

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES Minutes for October 26, 2011.  
Minutes prepared by Roslyn Alic-Batson, Internal Services Department.**

The CODI Meeting was called to order by Mr. Martinez, Chair, at 1:56 pm.

Attendance: District 1 Commissioner Jordan: John Miller: Absent  
District 2 Commissioner Monestine: Jackson David: Absent  
District 3 Commissioner Edmonson: Jose Granda: Present  
District 4 Commissioner Heyman: Vacant CODI Seat  
District 5 Commissioner Barreiro: Jose "Ernie" Martinez (Chair): Present  
District 6 Commissioner Sosa: Pedro Rodriguez: Absent  
District 7 Commissioner Suarez: Harry Horgan: Present  
District 8 Commissioner Bell: Jesus Garcia: Excused  
District 9 Commissioner Moss: Ron Fulton: Present  
District 10 Commissioner Souto: Dr. Sam Kohlenberg: Present  
District 11 Commissioner Martinez: Denise Valkema: Absent  
District 12 Commissioner Diaz: Marilyn Larrieu: Present  
District 13 Commission Bovo: Alan Rigerman: Excused

Approval: The October agenda could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

Announcements: Heidi Johnson-Wright announced that Miami-Dade Transit was having a public hearing on Thursday, October 27, 2011 in reference to the Para-transit RFP at Overtown Transit Village. Ms. Johnson-Wright also stated that CODI monthly meeting notices must be placed on the County calendar a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting. CODI committee meetings need to have at least a one week notice. Due to reduction in staff in the ADA office, committees are now required to generate their own meeting minutes. Jennifer Pina made an announcement on the upcoming Epilepsy Awareness Month events.

Reports from Standing Committee Chairs:

Membership: Membership Chair Dr. Sam Kohlenberg reported that three applications were submitted to Commissioner Sally Heyman (Dist. 4). One of those three candidates -- Harry Horgan -- was appointed by Commissioner Suarez (Dist. 7.) Also, Commissioner Bovo (Dist. 13) appointed Alan Rigerman. Mr. Martinez requested that the membership chair send Jennifer Pina's name and a copy of her resume to Commissioner Heyman. Jennifer Pina will send her resume to Ms. Johnson-Wright and will copy Mr. Martinez. A request was also made to forward the resume of Paul Edwards to Commissioner Heyman for consideration. Ms. Marilyn Larrieu asked why the Commissioners appoint individuals that are not recommended to them. Mr. Martinez responded that Commissioners have the power to reject names recommended to them by CODI and make their own appointments. Mrs. Johnson-Wright stated that Commissioners' appointments are final.

Access: Mr. Martinez stated that he attended the last Access Committee meeting at which issues about homeless shelter access and barriers in the intake process were discussed. Also discussed were sidewalks and alterations, the public's access to the transit RFP hearing. It was requested that the County have a pre-bid meeting. Mr. Martinez will send the notes of the Access Committee to Ms. Johnson-Wright. Mr. Ron Fulton asked if the Para-transit meeting was going to be held on Thursday. Mr. Martinez responded affirmatively.

Housing: Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Larrieu to give an update from the Housing Committee meeting. She stated that the minutes of the Oct. 12, 2011 accurately reflect what was discussed at the meeting. The main point discussed was how to help families find accessible housing when they have more than one member with a disability. The goal is to identify more housing. The Committee discussed getting vouchers for people with disabilities, as well as compiling a list or creating a clearinghouse of developers to identify housing units that can be made accessible. They also discussed transitions from nursing homes to accessible housing in the community and how to obtain vouchers for people making the transition. Mr. Martinez stated that the City of Chicago partners with its Center for Independent Living in a housing transition program. Those transitioning out of nursing homes get voucher priority. Ms. Larrieu stated several organizations, such as the Florida Department of Health, Spinal Cord, DCF and her program previously had a grant that was used to transition

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people and fund the cost of home furnishings, but the grant program ended. Mr. Martinez recommended through CODI to have the County develop policy standards to prioritize housing units for people with disabilities. There is a need to increase the number of accessible units in existing buildings and to work with the Commission to develop some kind of policy standard asking for a monitoring mechanism. He will request the Housing Committee look for ways to increase number of accessible units. Ms. Larrieu stated this is why the committee was suggesting the creation of a clearinghouse. Mr. Martinez will attend the next Housing Committee meeting to flesh out issues and come up with an action plan. Mr. Fulton stated that when a developer builds a building with accessible units, if and when the building is sold the availability of accessible units does not carry over to the new building owner.

