

Commission on Disability Issues

June 16, 2006

Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

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These are official opinions that were voted on during the CODI meeting of June 14, 2006. CODI will continue to study the issue of the needs of people with disabilities before, during and after an emergency evacuation. CODI will focus on how to find available accessible housing after a disaster; what type of FEMA services are available to people with disabilities after a disaster; what services are available from the Red Cross to people with disabilities.

Official OPINION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

When emergency announcements are made about public transit there should also be an announcement about STS

When the County gives out 311 they should also give out the 305-468-5900 number and say that it is for people who use video –relay or for people who are outside the County.

The County should remind the media that emergency information provided visually must also be provided audibly for people who are blind or visually impaired and information provided audibly must also be provided visually for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

The County should consider distribution sites for the non-profits to obtain supplies to distribute to their clients.

That Communications Department should work with CODI, OEM, and the Office of ADA when they prepare a hurricane guide, when preparing website emergency information, or when preparing emergency related information for mass distribution.

Whereas: People with disabilities often have unique needs before, during, and after any emergency disaster or evacuation.

Whereas: People with certain types of disabilities have difficulties receiving the same emergency information as other people.

Whereas: If their specific needs are not planned for; people with disabilities are often at greater risk.

Whereas: When emergency supplies are given out to the public, often people with disabilities are unable to get to the site because of the advance notice that STS requires; they find that the site is inaccessible because there are no accessible routes to where the supplies are given out; they are unable to carry the supplies; and they can't stand or wait in the heat for long periods of time to get the supplies.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved: That CODI requests that the County government incorporate the official opinions above in their emergency management plan for people with disabilities.