



Miami-Dade County

**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)
Minutes**

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

	Date:	Wednesday, February 27, 2013	
	Time:	1:30– 4:00 p.m. est.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:46 p.m. est.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	4:00 p.m. est.	
I.	<u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed		
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	John Miller 1 st Vice Chair	Absent
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David Housing Committee Chair	Present
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Earl Oaks Employment Committee Chair	Absent
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Jose (Ernie) Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Pedro Rodriguez	Present
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair	Present
	District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia CODI Secretary and 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	Absent
	District 11 Commissioner Zapata	Denise Valkema	Absent
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Marilyn Larrieu	Excused Absence
	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 Julio Martinez, ADA Coordinator, PWWM	Present Present Present

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II.	Approval of Agenda	CODI Chairman Ernie Martinez requested a motion to change the order of items on today's agenda. Motion was made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Jesus Garcia.
III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	Chairman Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes for the 9/26/2012, 10/24/2012 and 11/28/2012 CODI meetings previously sent out, and distributed in hard copy format to the Board. Motion to approve these was made by Jesus Garcia; The motion was seconded by Alan Rigerman. Motion passed.
IV.	Information Items	<p>Para-Transit Transition Plan (Transportation America)</p> <p>Nick Mazora, Transportation America (TA), Zev Naditch, General Manager, Transportation America (TA)</p> <p>Mr. Naditch addressed CODI regarding the para-transit transition plan and the new Transportation America Call Center. He stated that the existing STS contract is set to expire 3/31/13 making the effective date of the new contract 4/1/13. To prepare for the transition, meetings have been held with the current contractor and future contractor.</p> <p>The Transportation America Call Center is currently located next to MIA. The new call center is 95 percent completed and is located at the Transportation America offices. It accommodates 72 workstations for agents to work simultaneously, with supervisors situated around the core. This facility will be twice as large as the current call center. Mr. Naditch added that the existing call center will move between 3/10 – 3/16/13.</p> <p>On-board computers and vehicle locators are currently being installed in vehicles. An electronic interface will replace the paper manifest that STS vehicles currently use. Once installed, drivers will be trained. Mr. Naditch encouraged CODI Board members to visit the new call center facility.</p> <p>Nick Mazora said that TA also purchased a facility in South Miami at 130th Street and 125th SW Ave. to serve as a base in the southwest area. It's equipped with a dispatcher, supervisor and light maintenance crew. TA has purchased the necessary vehicles and has begun the process to hire staff. The new hires are being trained alongside the existing STS drivers. Located on the same block as the main call center is the TA Training Center that can accommodate 100 simultaneous trainees. It includes an elevated stage with wheelchair lift.</p> <p>Jose Granda asked if the TA facility will be equipped with video phones for deaf individuals requesting rides. Will there be training not only for the call center staff but also for the drivers to communicate with deaf riders?</p> <p>Mr. Mazora replied that the needs of deaf riders are included in the training.</p> <p>Rosa Bruno -- from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities -- inquired about the training drivers receive in order to serve this community. She was invited to be on the TA Training Committee. Mr. Naditch said that TA</p>

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can notify CODI of upcoming meetings to invite anyone the Board wants to attend. They conduct regular driver training and refresher training.

Mr. Naditch noted that a good percentage of call center staff is from the disabled community.

Miami-Dade County is in the process of putting together a marketing plan, and letters will be sent out next week to approximately 32,000 riders. Everyone who has travelled on STS at least twice in the last 18 months will be contacted. Some people prefer communications in braille and this will be sent out as well.

Ronald Fulton said that the current STS complaint process is ineffective with a two-three week turnaround. He suggested this should be reduced to 48 hours. Also, the current routes are causing the drivers to rush, not an ideal situation.

Jesus Garcia stated that the Transportation Committee has addressed a number of issues. A month has passed with no call center complaints. Reservations' response time is much quicker. TA is putting many new vehicles on the road. He noted that more vehicles with front-facing jump seats need to be added to the fleet.

Mr. Mazora added that 15 vehicles will be installed with electronic equipment and will be tested and ready for use after 4/1/13. The County has been at the facility over the last couple weeks to sign off on the vehicles.

