



**Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)
Minutes Memorandum
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128
18th Floor, Conference Room 18-4**

	Date:	Wednesday, April 22, 2015	
	Time:	1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	
	Call to Order Time:	1: 44p.m.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	3:43p.m.	
I.	Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.		
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	Damian Gregory 1st Vice Chair	Present
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David	Present
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Jesus Garcia 2 nd Vice Chair & Transportation & Aviation Committee Chair	Present
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Ernie Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Ora Prilleltensky	Present
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach Committee Chair	Present
	District 8 Commissioner Levine Cava	Elizabeth Merklng	Present
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton CODI Secretary	Present
	District 10 Commissioner Souto	Russell Otway	Excused Absence
	District 11 Commissioner Zapata	PENDING APPOINTMENT	
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Maria “Mercedes” Villar	Present
	District 13 Commissioner Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Excused Absence

		<p>those minutes were already approved at the March 25, 2015 meeting. Objections must occur before minutes are approved. <i>(At this point, Mr. Fulton had not yet come to the meeting.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Prilleltensky suggested that CODI draft minutes be emailed to the CODI members prior to the meeting. Everyone agreed. Ms. Prilleltensky also stated that she was uncomfortable with the way a member of the public had treated Ms. Merklings at the previous meeting. She emphasized that courtesy and decorum are needed. Mr. Gregory apologized on behalf of the member of the public. Ms. Merklings so kindly accepted and thanked everyone. Chairman Martinez said that such behavior – from a member of the public or a CODI member – will not be tolerated. • Mr. Gregory said that he has been named Director of Outreach Community & Family Engagement at CCDH. • Juan Carlos Gil said that, on May 7, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., local businesses will be showcasing new innovations for the disabled at a location in Wynwood.
	<p>Committee Report:</p>	<p>25th ADA Celebration & Outreach Committee (Harry Horgan)</p> <p>Mr. Horgan said the ADA celebration event is scheduled for Friday, July 24, 2015. Several venues are being considered: Perez Art Museum, the AAA, Freedom Tower, Arsht Center, Government Center and MDC. At least 150-200 people are expected to attend. The Outreach Committee has confirmed that Mayor Gimenez will attend.</p> <p>Mr. Fulton said that Outreach Committee needs to select a venue listing as soon as possible. Mr. Horgan thanked Mr. Fulton for reaching out to Mr. Beasley with Career Source South Florida and Ms. McArthur from the EEOC. Ms. Muñoz – formerly with MDC, now with AOA -- organized last year’s resource fair. Chairman Martinez said access at the Freedom Tower is problematic. Ms. Johnson-Wright said that the Freedom Tower has access issues, requiring chair users to enter from a back entrance, rather than the front main entrance. Mr. Gregory agreed. A discussion ensued.</p> <hr/> <p>Ethics Training</p> <p>Chairman Martinez asked Ms. Johnson-Wright which CODI members failed to attend the March ethics training. Ms. Johnson-Wright said they were Jose Granda, Jackson David, Alan Rigerman and Chairman Martinez. Those four members must now directly contact the Ethics Commission and register for an upcoming training. It is their responsibility to get this statutorily required training.</p> <hr/> <p>Ad Hoc Committee</p>

Chairman Martinez said he is appointing an ad hoc committee to review CODI's ordinance and by-laws. The members will include Ms. Prilleltensky, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Horgan and Ms. Villar. Mr. Martinez will chair the committee. Mr. Fulton asked Chairman Martinez why he will chair the committee. Chairman Martinez responded that he is the best fit. A discussion ensued.

County Internship Program (Chairman's Report)

Chairman Martinez said he attended a meeting with Deputy Mayor Russell Benford to discuss employment opportunities with the County for people with disabilities. Part of the discussion concerned the County's former Outreach Internship Program. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Benford indicated that the Mayor's Office needed more time to review the information.

Mr. Fulton said he and Mr. Gregory also had a meeting scheduled with Deputy Mayor Benford to discuss the Mayor's jobs initiative and how the disabled community could benefit. Mr. Fulton said that meeting was cancelled and he was told that Mr. Benford instead only wanted to meet with Chairman Martinez. A discussion ensued.

[At this point, Chairman Martinez declared a five minute recess. The meeting resumed at 3:13pm.]

Mr. Fulton asked Chairman Martinez if he still had the floor. Chairman Martinez said he was done with the conversation. He then asked each board member if the prior conversation should continue. The majority said the conversation should be terminated. Chairman Martinez said that a Sunshine meeting could be held on this topic at a later date between him and Mr. Fulton.

Elections Department: Poll Worker Training (Rodney Moore and Patricia Prochnicki)

Chairman Martinez requested a motion to amend the day's agenda to include an item from the Elections Department on poll worker training.

Motion: Mr. Gregory made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Garcia. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Johnson-Wright asked Mr. Garcia if he had any issues regarding people with visual impairments and the voting process. Mr. Garcia said that the poll workers at the large polling sites are very well trained in assisting people who are blind. However, there are sometimes problems with the workers at the smaller polling sites. They seem less knowledgeable about accessible voting for the blind. Mr. Garcia said that new machines that are supposed to become available in 2016 are

going to be accessible to blind voters and will provide a paper trail.

Mr. Moore said that Elections provides the iVotronics electronic voting machines which allow voters to use both a touch screen and an audio ballot. Trained Elections specialists activate the electronic terminal for the voter. Elections poll workers are trained in how to assist all voters with disabilities.

Mr. Gregory said back in 2012 he had accompanied a friend during early voting at the Coral Reef polling site in Kendall, which had very long lines. His friend had to leave and return several times, ultimately never getting to vote. Mr. Gregory asked Mr. Moore about early voting and expediting people with disabilities. Mr. Moore said that his job with Elections concerns only voting on election day, not during the early voting process. Ms. Villar asked what a voter can do to avoid this situation. Mr. Moore said the voters can request an absentee ballot. Ms. Johnson-Wright said that she has had good experiences during early voting at Government Center. She has never waited more than 20 minutes to vote.

Mr. Granda asked Mr. Moore for his training materials and what they teach poll workers about assisting deaf voters. Mr. Moore said he could send a copy to Ms. Alorda. She will then distribute the copies as requested.

TRANSIT: STS AND FIXED ROUTE BUSES

Ms. Alorda said that Transit staffs are attending a Federal Transit Administration conference. Lynette Chiverton and Bill Velez will be available to provide updates at the May CODI monthly meeting.

Ms. Merklings said she had a transit-related suggestion: an audio PSA about CODI should be recorded and played while STS customers are on hold. Ms. Johnson-Wright said this exact type of PSA is already played while residents are on hold with 311. Perhaps the same PSA could be used for STS.

Mr. Gregory said he'd recently spoken with former CODI member Denise Valkema. Ms. Valkema told Mr. Gregory how she'd recently been sitting at a bus stop. When a bus approached, the driver went by without stopping and inquiring if Ms. Valkema wanted to board, which she did. Ms. Johnson-Wright said bus drivers are taught that, when approaching a bus stop at which a rider with an obvious disability is waiting; they must stop and inquire if the rider wants to board. Obvious disability would be indicated by the rider's use of a wheelchair, walker, service animal, white cane, etc. Mr. Gregory stated that the bus drivers should be retrained on accommodating riders with disabilities.

The next STS Riders Meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2015 at 2pm.

	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m. Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gregory.
	Next CODI Meeting:	Next CODI monthly meeting: May 27, 2015 at 1:30pm.