

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES**  
**September 23, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Damian Gregory at 1:45 pm. Introductions were done. Agenda and minutes for August 2009 were accepted with two corrections in the minutes.

**Attendance:** R. Fulton, D. Gregory, J. Martinez, J. Granda, A. Rigerman, D. Valkema, and M. Olivera

**Chairperson's Report:** Damian Gregory asked for a moment of silence in memory of Senator Ted Kennedy. He reported that few people were at the Riders meeting and Para-Transit said that they might not have a meeting each month due to lack of participation. Chairman encouraged everyone who uses para-transit to go to the next meeting so meetings are not reduced. The Riders Meeting is on the first Tuesday of each month, next one will be October 6<sup>th</sup> at 701 NW 1 Court. He attended a Cross Disability Transportation Issues committee and would like CODI members to educate the Commissioners on using Transportation Disadvantage funds for para-transit and the ramifications if they change to a ¾ mile corridor. He reported at the Transportation Disadvantaged State meeting: Zuni won the safety award, ATS won the operator of the year award, MPO won an award and Betty McNally won an honorable mention for the Volunteer of the Year. Chairman Gregory also distributed the 10 ground rules for CODI meetings which will be in effect until at least February when his term expires. Mr. Gregory also distributed contact information for all of the commission staff members and encouraged CODI members to use it to remain in full contact with commissioners and staff.

**Committee Reports:** Denise Valkema read the minutes from the September 4<sup>th</sup> Transportation meeting. She mentioned that the committee would like to educate the Commissioners concerning the ¾ corridor, TD funding and the RFP which states one thing but in actuality, Para transit does something different.

**New Business:** Chairman continued the discussion on Transportation Disadvantaged funding.

**Motion made by Denise Valkema and seconded by Jose Granda to write a letter to the Commissioner concerning how changing to a ¾ mile corridor for para-transit could affect the funding for para-transit and create the need for additional trips through the Transportation Disadvantage program. Motion passed unanimously.**

Clarence Brown project manager from OCED spoke briefly about the Single Family Rehab program. He reported that OCED would provide the underwriting but CAA will administer the program. Odis Olivero, who is the CAA project manager, then spoke. He said CAA would oversee the application process. When asked about eligibility, he said he thought they would model after para-transit. Ilene Hyams spoke and asked him to work with the ADA Office since she felt para-transit criteria would not fit appropriately into this program. There was discussion on certification of Environmental Assess ability Consultants. Mr. Olivero answered a question by saying that there were 220 people on the waiting list and about 10% were people with disabilities. They have 2.9 million for 2 years and expect to finish 75 projects in 2 years. There would be a cap for consultants and the budget came from Surtax dollars.

**Membership Committee: Motion made by Ronald Fulton and seconded by Jose Martinez to send Sandra Hicks name to Commissioner Sally Heyman- if Sally Heyman chooses not to appoint Ms. Hicks, then Ms. Jones name will be submitted. Motion was passed with one opposed: Alan Rigerman.** There was much discussion. Mr. Dacey was outraged that for eight months CODI didn't have a person who was totally blind on the commission. Chairman explained that CODI membership process must conform to the County's Advisory Board ordinance which state that the representation of the board must be representative of the community. So no men would be brought forth for commission consideration until one more woman was appointed to CODI. Ilene Hyams also said that people have been brought to the front of the applicant list due to a disability that needed to be represented, or gender, or Commissioner's choice of candidate. Further, Chairman Gregory pointed out that CODI does have two present members, John Miller and Denise Valkema who have significant vision problems and with the addition of Sandra Hicks, if she is appointed by Commissioner Heyman, there would be a third person.

**Old Business:** Ms. Gonzales from Transit said that the request for signs at elevators and for contrasting color on the Metro-Rail stair was in process. However, funding might impact on these request.

**Open Discussion:** Ronald Fulton brought up Haulover Beach and the need for an accessible pathway to go further to the water. **Motion was made by Ronald Fulton and seconded by Denise Valkema to write a letter requesting that parks and Recreation look into providing access to Haulover and then extend that access to all beaches. Motion was passed.**

Ronald Fulton brought up an issue at Dade Auditorium. **Motion was made by Alan Rigerman and it was seconded by Denise Valkema that Dade Auditorium incorporate into their policies and procedures that there should be no sight line obstructions in front of people who use mobility devices so they will may have the same experience as anyone else who attend functions at Dade Auditorium. Motion passed**

Alan Rigerman brought up issues of accessible parking and close entrances from the accessible parking in two locations of Miami Lakes. It was explained that he should contact Miami Lakes, State Attorney's office, or the Dept. of Justice in order to effect a change; CODI was not the right venue.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

All members and guests were encouraged to go downstairs to the Government Center to participate in a demonstration of the EASY Card on a Miami-Dade Transit Bus in order to address ease of use and accessibility concerns for riders with disabilities.