



Miami-Dade County
Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128
18th Floor, Conference Room 18-4

Date:	Tuesday, March 26, 2024	
Time:	10:30am – 1pm	
Call to Order Time:	10:47am	
Meeting Adjourned:	1:00pm	
<u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.		
District 1 Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III	Damian Gregory Chairman	P
District 2 Commissioner Marliene Bastien	Jackson David	P
District 3 Commissioner Keon Hardemon	Marilyn Orozco	A
District 4 Commissioner Micky Steinberg	Melissa Knowles	A
District 5 Commissioner Eileen Higgins	Eddie Sierra Vice Chairman	P
District 6 Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera	Stephanie Aponte	A
District 7 Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado	Rabbi Yossi Harlig	P
District 8 Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins	Nicole Attong	A
District 9 Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee	Ulrica Garcia	P
District 10 Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez	Natalia Wong	A
District 11 Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez	Katherine Magnoli Secretary	P
District 12 Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria “Mercedes” Villar	P
District 13 Commissioner René Garcia	Pending Appointment	

Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Heidi A. Johnson, ISD, ADA Coordinator Michael Moran, ISD, ADA Senior Officer Jody Cox, ISD, ADA Projects Administrator	
Member(s) of the Public:	Mr. Dixon (Transportation), Violet Gonzalez (Sunrise), Mr. Martinez (a citizen concerned about transportation), Cynthia (Housing), Alexandria Cruz (Emergency Management), Roberto (Fire Rescue), Ali Riaz (911 Texting), Odilanda Brito (PHCD ADA Coordinator for housing development)	
1. Call to Order and Roll Call - We have Katherine, Ulrica, Jackson, Rabbi Yossi, Maria, Damian, and Eddie at 11:10 AM. - Damian introduces meeting, roll call of CODI members, and asked for audience members to introduce themselves. Sunrise members in audience explained how they help PWD by providing services for independence. Alexandra Cruz introduced herself.		
2. Approval of Today's Agenda and Minutes Damian says we will table the records/minutes and deal with it the next meeting because we don't have previous minutes. They all voted and agreed.		
3. New Business: - Miami-Dade Elections 2024 (changes, notifications to residents, awareness campaigns) (Yohanka Dominguez, Elections ADA Coordinator) - Update on critical roadway improvements and Vision Zero safety initiatives (Marque Dixon, DTPW ADA Coordinator) - Mr. Dixon is on the phone and presenting updates on roadway improvements. \$16.7 million for Miami-Dade County to help with infrastructure. Improving audio buttons and facilities, lighting, braille, metro mover stations, communications tools, improvements throughout transportation. Money awarded by congressional delegations for zero safety admissions program to make transportation safer and more reliable. - Damian wants to help wheelchair users in transportation, but it doesn't exist yet in Miami-Dade County. We have taxis/things that don't work for wheelchair users. - Mr. Dixon has new initiative to help wheelchair users that can extra assist; it's on the table and a main priority and still being worked on. In the meantime, we have STS service. Board meetings to help advocate, Mr. Dixon is drilling it and trying his best. - Damian asks if anyone wants to add. Heidi wants to add something. - Mr. Dixon is updating us on elevators and metro rails. 2 elevators are disabled due to entrapment issues. 7 escalators are down as well. They are all being worked on. Some will be repaired by the end of this month, but others are going through major improvements and may not work until the end of the year.		

