look for a convenient date for the meeting. Mr. Gregory raised the idea of having a CODI retreat in September to set the agenda for the first 6 months of 2008, to invite the Commissioner's and their aides, and to go over meeting time and CODI's Ordinance and Bylaws. Ms. McNally request Ilene Hyams to go ahead and book CODI's 2008 schedule on the second Wednesday of the month since the building manager is already booking dates for 2008 season; so CODI has a backup incase by September the dates they want are unavailable.

**New Business:**

Maude Lizano Gonzales, Transit's ADA Coordinator, gave out a report summarizing some of the most notable changes the draft revisions of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buses and Vans – Part 1192- ADAAG

Guidelines for transportation vehicles. She encouraged members who had an opinion on this proposed guidelines to write to the FDOT. Ilene Hyams said that she had sent the entire proposed guidelines and how to respond to FDOT to CODI members but if anyone else wanted the information to please call her office and she would send the information by email or mail it out. There was discussion on Transit Secrete Shopper program. Transit has, through an RFP process, a private company doing the actually work. Damian Gregory asked if CODI could have a copy of the contract. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that she would get it to the ADA Office and they would send it out to the members and any interested parties.

Monica Beltran, ADA Coordinator for the Airport reported on the Airport Access meeting on June 20, 2007. She reported that there were representatives from service providers attending the meeting. At the meeting it was agreed that Ilene Hyams from the ADA Office and Jose Grande from Deaf Service Bureau would continue providing training to Airport staff. Ms. Beltran reported at the Airport committee and at CODI that the website has been updated, curb cuts were being fixed on both the upper and lower level, detectable warning are being placed on the lower level, and second dog relief area was completed. She had also met with the tenants of the Airport and spoke with them about the ADA. Further more they have moved the smoking area away from the front doors of the Airport and visual paging has been set up in various places in the Airport.

There was discussion about Mr. Brennan's complaint. Ms. Beltran said that all of his concerns had been addressed with timelines and she hasn't heard any more from Mr. Brennan as to his satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

Mr. Gregory asked about CODI's being involved in any complaint. Ilene Hyams said that there is a formal complaint process in the County with guidelines on how a complaint is handled and CODI isn't part of that process. Ms. Beltran said that it was public information. Ilene Hyams said that she thought the ADA Office then could give information on any formal complaint to CODI but would check with her Director. Mr. Gregory requested that CODI be kept in the "loop" as much as possible.

It was brought up that CODI members- names- phone numbers- and web address should be on the web. Ilene Hyams said that she certainly could do that but would suggest that CODI brings that up when there is a quorum.

Mr. Wood presented a document to CODI outlining some of the inaccessible counters found in Miami Dade County buildings. He read the document to CODI and also gave a copy to the CODI members. CODI didn't indicate a plan of action but Ilene Hyams said that her office was address some of the counters and would ..

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

### **Announcements:**

Disability Unity Day – CIL #11 Tropical Park 7900 SW 40 street 10:00-3:00pm July 20<sup>th</sup> – 305-751-8025 RSVP