



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

	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 27, 2015</b>	
	Time:	1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:28 p.m.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	4:00 p.m.	
<b>I.</b>	<b><u>Opening and Attendance:</u></b> Distributed Materials. Call to Order. Attendance recorded.		
	District 1 <b>Commissioner Jordan</b>	<b>Damian Gregory</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	Present
	District 2 <b>Commissioner Monestime</b>	<b>Jackson David</b>	Excused Absence
	District 3 <b>Commissioner Edmonson</b>	<b>Jose Granda</b> Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 <b>Commissioner Heyman</b>	<b>Jesus Garcia</b> Transportation & Aviation Committee Chair & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Present
	District 5 <b>Commissioner Barreiro</b>	<b>Ernie Martinez</b> CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 <b>Commissioner Sosa</b>	<b>Ora Prilleltensky</b>	Present
	District 7 <b>Commissioner Suarez</b>	<b>Harry Horgan</b> Outreach Committee Chair	Excused Absence
	District 8 <b>Commissioner Levine Cava</b>	<b>Elizabeth Merklng</b>	Present
	District 9 <b>Commissioner Moss</b>	<b>Ronald Fulton</b> CODI Secretary	Present
	District 10 <b>Commissioner Souto</b>	<b>Russell Otway</b>	Excused Absence
	District 11 <b>Commissioner Zapata</b>	<b>Pending Appointment</b>	Excused Absence
	District 12 <b>Commissioner Diaz</b>	<b>Maria Mercedes Villar</b>	Excused Absence
	District 13 <b>Commissioner Bovo</b>	<b>Alan Rigerman</b>	Excused Absence



<p><b>II.</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>CODI Chairman Martinez thanked all attending. Mr. Gregory said that this retreat is for the CODI board members to discuss the board’s agenda for the upcoming year.</p> <p><b>Obligations of CODI Members/Working with Your Commissioner</b></p> <p>Each CODI member has an obligation to maintain a relationship with his appointing commissioner. Mr. Gregory said that not all commissioners are engaged with their appointees. CODI members need to take the initiative to develop those relationships.</p> <p>Commissioner Levine Cava introduced herself and thanked Ms. Merklings, her CODI appointee. She said that her office is committed to supporting CODI as well as the other County boards to which she has appointees. Commissioner Levine Cava held a meeting with all of her board appointees and suggested that the other commissioners do the same.</p>
<p><b>III.</b></p>		<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Mr. Fulton asked the ADA Office staff how do we communicate with the public and what is the proper procedure in doing so. Ms. Johnson-Wright recommended that CODI board members meet with their commissioners or commissioners’ staff.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory said people often ask him what CODI is and what it does. Mr. Gregory asked about CODI and social media. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory suggested that CODI board members attend meetings of other County boards to learn more about County issues. Mr. Martinez said CODI focus should be towards respecting the voice of the chair and respecting another appointee’s commissioner’s office.</p> <p>Ms. Merklings said that she attended STS riders’ meetings for five years and never heard CODI mentioned once.</p> <p>Ms. Prilleltensky said that accountability of CODI is to manage and resolve issues that are presented at meetings. Mr. Martinez said that accountability regarding attendance is another concern.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright suggested that CODI first identify issues of concern (i.e. lack of accessible, affordable housing, unemployment rate of people with disabilities, etc.) Then the next step is to identify goals to address those concerns. A discussion ensued.</p>

<p><b>IV.</b></p>	<p><b>Goals/ Initiatives</b></p>	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p><b>Donna Walton</b> (EEOC Program Analyst/Community Outreach Training Coordinator): The most important thing for a person with disability seeking employment is to understand the law and what his/her rights are. Ms. Walton then discussed the ADA and reasonable accommodations.</p> <p><b>Cheri Kavehersi:</b> (South Florida Workforce Investment Board/Business Service Manager) SFWIB provides funds for more than 15 career centers throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. They fund and hire private entities and non-profits to provide direct services to job seekers.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory asked Ms. Kavehersi how people with disabilities are accommodated to receive placement services. Ms. Kavehersi said clients can get info and make appointments on SFWIB website. Mr. Martinez said CODI should have been consulted during the kiosk design process.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Mr. Fulton and Mr. Gregory expressed concerns about CODI raising housing issues but yet they are never resolved. Ms. Santos (Public Housing and Community Development/ Applications and Leasing Assistant) said five percent of County housing units are wheelchair-accessible. She discussed the process for getting accessible housing.</p> <p>Ms. Martinez (Public Housing and Community Development/Capital Improvements) said that the agency has 944 units which PHCD must comply with a five percent which is 454 units and 378 are complete accessible units. There are currently 63 more units under construction over the next 18 months.</p> <p>Ms. Bianchi (PHCD Operations Administrator) explained how the housing waiting list works. Ms. Bianchi said that they extensively research the list for individuals that need the accessible units to move them in. Mr. Gregory asked how PHCD notifies an applicant that an accessible unit is available. Ms. Capote said he/she is notified via mail. Selection is a two-step process that includes an interview and screening. A discussion ensued.</p>
<p><b>V.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourned</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting adjourned at 4pm. Next scheduled CODI meeting will be January 27, 2016.</b></p>