



Miami-Dade County

Minutes

Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)

*Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128
18th Floor, Conference Room 18-4*

Date:	Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Time:	1:30 est. – 4:00 est.
Call to Order Time:	12:30 est.
Meeting Adjourned:	3:58 est.

I. Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed

District 1 Commissioner Jordan	John Miller 1 st Vice Chair	Present
District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David Access Committee Chair	Present
District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda	Present
District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Earl Oaks Employment Committee Chair	Present
District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Jose (Ernie) Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Pedro Rodriguez Housing Committee Chair	Present
District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair	Present
District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia CODI Secretary & Transportation Committee Chair	Present
District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton 2 nd Vice Chair	Absent
District 10 Commissioner Souto	Dr. Sam Kohlenberg Membership Committee Chair	Present
District 11 Commissioner Martinez	Denise Valkema	Present
District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Marilyn Larrieu Housing Committee Co-Chair	Excused Absence
District 13 Commission Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Present
Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Dianne Steinberg ISD, Administrative & Business Services Division Recording Secretary	Present
	Celia Hudson	Present

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	ISD, Administrative and Business Services Division, Division Director (Acting)	
	Raul Rios , Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM), ADA Sidewalk Compliance, Highway Division	Present
	William Velez Chief of Operations for ParaTransit, Miami-Dade Transit	Present

I.	Approval of Agenda:	The CODI Chairman called for approval of the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Alan Rigerman, second by Denise Valkema. Motion passed.
II.	Approval of CODI Minutes:	The CODI Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of (March 28, 2012) meeting. Minutes were not available and will be provided.
III.	Opening Comments:	<i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i> No public comments at this time
IV.	Announcements	

V. Open Comments	<p>Raul Rios, from Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) spoke, explaining that PWWM is responsible strictly for Title 2 issues which include all Public Dedicated Right of Way Issues, from the Miami-Dade County property line out, from sidewalk to sidewalk. Additionally, he stated that PWWM works closely with the Miami-Dade County Transit (MDT) Department on accessibility issues in order to provide compliance for all the public service areas such as the County libraries, parks etc.</p> <p>Raul Rios advised that he received a survey from the US Department of Transportation requesting feedback on the use of public transportation, as well as STS. He forwarded the link to the CODI Chairman and Heidi Johnson-Wright, MDC Internal Services, ADA Coordinator, and requested that the Committee members send it out. He advised that tools like this can encourage funding and can be a voice for the needs of CODI, such as frequency of services and accessibility issues.</p> <p>Mr. Rios informed the Board that he had met with the CODI Chairman, Ernie Martinez, regarding complaints and obstacles concerning the area where the CODI Chairman presides. He stated that PWWM receives approximately 100 complaints per year regarding the lack of accessibility, obstacles, broken sidewalks, no sidewalks, missing curve cuts etc. This is in addition to the hundreds of standard repair requests for roads, bridges and canals received each year.</p> <p>He stated that PWWM conducts interviews per the U.S. Department of Justice protocol with the originator of the service request, to identify the requester’s desired destination. This service is called an ADA Access Hotline, and has been know as this since its inception.</p> <p>Alan Rigerman requested clarification on the scope of responsibility of the municipalities and that of PWWM, concerning any issue once raised and located within a municipality, and how it is dealt with. Raul Rios explained that PWWM has a network of state roads within the county such as US 1, I-95, US 41 etc., and a network of canals, roads and expressways which the County built and continually maintains. Mr. Rios used the example of County installed traffic lights, approximately 26,000 altogether, which PWWM is responsible to maintain, as well as MDRF and the installation of fire hydrants which PWWM maintains, as well.</p> <p>Allen Rigerman raised concerns that in the town of Miami Lakes, east of Palmetto overpass on 154, on the right side of the sidewalk there is a wall, and on left side of the sidewalk, next to a heavily trafficked area a 5-6 ft. drop down to the curb exists. Additionally, there are signs and street lights in the middle</p>
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	<p>of the sidewalk. He advised that bicycle and wheelchair users could be at risk. He inquired as to who would be responsible to address this issue to.</p> <p>Raul Rios reported that there is a network of County roads not only within all incorporated Miami Dade County, which includes 5,000 linear miles or roads, that are maintained by PWWM but in addition, there are certain roads within the 36 municipalities and sections of roads such as Bird Rd, 57th Ave. etc. that fall under their authority. The challenge for PWWM is to determine if the issue is under the jurisdiction of PWWM. He stated that on occasion, his department will forward the request to the municipalities, such as City of Miami Beach, City of Miami etc.</p> <p>A discussion on jurisdiction ensued with the Board making recommendations. John Miller continued the discussion regarding the allotment of authority being broken up into inter-dispersed locations where PWWM has authority in the midst of all the others. He stated that some of the complaints received are within the municipalities. In these cases, PWWM could research the issue and call the ADA Coordinator for that municipality. Mr. Rios clarified that If any issue involves concrete (sidewalk) it is automatically the responsibility of PWWM. Under Federal law, PWWM must provide service. This includes outside the parks, at the Crandon tennis facility, etc.</p> <p>Mr. Rios also addressed the accessibility issue regarding the two bus stops outside the Crandon tennis facility, noted in the last CODI meeting. Mr. Rios confirmed that pictures and measurements were taken of the two bus stops, and it was determined that better access is needed, by way of construction of a sidewalk.</p> <p>John Miller addressed the accessibility and obstruction issues involving signs for STS stops for STS vehicles. Mr. Miller stated that over the last two years at the Miami-Dade College, InterContinental Campus, on 8th Street and 27th Avenue, STS Stops do not exist and the vehicle drivers are unaware of the drop-off and pick-up locations for people.</p> <p>William Velez, Chief of Operations for ParaTransit, clarified that Miami-Dade College has a designated Signals and Signage Office to address these issues. He pointed out that there may be three jurisdictions involved. He advised CODI that MDT will work on a solution. He noted that MDT will survey the area and confirmed that MDT will be putting up the requested signage.</p>
<p>VI. Old/New Business</p>	<p>Harry Horgan, CODI Education and Outreach Committee Chair updated the CODI Board. He stated the Committee’s directive is to promote the abilities of People with Disabilities and to communicate and advance the best the County has to offer. The Committee is currently preparing a Mission Statement. The projects and activities for 2012 are in accordance with MDC, Administrative Order 10-10 and include establishing email communications with the ADA Coordinators of the 36 MDC Municipalities, and in County departments with over 50 employees. Heidi Johnson-Wright, ADA Coordinator, MDC will provide the list of ADA Coordinators. The aim is to have the Coordinators participate by attending CODI meetings, completing the survey, and compiling a list of their ADA accomplishments and the major accessibility challenges they face.</p> <p>The Committee will be hosting two events this year; the ADA Anniversary Event on July 26, 2012, developed in conjunction with the Offices of Mayor Gimenez and Commissioner Joe Martinez and the National Disabilities Awareness Month In October 2012 with Abilities Explosion: called “CODI Fun Day on the Bay” taking place at the Shake a Leg Facility.</p>
	<p>A. <u>SELF-SERVICE GASOLINE STATIONS/ ATTENDANTS REGULATIONS</u></p> <p>Timothy Werner (Advocacy Committee Chair, Florida Paralyzed Vets Assoc.) made a presentation. In 1991, ADA required gas stations to assist people with disabilities in pumping gas. He stated that the Miami-Dade County Commission may not have a clear understanding that People with Disabilities drive and therefore run the risk of getting injured or having their vehicles damaged, and</p>

