



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2025

10:00 a.m.

De Hostos Senior Center

1897 NW 20th St, BLDG C

Miami, FL 33142

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Betty Hermina, Armando Riera, Barby Morales, Rosa Kasse, Lupe Bruneman

Members Absent: Johnnie Kerr, Mario Tapia, Magali Abad, Brenda Lampon, Dionne Polite

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I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:21 a.m. The Board was welcomed. Vanessa attended her first meeting as Board Director. Congratulations to the new Chairwoman Lupe Bruneman and the Second Vice-Chair Betty Hermida. Farewell to Katherine Bolt as Board Director. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors and thank her for her outstanding work with the EAAB.

II. Approval of the January Agenda

There was no quorum.

III. Approval of the February Agenda

There was no quorum, but we had a committee report.

IV. Approval of January Minutes

V. Approval of February Minutes

VI. Reasonable Opportunity to be heard

VII. Committee Report - Community Outreach Committee, February Meeting

We did not have the committee meeting due to the Resource Fair, which was moved to March.

- EIC is next week, Vanessa just joined. She will provide an update next month along with March's report.
- Alliance on Aging, handed over to Betty.
- The next meeting is in March. FACE program, a transitional program by the Alliance on Aging that helps Alzheimer's and dementia patients. You must already be signed up. Call the Alliance and ask for the FACE program.
- The Alliance now meets every other month (Note to Vanessa: perhaps move the Alliance report to every other month as well).

VIII. New Business

- Lupe: Has a weekly radio show.
- Radio Salud
- 670 AM from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday.
- Inviting Betty to the radio show.
- Betty: Molina raised an important point. We should have someone who speaks the language, especially in the Haitian community.
- Laura: One of our staff, Yvans, has a Haitian radio show and is also looking for people to invite. He can translate.
- Molina: In the Haitian community, they have a radio station. A perfect opportunity to spread information.
- Armando: As a nurse practitioner, I am part of the advisory board for Alzheimer's. One of the issues is that Hispanic seniors don't want to participate. We've made efforts, but we've had difficulty.
- Rosa: It's possible to get them to participate if we take them to places they like to go.
- Armando: We've tried that, and it's still hard.
- Rosa: One thing I've learned is that they like to receive attention. We have a lot of elders, we host luncheons, and many seniors attend.
- Betty: Armando, would you be able to forward the contacts for the Black Nurses Association?
- Send information to these associations.
- Carolina, the contact person for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's at Mercy Hospital, has an exercise program.
- Brain Center, in partnership with FIU, offers a free Alzheimer's caregiver course—geared toward family and caregivers. March 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch included. Betty will send the flyers to Vanessa.
- Mercy services are free if you qualify.
- Ask Betty for more information.
- Barby shared information for the Alliance on Aging Conference.
- She will send the flyer to Vanessa.

- May 2nd.
- Betty: There's a great need for people to come to community centers.
- The Black and Haitian communities are the least likely to use these services.
- Perhaps have a speaker attend community meetings to share information and spread the news.
- Molina: The visitor asked why social media isn't effective.
- Many people don't have smartphones or don't know how to use them.
- Lack of access to information, it's not easily found.
- Rosa: The problem I've seen is that Hispanic seniors aren't provided with resources or informed about them.
- The board disagreed.
- 211 has great resources available.
- Betty: We have to be fair to everyone.
- Molina: Is there a way to reach out through paper?

IX. Old Business

The April meeting will be voted on in March. Old business is complete, moved to the public forum at 10:51.

X. Public Forum

- Lupe introduced our board.
- Public transportation is not accessible for people with disabilities, Leonardo Pauda.
- Housing residents at 3000 NE 3rd Ave, Wynwood Elderly, need transportation, as they get wet when it rains and have to walk to St. John Bosco Church.
- Problems with broken sidewalks that make it difficult for seniors with canes or walkers to walk.
- Bus stop at 29th St and 12th Ave needs seating, and more bus stops, Maria E. Rivera.
- More bus stops needed, Norberto Herrera.
- Vincent spoke about transportation. The center doesn't have its own transportation. The ones provided by the county are in very poor condition, not suitable for people with disabilities. Sometimes the service fails, and seniors miss breakfast or lunch because they can't get to the Hostos Center.
- The community complained that Route 6 has not been providing service for some time.
- STS is an issue. They don't arrive on time, take us late to appointments, or when they go to pick someone up and the patient isn't ready, they leave them and the service is lost.
- STS has no customer service available, they say they don't have enough employees.
- Regla Pujols needs low-income housing. She's paying \$1400 in rent and doesn't have enough resources to pay that amount. She has been applying for Section 8 and low-income housing units. Chairwoman Lupe recommended she call the low-income buildings.
- Magaly Hoyos, a resident of Wynwood, said that by working as a team, we can make a difference. She called for unity.
- Maria Saez, a resident near Hostos, complained that the street is dirty and reported that the Miami Parking Authority constantly issues fines, but the city doesn't clean the streets. Vanessa and Betty explained that it is necessary to report it through 311.

- Herminia Bauza, a resident of Wynwood, complained about the buses, saying they are in poor condition and don't have an elevator to board or disembark. This is crucial for seniors.
- Leonardo reported that the building where he lives needs repairs and that there are empty units under repair for an extended period.
- Waiting for the bus for almost 2 hours, she said she had seen disabled people and seniors waiting. She said there aren't enough buses, Maria Denisse.

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment