



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, August 22, 2012	
	Time:	1:30– 4:00 p.m. est.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:36 p.m. est.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	3:59 p.m. 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 Co-Chair	Present
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair	Excused Absence
	District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair	Present
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton 2 nd Vice Chair	Present (1:40)
	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	Present (2:30)
	District 13 Commission Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Present
	Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Dianne Steinberg ISD, Administrative & Business Services Division Recording Secretary Heidi Johnson-Wright ISD, ADA Coordinator Albert Hernandez , Assistant Director of	Present Present Present

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		Engineering Planning and Development, MDT	Present
		Selena Williams , Acting Division Director Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), Resident Services	Present
		Jorge Cibran , AIA, Facilities and Development Division Director, PHCD	Present
		Crystal Coleman , Contract Administrator, PHCD	
II.	Approval of Agenda	CODI Chairman Ernie Martinez made a motion to approve the 8/22/12 Agenda and to include Albert Hernandez, Assistant Director of Engineering Planning and Development, MDT as a presenter. Motion to approve made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by John Miller. Motion passed.	
III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	Chairman Martinez made a motion to approve the CODI Meeting minutes for 4/25/12, 5/23/12 and 6/27/12. Motion to approve with no changes was made by Jesus Garcia and seconded by Denise Valkema. Motion passed. Ron Fulton requested that a method be established for follow-up on issues raised at CODI meetings.	
IV.	Opening Comments	<p><i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i> <i>No public comments at this time</i></p> <p>Jose Granda stated that the brochure for the new Metrorail Orange Line extension to MIA does not contain information regarding access to the elevator, TTY for the disabled or the disability logo and should be reprinted. Pedro Rodriguez added that had MDT consulted with CODI regarding ADA, the brochure would not have to be reprinted. This issue will be addressed at the next Transportation Committee on 9/10/12.</p> <p>Mr. Granda requested that CODI invite the president of the Florida Agency for the Deaf (FAD) to make a presentation before the Board in October 2012.</p> <p>Alan Rigerman advised that the Hilton Hotel in Daytona Beach has four disabled parking spaces that are being used each year for non-disabled vehicles. Mr. Rigerman will be forwarding three days' worth of parking photographs to the Hilton Hotel Corporation.</p>	
V.	New/Old Comments	<p>1. Albert Hernandez, Assistant Director of Engineering, Planning and Development, Miami-Dade Transit, addressed CODI regarding the Transit Rail Station, Detectable Warning Strip. Mr. Hernandez passed out photographs of the installation, previously sent to CODI for approval. He explained that there is one lighting strip that was added for aesthetic purposes. A problem developed with the strip when it installed several times and pressure washed, but proved not to be waterproof. Consequently,</p>	

		<p>this would create a long term maintenance issue. MDT wants to remove the lighting strip and add a tile with contrasting colors. He noted that the lighting strip was purely an aesthetic feature and is not required by code.</p> <p>Mr. Hernandez stated that at every transit station there is a tactile detectable warning surface along the platform which enables someone with a visual disability to feel the difference in the surface and detect the location of the platform edge. He clarified that the code requires a certain contrasting ratio between the platform and the tactile surface. MDT has received approved for a white tactile surface contrasting with a dark grey surface, thereby meeting the code requirements.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding Washington, D.C. transit system and its use of flashing lights on platforms. Mr. Hernandez clarified that the purpose of the D.C. system's flashing lights is to notify persons on the platform that a train is approaching. The lights are not for the purpose of defining the edge of the platform. He stated that the Miami-Dade County lights under discussion are static lights that do not flash and the function is for aesthetic purposes only. The D.C. lighting system is a larger waterproof encasement.</p> <p>Mr. Hernandez advised that MDT could address the issue of warning lights denoting an approaching train in another contract. These warning lights can be helpful for children and people with some types of disabilities. He said that Transit could report back to CODI on this at a future meeting. He added that MDT is trying to complete the current contract as quickly as possible to avoid administrative costs.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the space between the trains, leaks on the bus canopy, LED lights and larger and more visible lights such as those used by the Parks Department. Dr. Sam Kohlenberg inquired about the ordering of new rail cars. Mr. Hernandez stated that the contract is pending approval and that the rail cars are being paid for by the Half Penny Surtax.</p> <p>John Miller and Jackson David made a motion to remove the strips and replace them with charcoal grey grout. The motion was seconded by Pedro Rodriguez. All CODI members approved the motion except Ron Fulton, who opposed.</p>
		<p>2. Urban Fellow Executive Internship Program Heidi Johnson-Wright, ISD, ADA Coordinator, introduced Toufic Zakharia, a participant in the Urban Fellow Executive Internship Program for Miami-Dade County. The program focuses on one specific project within an assigned department. Mr. Zakharia's will be working in collaboration with the ADA Coordinator's Office concerning research solutions for accessible cabs to improve the current system in the County. CODI members were encouraged to contribute information, if contacted. Comments should be passed along to the ADA Coordinator's Office.</p>
		<p>3. Miami-Dade County Consolidated Plan Selena Williams, Acting Division Director, Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), Resident Services, Community Planning and Outreach Jorge Cibran, AIA, Facilities and Development, Division Director, PHCD</p>

