MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
November 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Denise Valkema 2nd Vice Chair of CODI at 1:35 pm. Ms. McNally was unable to be at the meeting due to illness. Introductions were done. The agenda was accepted with one addition: Elections was to be added under new business. The minutes for October 2008 were accepted .

Chairperson's Report: No report was given.

Ilene Hyams reported that CODI must go through a sunset review. She explained what the review was and why every two years CODI must vote to continue their work.

Motion made by Damian Gregory and seconded by Denise Valkema to strongly support the continuation of the Commission on Disability Issues (CODI). The vote went as follows:

Damian Gregory	Yes
Jackson David	Yes
Denise Valkema	Yes
Marie Schmidt	Yes
Jose Martinez	Yes
John Miller	Yes
Marilyn Larrieu	Yes

Ilene Hyams reported that Elizabeth McNally will be coming off the board in January of 2009. The By Laws only allow a person to serve 8 years on the Board and must come off for two years before they can reapply. Ms. Valkema reported that Ms. McNally has formed a nominating committee made up of her, Marie Schmidt and Marilyn Larrieu.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Denise Valkema asked the CODI members to look at the new STS application. Several questions were raised. Rita Kane was there and she told CODI why a new application was needed. The new application was a cost saving measure and for accountability. The old applications had been reproduced and sent out by others. Ms. Kane stressed that the application was between the potential rider and Transit.

Motion made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Jose Martinez to accept the application as written by Transit. Motion was passed unanimously.

Next Ms. Valkema asked CODI to review the no-show policy. There was discussion on the no –show policy. The Access/Transportation Committee supports para-transit's policy however there was some discussion. Ronald Fulton felt that an exception should be made for people who use personal attendants because sometimes they don't come on time and that are why people aren't ready for pick –up. However, it was said that if a person knows how long it would take to get ready and that if their attendant was not timely the rider could call STS and cancel the ride instead of allowing the van to make the trip. Ms. Kane said that the no-show policy is needed to penalize the abusers of the systems.

Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Jose Martinez to accept the no-show policy put forth by Transit. Motion was passed with one opposed.

Ms. Valkema asked CODI to review the inactive policy. Although there was some discussion, Ms. Kane reported that the Trapeze system could not handle the huge amount of data if they didn't at times take some of the information out of the active data base. She affirmed that purge doesn't mean delete and further said that this had to be done. CODI then requested that the policy be put in the Rider's Guide.

Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Marie Schmidt to ask Transit to put the No-Show policy in the Rider's Guide. The Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Valkema asked CODI to consider the scope of service area. At present what is being done is not what is in the contract and it is mandatory that when the new RFP is written there is a clear understanding what the service area is so the prospective bidders know how to prepare their bid. There was discussion on the wording of the service area. Some felt it should say all of Miami-Dade County but Ms. Kane said that isn't true that there are some parts of Miami-Dade that para-transit doesn't go to. There was discussion concerning the ¾ mile from the a transit stop. According to Transit there are 5 people who fall outside the ¾ mile plus 5 mile area.

Motion was made by John Miller and seconded by Marie Schmidt to recommend to the County Commissioners that CODI hopes that the current practice of picking up people in most areas of Miami-Dade County continues but if because of cost savings a change is needed CODI recommends providing service to within 3/4mile plus 5 miles of a Transit bus stop. It is further recommended

that the 5 people who would be outside the areas are grandfathered in and would retain service from there area. Motion passed 4 to 3.
Ilene Hyams read the 13 items that will be put in the new RFP by Transit. There was some discussion concerning the reservation hours. Reservations for next day travel will be taken from &:00 AM to 3:00 PM 7 days a week. Reservations for 2-7 days in advance will be taken from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM 7 days a week. Reservations for next day travel will be taken after 3:00 PM and before 5:00 PM only in cases of non-emergency medical appointments, court or jury summons, other special conditions with approval from the County. There was some discussion about people who work and don't know their next day schedule until later in the day. Damian Gregory said that when the County had used the 3:00 pm cutoff a number of years ago it was more difficult for him. Ms. Kane said that about half of the reservations in any one day come in from 3:00 PM till 5:00 PM. Also this is the peak of travel and they receive a lot of calls concern late vehicles. Since the contract only allows Transit to call riders up to 8:00pm to schedule for the next day, this places a strain on the reservation system. Under the ADA statutes an entity may not call riders after 8:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS: Alfredo Rodriguez, Division Director for Community Action Agency, came to CODI to explain what is happening with the Single family Rehab Program- Disabled Initiative. He explained that CAA is waiting for a contract from the office of Community and Economic Development (CED). There was been changes at CED and a new director should be named before the first of the year. CAA has been trying to finish up with some of the homes that were still in process when the program was changed from Housing. These are difficult situations since many have had the permits expired and some of the work has had to be redone. He reported that he has worked on a draft contract with CED and would also work with the ADA Office to be sure that certain issues are addressed. He also said that he has to add staff in order to run the program which will also cause a delay. He is expecting to have to put one staff member on just cleaning up the back log of unfinished homes. He is hoping that in 60 -90 days there will be a contract and people in place. He wanted to stress that even though this program hasn't provided service there are other programs within his division that has helped people with disabilities. CAA will do the actual construction but CED will administer the loan program and disburse the monies. He would expect that one person could only handle 20 job sites. Some questions followed. A question was asked about their expertise when it comes to evaluating the needs of people with disabilities. He said that they would look outside CAA for that component. Another questions was asked about how they advertise and he explained that they don't do large scale advertising because they need to have a manageable program but if there is a need a person can call switchboard, 311 or their office.

Mr. Gregory reported that he had attended the Airport Access Committee. He had difficulty using the bathroom in Concourse F9. He said that the committee will address the issue at their January meeting. They might retrofit one set of bathrooms or make a unisex-family bathroom.

The CODI website was briefly discussed. If the ADA Office has to update the CODI website before the next meeting than the office will list the members and their email addresses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ilene Hyams reported that on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 PM in the Commission Chambers there will be an interactive/televised public event to gather input from all stakeholders on the County's Strategic Plan. The event will be broadcast live on Miami-Dade TV and live via webcast on www.miamidade.gov/webcast. Residents can provide comments in-person, they can also call 311 or email to stratplan@miamidade.gov

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.