- Damian: elevators are out and there is no info or signs to warn people until it's too late. Emphasis must be to warn people before customers get to transportation points.
- Mr. Dixon wants to implement real-time info, using the awarded money, to improve web accessibility and inform people about elevator issues.
- Mercedes asked about procurement. Mr. Dixon said there's no more issues with procurement. Mercedes asked about Parts & Labor. She wants to partner with manufacturers and have trainings, also have inventory of parts with County so we don't have to wait too long for parts. Mr. Dixon agrees with her, and he will try to help. Dixon explained specific elevator parts that we need to have for data and easy access.
- Heidi says weeks ago, she went to Arch Center, parked at metro station, then took metro mover. Elevator up to metro mover platform, elevator platform looked like a crime scene with yellow tape and there was no sign or anything explaining. No signage for bus or proper route, then she found a note for SW 1st, then she went back to Arch Center, went up, and she asked bus drivers and they knew nothing. Heidi left after 45 minutes and eventually the Omni Loop was working. But there was no explanation or info available on the weekend. Heidi checked transit website before leaving home and there were no issues. If Metro Mover is closed or not working, we need to know beforehand. A stagehand had to walk 1.5 miles because transportation was not working. Arch Center costs \$30, so Heidi prefers public transit to save money. She wants audio signals to help PWD to cross the roads safely.
- Mr. Dixon says we have less personnel on weekends, and he wants to help that. He wants a station manager to help with situations because metro mover is mostly computerized and only has security guards. He wants to get station managers into the budget. He wants to improve communications on weekends when things break down. He wants to keep accessible customers happy.
- Heidi wants more options than STS. But there are too many transportation problems, so they need to depend on and overwhelm STS. Dixon will get with Paratransit to help.
- Mercedes acknowledges that things break and etc. But, is there a manual with info so that people understand what's happening and how best to handle it?
- Dixon says new employees need retraining on SOPs to prevent what happened to Heidi.
- Jackson is asking for future updates and Dixon says he will return next CODI meeting.
- Jackson asks about plans to help wheelchair users and wants more details about the future plan. Dixon says we are in planning phase. There are many locations that need updating in Miami Dade. More info to come at next CODI meeting from Dixon.
- Mercedes asking about STS and bringing in competitors to increase more cars.
- Dixon wants to help STS, look at STS analysis, number of riders and employees.
- Damian talks about customer feedback survey for STS and to help coordinate.
- Dixon wants to be our voice and gave his phone number 786-469-5225.
- Violet Gonzalez from Sunrise, asking about 16.7 million money from the Feds or where? Dixon answers that it was awarded from congress and not all for ADA.

- Violet discussed State money and issues with STS & transportation. Issues like being picked up too early and dropped off too early. We have customers arriving 2-3 hours late to destinations. Adding cameras in vehicles and holding corporations accountable.
- Dixon is working on grant funding for STS at federal & state level. Number of customers for STS has grown since COVID. Violet voices concern about safety issues for PWD.
- Mr. Martinez from audience asks about shuttle service Miami Dade Connect Dadeland. It has app with info, but it always refers PWD to bus service. He asks about funding.
- Dixon talks about funding and providing audio language to communicate with anybody.
- Martinez said Dixon is not familiar with that department. Dixon agreed and will get info.
- Martinez: they give you wrong info/phone numbers, not helpful to wheelchair users.
- Dixon talks about companies and strategies he used in DC, so he'll try doing more here.
- Martinez wants to know about transportation committees. Damian says, no we don't have those, but we address everything for disabilities in CODI.

4. Old Business:

- PHCD Housing Report Update (Matthew Tisdol, PHCD Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator)**
 - Emergency Management:**
 - Text-to 911 Update: OP-ED Resolution from District 5, Mr. Sierra (CODI Vice Chairman and Eddie I. Sierra)**
 - Transitioning CODI from ISD ADA Office to the Office of Community Advocacy (Chairman Gregory)**
- Damian begins discussing Housing Report. Cynthia has info about Housing Report.
 - Damian has questions: where does housing study stand now?
 - Cynthia: study draft is complete, but there's no timeline for finishing implementation of housing report. Heidi asks about Intellectual disabilities, housing issues, more solutions. Cynthia says report identified where to build more housing, but not how to do it. She'll get back to us in future on how to address the issues. Damian says the housing study can give us more answers to questions about disability issues with housing.
 - Heidi discusses statistics of housing for PWD and Cynthia took notes. Heidi: stats not accurate because some people refuse to label themselves as disabled. She wants answers about who will help and how. She discusses STS importance and making a living for themselves and working to afford housing. Too many PWD living in nursing homes, can't afford housing. We need more housing with inclusive design. CODI has trouble coming up with a plan of solutions to housing issues and needs to push forward.
 - Katherine M.: Miami-Dade population is growing and it's difficult to plan for future.
 - Mercedes talks about using DMV strategies/data to count population growth.
 - Katherine understands how to count population, but it's hard to track future growth. Heidi says Feds ask for 5% minimum accessibility, but Miami-Dade can do more.