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that they cannot get to the pump. State law requires that, if you have an accessible parking placard and you honk your horn, someone must come out of the gas station and assist you. Mr. Werner stated that this does not work, in practice.

In January, Hillsborough County passed an ordinance requiring gas stations to follow the law. He stated that a sticker must be attached to gas pumps and states: "Assistance Available, please call (phone number of the gas station.) He stated that approximately 91% or more of all people carry a cell phone; this is probably higher for people with disabilities and therefore they are able to call for someone to come out to assist them. He also advised that full-service gas stations must provide gas at self service prices. This became a law in Broward County. Additionally, gas stations must abide by normal pricing and are not permitted to price gouge.

Ernie Martinez stated that BCC Commissioner Barbra Jordan agreed to sponsor a similar ordinance for Miami-Dade County. On May 1, 2012, the ordinance will be on the BCC agenda for first reading. Mr. Martinez encouraged the CODI members to speak with their Commissioners regarding this issue.

The discussion ensued and CODI members posited the question regarding the stickers that are designed with the number you call for assistance and raised an issue regarding hearing impaired or those that do not have a cell phone. Members advised that there should be a text number included.

John Miller made a motion that CODI support this Ordinance with the revision that it be expanded to support accessibility for the deaf community. The CODI Board Member's vote for the motion was unanimous. Allen Rigerman abstained.

B. TAXICABS

Ernie Martinez (CODI Chair) spoke on the issue of taxicabs that are not picking up People with Disabilities (physically and visually impaired). He stated that the Taxi Cab Advisory Group (TAG) had a meeting last week and is forming a Task Force Committee to engage in remedying this situation. Mr. Martinez will advise the Committee of the upcoming TAG meetings.

Alan Rigerman recommended that by the next CODI meeting there be a physical count taken of the wheelchair accessible taxicabs in Miami-Dade County that are outfitted with the capability of loading and strapping down a wheelchair. Mr. Rigerman voiced concerns that there were likely less than 83 wheelchair taxicabs in Miami-Dade County.

The CODI Committee also discussed a variety of topics related to taxicabs including the issue of how visually impaired people can get the needed info to report a driver who refuses a pick-up. Additionally, a taxicab driver will sometimes become afraid when given a note by a Person with a Disability, assuming that they are in the process of being robbed. It was stated that the Visually impaired Person usually obtain a ride but the location of the drop-off can be problematic; the driver can leave you anywhere.

A discussion ensued with Committee members making recommendations with the suggestion made of the possibility of filing a lawsuit. The discussions also involve the topic of having taxicab permits and medallions revoked through the legal process. Additionally, Allen Rigerman made the suggestion to have the Secret Shopper Program give a few people cameras and include people with guide dogs and have them call for a taxicab. However, it was also stated that it must be an established process sanctioned by the BCC. It was acknowledged that this important issue has come up many times and a solution is needed as there is major reluctance by all parties involved.

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	<p>The following motion was put forward by a Jesus Garcia that CODI present to the BCC: To request that the BCC commission a Secret Shopper Program to investigate the taxicab companies to determine those who are guilty of refusing service to the Disabled Community with the objective of punitive measures that escalates to revocation of the taxicab medallions. Pedro Rodriguez seconded the motion.</p>
	<p>C. <u>Marlins Ballpark Deaf Caption Visibility Issue: Adapt visibility caption</u></p> <p>Jose Granda updated the Commission regarding the Marlins Ballpark Deaf caption issue. They invited the CODI group to the Marlin Ballpark and they had the display and said they will provide three 3 huge televisions with the caption for the grand opening. I realized that one of the televisions did not have it, the other two did not work and the text was frozen.</p> <p>During the first game Mr. Granda attended, the captions still did not work. He said he realized that they needed to hire an interpreter, to see how it was working and he met with the manager and asked about it. He made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the Marlins organization in order to attend a game and pinpoint captioning problems.</p>
	<p>D. <u>Para Transit Stop</u></p> <p>1. BROWNSVILLE RAIL STATION William Velez, Chief of Operations for ParaTransit stated that the concrete was poured at the Brownsville Rail Station at the Kiss and ride area. He advised that there are some issues regarding the door and sidewalk access on 53rd street. The actual access is from the bus bay. He also explained that the sidewalk ends and there is just a grassy area.</p> <p>2. MARLINS BALLPARK STS STOP Mr. Velez stated that ParaTransit has managed to get a sign installed, developed a map and distributed to the STS providers and informed the STS Preservation Department that the patrons that called to make reservations should be dropped off at the Diamond Entrance and when leaving the Stadium to leave through the Diamond Entrance.</p> <p>He also noted that the medians have landscaping in them. When the vehicles pull up there is no curb and STS wanted the vehicles parallel to the entrance and put a lift there and you would have immediate access on street level. John Miller stated that if make a parallel curve and someone is stepping out there is a need for a landing spot. Also the issue of multi-seat vans and people stepping out on street level needs to be addressed. Mr. Martinez recommended Jesus Garcia add this issue to the Access Committee agenda: That the Marlins stadium needs correcting of STS stop accessible.</p>
VII. Committee Summary Updates:	
	<p>A. Access Committee Jackson David stated that there are two issues on self service stations and Haulover Beach about disability parking spaces at the Beach. They have about 33 parking spaces and will add 15 and will soon have 18 to make 48 in three months. The Committee suggested adding 15 at the end of the note site. It will be discussed at the next meeting at 10th floor of the ADA office.</p>
	<p>B. Transportation Committee Jesus Garcia discussed STS Service, including the 30 minute window and it has improved. He noted that the summer pattern will set in and there are always service improvements.</p>

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	<p>C. Commission on Disability Issues - Support Staff</p> <p>Mr. Martinez stated that the ADA Office is required to provide administrative support to CODI. During the last two months, draft minutes have not been completed. Three Committees have met. One has given a brief report, but it is difficult to make reports without the ability to refer to meeting minutes. He recommended that CODI emphasize they need clerical support and contact the supervising department, BCC Chair and the Mayor’s Office to communicate the problem.</p> <p>The Municipal Code Article 34, CODI section 2-318 states the Office of ADA shall coordinate, support and provide support liaison services for the office of ADA.</p> <p>Mr. Martinez made a motion to forward to the Mayor’s Office that need for CODI to have support staff as it impacts the research on issues the CODI Committees working on. The CODI Board voted unanimous on this issue.</p>
<p>VIII. Action Items</p>	
	<p>JOB DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Volunteerism</p> <p>Mr. Martinez stated the Earl Oaks is the Chair of the Employment Committee. The Lighthouse and Miami-Dade County would like to get people with disabilities placed in internships.</p>
	<p>ADJURNMENT: Motion at 3:58 p.m. by Ernie Martinez (Chair) Next Meeting is on May 23, 2012</p>