Crystal Coleman, Contract Administrator, PHCD

Pedo Rodriguez stated that the CODI Housing Committee had three meetings regarding the Miami-Dade County Consolidated Plan with staff from Public Housing and Community Development. The Committee prepared official recommendations for the Consolidated Plan at the 7/25/12 CODI meeting. Mr. Rodriguez requested that the final draft of the Plan include CODI's recommendations.

Chairman Martinez asked if any Housing representatives present at the meeting reviewed the official recommendations forwarded by CODI. PHCD staff stated they had not. Selena Williams clarified that the preparation of the Consolidated Plan is under her area of responsibility. Ms. Williams said that the Housing Department Director met previously with Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor and CODI members on the recommendations that CODI submitted.

Ms. Williams stated that the PHCD intends to submit the Plan to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). This submission will include the recommendations from CODI. She acknowledged that her department did not consult with CODI prior to the draft of the Consolidated Plan but that they did attend subsequent CODI Housing Committee meetings.

She stated that some recommendations will be offered to be amended on the floor with respect to language in the Plan that may be deemed offensive. However, any final recommendations that pertain to percentages of housing stock and affordable housing for set-aside above the federally mandated threshold must be vetted, discussed and verified with specific data (data driven) and therefore, will not be incorporated into the plan.

Ms. Williams stated that an analysis has been done by Regulatory and Economic Resources/Planning staff and that her department is also evaluating housing stock as it relates to the waiting list, demand for disability units and current availability. Chairman Martinez stated that the CODI Housing Committee would like to review the final Plan submission with, CODI's official recommendations included, before it goes before the BCC.

Pedro Rodriguez stated that CODI's final recommendation is that the County will set aside not less than 15 percent of the units in its public housing portfolio for disabled persons and/or families. Chairman Martinez inquired about the number of people with disabilities that are on the current wait list. Mr. Cibran stated there are approximately 747 applicants that require accessible units, just under 2 percent.

Crystal Coleman clarified that there are currently 77,000 applicants on the Miami-Dade County, Section 8 Housing waiting list for approximately 9,000 public housing units that are available. When an applicant reaches the top of the list, the PHCD contacts the applicant. If the applicant has a disability, the PHCD makes every effort to meet their needs including reasonable accommodation requests.

Jackson David raised the point that, when an accessible unit is available, the next person on the list is contacted regardless of whether they need the accessible unit or not. He suggested that this unit should be given to the next person on the list that needs an accessible unit instead. PHCD Staff explained that when an applicant does not need an accessible unit but are placed in one, they are required to sign a