- Mercedes read an article about affordable housing project, there was 20,000 applicants and the housing project cannot help all those applicants. Mercedes says we cannot project accurately how much we need, but we need to improve housing.
- Cynthia wants to accommodate the needs of our community. She will help.
- Katherine wants Miami-Dade to go above and beyond what the housing manual says.
- Mercedes wants meetings with commissioners to get the housing problem improved.
- Damian says we will table the records/minutes and deal with it the next meeting because we don't have previous minutes. They all voted and agreed. Damian now starts talking about disaster assistance, emergency evacuations/management, etc.
- Alexandria Cruz: 3,595 people on registry for emergencies. 1,678 people can get help. 350 children too. 1,122 can get help. They do presentations and help people apply for the registry and prepare for hurricane season. EEAP program does wellness check.
- Heidi asks how to signup for wellness check but not evacuation. Alexandria: everyone is trained. Registry is online. Wellness checks are at beginning and end of hurricane season. Registry is updated every 2 years. Correction staff helps during emergencies. Shelters are all ADA compliant. Damian: what's the level of assistance at a shelter?
- Alexandria: shelters have nurses, medical monitoring, help with mobility, etc. They ask PWD to come with a caretaker or someone. They have batteries and many supplies. But they have general equipment and encourage PWD to bring their own equipment.
- Violet states there are no shelters for PWD with mental/intense disabilities. She wants to help and provide sensory rooms, reduce noise and issues.
- Alexandria: they have quiet rooms for PWD to evacuate and be in. They have flip books, social narratives, etc. They let people know what to expect before arriving at shelters.
- Violet wants shelters for special needs. Alexandria: we don't have enough space in Miami-Dade, but need kits for PWD to use at shelters and outreach to get PWD to join.
- Damian says the number of PWD on the list (3,595) is too small. Alexandria agrees and wants more PWD to join the registry. But people are scared to join and share their info.
- Katherine loves the registry, but how do PWD who need dialysis get help?
- Alexandria says they work on individual basis with people who need dialysis. They contact people early to plan and help PWD with medical concerns.
- Roberto from fire rescue offers info for services in multiple languages, including outreach. They want us to send info to the public and help with outreach.
- Ulrica says, she wants info about applications and help get the word out.
- Heidi asked if they share data with STS. The answer is yes, data is shared to help PWD.
- Alexandria talks about where online to find application to apply for EEAP.
- Mercedes wants to replicate neighborhood crime watch, but to help PWD and elderly.
- Alexandria: yes they have a group (CERT - Community Emergence Response Team).
- Heidi: CERT training and equipment? Alexandria: yes the CERT team has training & equipment to handle issues and help PWD. CERT is online and provides classes.
- Roberto: brochure is on website, but call 305-573-7700, or 305-468-5932 for CERT help.

- Damian never got a call after 4 years. Heidi gets phone calls once a year. Alexandria apologized to Damian and explained the priority process of evacuation services.
- Heidi: can you refuse evacuation and drive your own car, especially in relation to SNACKS arrival? Alexandria & Roberto: everything must be coordinated in advance. People need their own plan and bring your important items with you during evacuation.
- Eddie asks about hearing impaired. Alexandria says people are aware of the program and they work with disability organizations, 311, etc., but people don't always sign up.
- Damian & Alexandria thank each other, will follow-up in the future.
- Rabbi discusses 911 matter. Ali Riaz: we can get text messages for 911. It took 2 years to implement in Miami-Dade. They're testing cellphone carriers. They're worried about GPS location data, which works perfectly with calls, but texting is uncertain, requires testing. Everything should be fully operational by end of summer 2nd quarter in 2024.
- Damian: thank you to Ali. Ali will return next CODI meeting with more updates.
- Mercedes asks about procurement & working with a vendor company that had failures.
- Ali says by 2022, all issues were worked out. Mercedes: concerned about safety & importance of texting 911. Ali: during emergencies, if you call 911, they can text you asking for location & open your camera, use WhatsApp, text back and forth.
- Damian wants help to accelerate text to 911 process. Eddie asks about City of Hialeah.
- Ali: they have phone technology in Hialeah to contact 911. But someone died during the project and Ali is helping Hialeah. Rabbi told a story about 911 and police quickly identified PWD thanks to the registry. Ali says PWD info and stickers identification will be tied into texting of 911 to make things quicker and better during emergencies.
- Violet: pros & cons of identifying PWD with labels, stickers, etc. Ali said it's optional. Violet: 40 hours of training for police officers to recognize & work with PWD.

5. Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment: Damian discusses future CODI meeting and how it may interfere with religious holiday, and we are unsure if we will have quorum for that next meeting. Meeting is officially adjourned.