Mr. Garcia voiced concern regarding routing. It is difficult to make a prediction on how long a trip will take and it can often turn into a long and worrisome trip for the rider. Hopefully this is not a pattern in the future. This is an issue of dignity and human rights and TA should take this into account.

Mr. Mazora advised that Ray Gonzalez is the CEO of TA. TA has three subcontractors. Jesus Garcia requested that the subcontractors attend the May CODI Meeting.

He added that they could have a town hall meeting with their routers and CODI. Numerous personnel from the existing contract will be transferring over -- including the Fleet Manager and Road Supervisor -- many with over a decade of experience. Additionally, AT has its own flatbed tow truck service, as well as 40,000 ft. maintenance facility with 13 full-time mechanics working 7 days a week. They have a turn-around time of a couple of hours to ensure the fleet meets the demands of riders. They have 12,000 gallons of fuel on-site.

TA has made acquisitions to start the process and acquired Handy Van. Chairman Martinez inquired about Zuni, an STS service provider which has provided valuable service to this area for many years. Jesus Garcia recognized Jorge Azor and the staff at Zuni for the service provided over the years and added that this is a concern to those in South Miami-Dade.

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		<p>Riders can go to https://rides.miamidade.gov/ and log in with their I.D and last four digits of their Social Security number for information the day before that gives estimates of drop-off and pick-up times for trips.</p> <p>Also discussed were liquidated damages for a service provider that does not provide timely transportation service.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez suggested collaboration between TA and the CODI Transportation Committee on issues such as routing, training manuals and English proficiency of drivers.</p>
V.	Housing Committee	<p>Jackson David, Chair, Housing Committee</p> <p>The CODI Housing Committee is working on a Housing database/ waiting list for applicants and for housing providers. It is the committee's opinion that when accessible housing becomes available the next person that needs accessible housing should acquire it. Currently, this is not the policy. They also want to change this procedure to lessen the burden to people who are given accessible housing that don't need it and are required to give it up to those who do need it. Florida Housing is working on what constitutes Accessible Housing. A discussion on accessible housing ensued.</p>
VI.	Access Committee	<p>Miami-Dade County Police Department</p> <p>Heidi Johnson-Wright, ISD ADA Coordinator discussed the procedures currently used when dealing with arrestees who have disabilities, before being taken to a correctional facility. The MDPD ADA Coordinator provided the current policies and procedures to the CODI Access Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright said that, if CODI wishes to add material to the existing procedures, CODI should write a letter to the Police Director.</p>
VII.	Outreach/ Education Committee	<p>Harry Horgan, Outreach/Education Chair</p> <p>The Committee will partner with Shake-a-Leg on an ADA Celebration for 7/26/13 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Shake- a-Leg Facility. This coincides with the ADA anniversary. Mayor Gimenez will attend.</p> <p>This Celebration is about access and opportunity, eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers, highlighting Miami-Dade County's accomplishments and the importance of education and promoting people becoming independent and showing that ADA is good for business. We want to recognize Miami-Dade College for their support and are requesting their assistance in promoting this event. The Access Committee wants to reach out to State, County and local levels, is looking for employment opportunities for the community and needs additional media exposure.</p>
VIII.	Open Comments	<p><i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i></p> <p><i>No public comments at this time</i></p>

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		<p>I. Denny Wood Proclamation</p> <p>Ron Fulton inquired about CODI requesting a proclamation on behalf of Denny Wood. A motion was made by Jackson David to request a proclamation in the name of Denny Wood from Miami-Dade County for the work he performed for the Disability Community. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
		<p>II. Julio Martinez, ADA Coordinator, Public Works Department (PWD)</p> <p>Mr. Martinez advised CODI that a number of recently installed bus shelters in unincorporated Miami-Dade County and in some municipalities do not comply with the requirement that there be a minimum 36" clear path of travel along the adjacent sidewalk</p> <p>PWD visited a shelter in the City of Homestead at SW 112th St. and 167th Ave. and found it does not meet the requirement. He asked if CODI would like the architects from the design firm to attend a future CODI meeting.</p>
IX.	Action Items:	<p>Elections of CODI Officers</p> <p>Pedro Garcia made a motion that the election of new CODI Officers be deferred until the March 2013 CODI meeting. The motion was seconded by Harry Horgan. Motion passed.</p>
	Adjournment	<p>Meeting ended 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Next meeting March 27, 2013</p>