Chairperson's Report: Mr. Martinez attended meetings with Public Works on sidewalk alterations. He also attended meetings with Para-transit on the upcoming RFP and a public hearing before the bid is released. He met with Ms. Johnson-Wright about transition of the office, which consists of one staff member. Mr. Horgan asked how the reduction in staff will affect the running of the office. Ms. Johnson-Wright responded that she will do her best to carry out the work formerly done by three people. Ms. Johnson-Wright also stated that it is too early to answer what the exact staffing challenges will be, as it has only been two days since the other staff was laid off. She is getting help with CODI support from Ms. Alic-Batson from the Office of Capital Improvements. Mr. Martinez spoke to Mr. Horgan about Shake-A-Leg Miami and his experiences with recreational programs. He would like to schedule some sunshine meetings with Mr. Horgan to develop a CODI recreation committee. Mr. Horgan suggested having a CODI Bay Day and inviting the CODI members, as well as the disability community, and ADA Coordinators from the municipalities.

Old Business: Julio Martinez -- ADA Coordinator for the Public Works Department -- gave details about how the municipalities and the County interact on ADA issues. He also discussed how County departments work with citizens from different municipalities to accomplish specific issues. Mr. Ernie Martinez spoke about sidewalk alterations and maintaining continuous access for people with disabilities during the span of the project. He stated he met with Esther Callas, Public Works Director. She seemed very committed to working on accessibility issues. Mr. Ernie Martinez inquired about what happens when a bus stop is made inaccessible due to public works projects that, for example, tear up sidewalks near the bus stop. Ms. Maud Lizano, ADA Coordinator for Transit, responded that the bus stop may be made temporarily inactive and bus operators have discretion to stop at different locations to pick up disabled passengers. Mr. Julio Martinez suggested that citizens utilize 311 when they have right of way access complaints. The complaints are routed to the appropriate department within 24 hours. Mr. Ernie Martinez suggested testing 311 and the complaint response/routing process. A question was raised about the existing policy for dealing with broken sidewalks and keeping the local residents with disabilities informed. Mr. Julio Martinez stated that construction managers are trained to be aware of disability access needs and he is typically included in project planning meetings before projects get underway. Discussion ensued about whether Public Works has formalized policies or standard operating procedures to deal with needs of disability community to ensure reliability and continuity of issues being addressed. Mr. Fulton asked about bus operators being trained. Mr. William Velez of Miami-Dade Transit responded that bus operators are extensively trained.

Mr. Martinez made reference to the RFP 800 public hearing scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011. He voiced concerns about the prior public notice of the hearing. He felt that the notice was not given sufficiently in advance, and that few people from the disability community knew about it. He wanted to know if another meeting could be scheduled with better public notice. Mr. Velez responded that he will share the concerns with the Transit director and deputy director. He further stated that he was under the impression the flyers went out to all of the centers that provide services to people with disabilities with which Transit has a relationship. He stated that the RFP has been officially advertised and the scope has been defined, but will definitely take CODI's concerns back to Transit administration. Mr. Martinez asked if Para-transit is still within bus operations. Mr. Velez responded that he was told that Para-transit will be moving under the purview of the deputy director of Transit.

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Open Forum: Ms. Jennifer Pina stated a concern about construction taking place near her place of business. The sidewalk is not passable on either side of the street, which presents a hazard for clients coming to the office for services.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.

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