		<p>waiver stating that if the unit is needed by someone with a disability, they will be required to move to another unit, freeing up the accessible unit.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez said that the PHCD Director advised the waiting list often moves slowly because people with disabilities often refuse the unit offered due to the fact that some of these are located in areas that are considered dangerous to people with disabilities. Dr. Kohlenberg asked if something can be done legislatively to decrease this tremendous back log. Mr. Cibran clarified that in all new construction, the federal requirements state that 5 percent of units must be mobility accessible and 2 percent of units be accessible for visual and hearing impaired persons.</p> <p>Mr. Cibran also stated that funding has been cut by 21 percent. There are over \$200 million of unidentified capital needs for the County's aging buildings with maintenance issues, leaky roofs, etc.</p> <p>Mr. David pointed out that HUD states that you can raise the minimum 5 percent amount if dictated by demand and that the funds should be used to make all required units accessible. When asked about the extension to complete the ADA barrier remediation required by the Voluntary Compliance Agreement, Mr. Cibran stated that PHCD has requested more time in order to complete the work.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the percentage of accessible units Miami-Dade County has available and how many non-disabled tenants live in these units. Mr. Cibran stated there are currently over 1,500 units that have accessible features and by year's end, there will be 167 of 478 units -- approximately 2 percent -- that will be totally ADA compliant.</p> <p>Ms. Coleman discussed the NED Program and the 210 County issued housing vouchers to those that met the qualifications of the non-elderly disabled individuals residing in Miami-Dade County. These are used for rental of apartments and houses. She added that ten of these individuals are currently using the vouchers to buy a home. A public records request can be made for disclosure of the names of voucher holders, if needed.</p>
<p>IV.</p>	<p>Committee Summary Updates</p>	<p>Access Committee</p> <p>1. Corrections and Rehabilitation Department.</p> <p>Jackson David spoke on an issue related to the Miami-Dade County, Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. He stated that there are approximately 40 deaf people at the jail that are not being provided interpreters. Miami-Dade County Corrections & Rehabilitation Department stated that they have two interpreter services on contract. This issue will be addressed at the next Access Committee meeting.</p> <p>2. Miami-Dade Police Department</p> <p>Chairman Martinez requested that the Miami-Dade Police Department be included at the next Access Committee meeting regarding enforcement of accessible parking spaces. Additionally, the issue of the process for detaining individuals with</p>

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		<p>a disability, specifically for the deaf, will be topics under discussion at the upcoming Access Committee Meeting.</p>
		<p>Transportation Committee</p> <p>3. PARA Transit Issues</p> <p>Jesus Garcia discussed Para-Transit Issues relating to the seven point tie-down system for riders in wheelchairs.</p> <p>John Williams, Advanced Transportation Solutions, stated that in Miami-Dade County, use of the additional orange velcro strap is optional and at the discretion of the rider. However, some Counties consider its use mandatory. During annual training, drivers are taught that the use of the strap is optional. He added that, in his experience, very few wheelchair passengers refuse the use of the strap. The driver is required to contact the dispatcher and document whatever happens on the vehicle. The policy also states that the driver cannot move the vehicle while communicating with a passenger. However, here is no denial of service if a rider refuses the orange strap.</p> <p>A discussion ensued and Jesus Garcia stated that as the passenger is given the option, once the driver asks if they want the extra orange strap secured, if the passenger declines, that should be sufficient. He stated that this issue will be taken up at the 9/10/12 Transportation Committee and requested that Para-Transit staff bring or email a copy of the latest rider's manual for reference.</p>
	Action Items	<p>1. Committee Structures</p> <p>Chairman Martinez reminded the Board that every CODI member should be participating on a committee. He suggested that there should be some changes made to the committee structures. He requested that Board members consider committee selections for themselves. At the next CODI meeting, the ongoing membership of each CODI committee will be determined. Alan Rigerman suggested that some committees meet on the same day as the monthly CODI meeting.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez reminded CODI members that the CODI bylaws state the Chairperson shall be the official spokesperson and representative of the CODI Commission, and that other members of the Commission may speak on behalf of the Commission, but only with the written permission of the Chair. John Miller added that the CODI members also have a responsibility to remain in contact with their Commissioners regarding issues.</p>
		<p>2. Ms. Johnson-Wright advised that the CODI website has been updated with the exception of the CODI Meeting Minutes which are now approved. These will be posted on the website shortly.</p>
		<p>Adjournment: Motion was made by CODI Chairman Martinez. The motion was seconded by John Miller.</p>

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