



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Westchester Regional Library

9445 Coral Way

Miami, FL 33165

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

Chairwoman Lupe Bruneman called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of the March Agenda

There was no quorum.

III. Approval of January Minutes

There was no quorum.

IV. Approval of February Minutes

There was no quorum.

V. Reasonable Opportunity to be heard

There was no formal public comment during this section. However, a robust discussion took place among Board members regarding attendance, quorum, board responsibilities, and the importance of collaboration and communication.

Chairwoman Lupe Bruneman acknowledged that the Board did not have quorum, which meant voting items, such as the approval of the agenda and approval of the January and February 2025 minutes, would need to be postponed. She encouraged members to reach out to one another to stress the importance of regular participation.

Board members discussed the limitations imposed by the lack of quorum, including the inability to take formal action, and emphasized how essential it is for everyone to be present in order to fulfill the Board's advisory mission. Multiple members also shared personal stories and logistical challenges in attending meetings, reinforcing their commitment.

The Board officially welcomed three officers from the Sheriff's Office Midwest District, who introduced themselves and shared how they work as Neighborhood Resource Officers supporting the community. Guest Rosemary Rudeen from Sunshine Medical Supplies was also welcomed and expressed her interest in collaborating with the Board.

The members also clarified communication protocols under the Sunshine Law and discussed the importance of promoting meeting attendance in a compliant manner. The overall discussion reinforced the value of presence, purpose, and public engagement.

VI. Committee Report

Community Outreach Committee: The committee provided detailed updates on the planning and outreach efforts for the Older Adult Resource Fair scheduled for May 20, 2025. The venue will be the Milander Center in Hialeah. Vanessa Azzam and other board members highlighted outreach strategies, vendor coordination, promotional media opportunities, and event logistics. Board members were encouraged to distribute the flyer and continue inviting community organizations to participate.

VII. Work Group Updates

Elder Issues Committee: Vanessa Azzam reported on the March Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade meeting, where Martine Charle from the Alliance for Aging presented on the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI). A PowerPoint presentation and flyer were shared, and Vanessa encouraged board members to help distribute them. Vanessa also promoted the Older Adult Resource Fair and received several vendor applications shortly after the meeting.

Alliance on Aging: Betty Hermida discussed the FACE Program for dementia support, available through the Alliance for Aging for individuals already on the waitlist. She also reported on findings from a recent DOEA audit of the Alliance and provided updates on corrective actions, new provider funding, and Medicaid cut concerns. Betty emphasized the importance of advocacy to preserve funding for older adults.

VIII. Old Business

A. Letter re: Alliance: The board reviewed pending items but deferred all voting due to the lack of quorum.

B. April Meeting Location: April's meeting was rescheduled to April 17 at 9:00 a.m., at the direction of the Chairwoman due to lack of quorum. The meeting will include a presentation by Department of Transportation and Public Works and Providers at the De Hostos Senior Center.

IX. New Business

The April board meeting has been rescheduled to April 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at De Hostos Senior Center. Vanessa Azzam organized a comprehensive transportation presentation in response to issues raised at the February meeting. Departments including Golden Passport, STS, Freebee, Public Transportation, Metrorail, and DTPW will attend to present services and listen to seniors' feedback. The meeting is intended to help identify and implement transportation solutions starting in the De Hostos area.

X. Announcements

Vanessa Azzam shared an update on the Elder Resource Guide, including progress and pending vendor ads. The board discussed setting a deadline for submissions (April 4th) and agreed to print 500 copies in English, Spanish, and Creole using available department funds. Additional announcements included a report from Betty Hermida on outreach efforts to underserved communities, a recap of Dominican cultural events from Rosa Kasse, and coordination of health screenings for the upcoming fair. Members were encouraged to send community event info to Vanessa and consider future outreach initiatives in underserved areas like North Miami.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:01 p.m.