



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
LGBTQIA+ ADVISORY BOARD GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 NW 1st Street Room 18-4 Miami, FL 33128**

Mission

The Miami-Dade County LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board is comprised of individuals who are working directly to improve the lives of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The purpose of the Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners with respect to laws and policies that support Miami-Dade County's LGBTQIA+ residents, visitors, and businesses, to ensure a strong voice for the LGBTQIA+ community in local government and public policy and to encourage and support the development of the LGBTQIA+ community.

This diverse group of leaders plays a critical role in prioritizing the LGBTQIA+ community in all legislative and budget efforts. The board partners with local government entities and promotes and advances LGBTQIA+ initiatives. To accomplish its objectives, the Board builds working relationships with county leaders and their representatives.

Agenda

I. Call to Order at 3:05 PM

II. Roll Call

Member(s) Present:

D2 Tim Wagoner, D3 Bobby Joe Bracy, D4 Cindy Brown, D5 Paul Thomas, D6 Ariel Trueba, D11 Rev. Dr. Harold Marrero, M.A #1 Grace C. Lopez

Member(s) Absent:

D1 Patricia Hernandez, D7 Kevin Correa, D8 Jennifer Stephenson, D13 Erik Martin, M.A #2 Dr. Travis L. Stokes

A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was confirmed.

Guest(s):

Silvana Erbstein, Edryse Meus, Dan Rios, Monica Diaz, Dr. Francesco Duberli

III. *Reasonable Opportunity to Be Heard*

Floor opened and it closed at 3:07 PM. There were no members of the public present to speak

IV. *Approval of Agenda (Actionable Item)*

Cindy Brown motioned to approve the agenda; Ariel Trueba seconded
Motion passed unanimously

V. *Approval of Minutes (Actionable Item)*

a. Nov 2025

D6 Board member Trueba requested that second paragraph under "Call to Order" be removed from the record.

Ariel Trueba motion for the approval of the minutes "as amended"; Grace Lopez seconded. Motion passed unanimously

VI. *GMCVB Update*

a. Dan Rios, Director LGBTQ Tourism Marketing

A few updates. We have, **Shangay** in town today. That is the largest LGBTQ magazine in Spain. They are in Miami to do an article, that, positions Miami as a welcoming destination for LGBTQ, but also, big on art and culture. Today they were working with Gonzalo Garcia. He is the new artistic director of Miami City Ballet, who is from Spain, so we thought that would be a nice connection, to that audience. So, we photographed the Miami City Ballet, Bass Museum, New World Center, Betsy's, Lincoln Road. Looking forward to the article. That's going to be fast-tracked, printed, and released for Fitur 2026, which is next week in Madrid. It's the largest, tourism fair in Spain.

So, they'll be releasing that issue there, and looking forward to that. So that segway to Fitur. Fitur is the biggest, tourism fair in Spain, but it really has a lot of Latin American influence, so that's why we're there. Latin America is our biggest market. Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, so we will be there at... in the Rainbow, IGLTA's LGBTQ Pavilion.

IGLTA will push an announcement off until May, but it looks to be that we will be having the privilege of welcoming them for their annual convention in 2027 in May. The IGLTA will announce this in May. Please keep in mind this information has yet to be announced so keep it on DL. Moving on to Rainbow Spring, which will run March 1st through June 30th we sent the lead out yesterday, which is our biggest program as far as room bookings. That leads to our partners gathering offers from the community, whether it's, experiences that are hosted at a particular location, or discounts at a hairdresser or opportunities to come together with community. We gather them all on the website, and then we work with Expedia, as you may remember from last year, on bookings.

VII. *Presentations*

a. Franchesco Duberli, Chief Executive Director Survivors' Pathway
CHEM SEX/Drug Addiction affecting the Community

Substance abuse within the community, especially with the Gays community is out of control. There's a strong increase in domestic cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. But also, HIV infection rate is increasing. For example, at Survivors Pathway's clinic last month 79 new cases were reported in one month. 79 in one month., which is huge, right? Obviously, Miami-Dade County continues the leading the nation, with HIV new infections,

The drug epidemic includes harder drugs such as cocaine, Tussey, Ketamine just to mention a few. Just last month six (6) Survivors Pathway client died from chemical overdose. Marijuana isn't a drug that is impacting the community. And this is when you party with these substances and have countless unprotected and indiscriminate sexual encounters. Many of these parties lead to rapes and or human trafficking.

A request was made to invite Miami-Dade County Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz to a future MDC LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board general meeting. Main topics to discuss is

- 1) What is the process of reporting a crime and how they are working with the community
- 2)Having an official MDSO LGBTQIA+ Liaison
- 3) The tracking of data reported

Also discussed Grindr because it holds the business of substances and prostitution which leads to human trafficking

No recommendations were made by the board regarding Dr. Duberli's presentation while the chair expressed his desire that when the board was ready to act it would do so via an urging to the BCC. Dr. Duberli's final comment to the board was *"I hope that, collectively, we can do something. I know it is complicated, complex topics, but, just a little bit, right, of effort might save people's lives, and at the end, I think it's for the sake of our own people"*.

Old Business

a. Kickoff Assignments

Chairman Bracy shared it would be best if we kind of divide and conquer this, event. If everyone wants to kind of volunteer themselves for a certain aspect of it. Chairman Bracy reached out to Alex Miranda of Deco Drive, and he has accepted to be the Master of Ceremonies (MC) of the 2026 Pride Month Kickoff scheduled for Wednesday, June 03, 2026, at noon in the lobby of the SPCC. "If anybody already has something in mind that they feel that they want to contribute to it, if not, if you want to kind of think about it and look at last year's program and see where you could plug in, that's just why I wanted to put that on the agenda".

The Board discussed planning for its annual multi-month programming initiative. Responsibilities were reviewed and assigned. Alex Miranda (Deco

Drive Live) agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies. Cindy Brown volunteered to lead vendors and community organization outreach. Gabriel J. Paez agreed to coordinate and identify potential exhibits and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

a. Commissioner Allocations

The Board discussed current budget limitations, noting that approximately \$300 is currently available and that funds must be secured prior to entering into any contractual agreements. Members discussed identifying low-cost or donated resources to support programming.

b. Rules of Order/Ethics/Sexual Harassment
No updates were provided.

c. Update on the resource guide (Check-in)

A brief check-in was conducted. No formal updates were presented.

VIII. *New Business*

a. District Highlights for 2026

Board members discussed potential district highlights and areas of focus for 2026. After much discussion, members were encouraged to submit ideas and recommendations for future consideration.

IX. *Future Agenda Item(s)*

a. No agenda item discussed

X. *Chairman's Report*

- a. The Chair provided general remarks and emphasized the Board's advisory role to the Board of County Commissioners, including the importance of advocacy, collaboration, and continued engagement with County leadership.

XI. *Director's Report*

- a. No formal Director's Report was provided.

XII. *Announcements*

- a. Next Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00PM - 5:30PM
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XIII. *Adjournment at 4:54 PM*