



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, May 28, 2024	
Time:	10:30 AM – 1 PM	
Call to Order Time:	11:00 AM	
Meeting Adjourned:	12:30 PM	
Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.		
District 1 Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert, III	Damian Gregory Chairman	A
District 2 Commissioner Marliene Bastien	Jackson David	A
District 3 Commissioner Keon Hardemon	Marilyn Orozco	P
District 4 Commissioner Micky Steinberg	Melissa Knowles	A
District 5 Commissioner Eileen Higgins	Eddie Sierra Vice Chairman and Acting 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	A
District 12 Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria Mercedes Villar	P
District 13 Commissioner René Garcia	Theo Karantsalis	P

now which will help housing and our community. She will share information from AARP and Washington DC, how to become age-friendly community with 12 steps. She wants to put together a document with more info for CODI, so Maria will email her. Brenda shared her email address.

- Marilyn: asking questions about fixing bathrooms and Public Housing Department (PHD). Audience member who works for PHD will find more.
- Theo: thanked people and spoke about BCC for Mental Health Advisory Board that came into fruition. He met Brenda Lampon years ago at previous job.
- Brenda: wants to help with invisible disabilities too. She will work with Mental Health Advisory Board too.
- Eddie: talked about Heidi being experienced. He wants a law to make housing more accessible. What can we do to change this?
- Brenda: Mayor Regalado wants an ordinance for housing accessibility.
- Eddie clarified what we need, asking about tax credits and other solutions for housing. Miami-Dade County has low staff, can't regulate elevators and fix them even after 3 years without inspection. Without laws and ordinances, housing landlords have no need to fix homes or make them ADA compliant.
- Heidi clarified errors and asked Eddie for more details of what to focus on in housing. She gave examples of incentives for developers to add affordable/accessible housing. Fair Housing 5% minimum ADA requirement is being followed in Miami, but Miami could do more and we probably need more than 5%.
- Maria: can we propose that all new construction have at least one full ADA compliant bathroom on 1st floor?
- Heidi: 20% of housing units should be ADA compliant, maybe even all units. Everyone needs ADA compliance because of examples like marriage, new injuries, aging, etc.
- Maria: we can save money by building ADA bathrooms since they have less edges and things needed.
- Rob Collins: works in outreach for HOPE Incorporated, helps with discrimination, speaking about how they help people for free. Please contact us if you need help with housing discrimination.
- Rabbi asked for clarification.
- Rob: explained how they investigate, using employees to pretend to want housing and see if they get discriminated against in the same way as the complaint.
- Rabbi: it's not always discrimination, but sometimes people call it out too quickly or easily.
- Rob: we don't want people to doubt themselves or not seek help for discrimination. Discrimination happens a lot because it goes without being dealt with and rarely gets reported.
- Eddie: there's the Office of Human Rights that also helps with those issues.

b. Overview of Metro Connect Transit Service (Lynnette Chiverton, DTPW Operations Administrator)

- Carlos works for Public Works and transit: Metro Connect uses minivans to transport people. They are growing and exceeding records. They are trying to expand into paratransit. He does not like the name STS and wants that changed. Our current technology for paratransit is behind and needs improvement.
- Eddie: asked for clarifying who's in charge and who can help.
- Carlos: Linette is in charge of all transit services. He wants to answer questions.
- Eddie: PWD customers who use Metro Connect and similar STS services have difficulty, especially with the wrong vehicles (not accessible) being sent to pick them up.
- Carlos: Talked about increasing access, building more electric vehicles charging stations, help transiting short distances, etc. Metro Connect does operate where Eddie was asking about.
- Maria: they are considering expanding highways and busways.
- Carlos: clarified Kendall planning to expand 836. He prefers more buses to be used.
- Eddie: traffic does not move. He discussed more issues about transportation and failures. He also asked about studies of demographics in Metro Connect.
- Carlos: they ask for voluntary demographics and have that data if CODI wants it.
- Theo: having tracking info about when transportation is coming greatly helps, so we want that for Metro Connect and all transit in future.
- Carlos: we have real-time tracking already. We will do more focus group studies to help ADA concerns.
- Charice works for Public Works and used to be manager of Metro Connect: when you book vehicles, you must specifically state that you need an ADA compliant vehicle.

c. Transition of CODI to Office of Community Advocacy (Laura C. Morilla, Director of Community Advocacy)

- Heidi asked CODI to explain their specific need.
- Maria: we talk with commissioners a lot, but we can do more if sunshine laws were relaxed. For example, we need to go to advocacy so we can do a better job for PWD. Sunshine laws hinder us because we can't talk and work together to solve PWD issues outside of CODI meetings. Small businesses can benefit from having more employees with disabilities.
- Eddie: can we find a way to have a bigger influence as CODI?
- Marilyn: we can have sub-committees outside CODI to help get more results.
- Maria: we need time to get things done. We have resources to help more, but Sunshine laws limit efficiency and progress.
- Theo: agrees that we can do more if not restricted by Sunshine laws.

4. Old Business:

a. REMINDER: Financial Disclosure Forms (Heidi A. Johnson, ADA Coordinator, ISD)

- Heidi: asking about financial reporting. She tells CODI that it needs to get done, deadline is coming up and people will be removed if financial reporting is not completed. Elections department has forms to help. Also complete Ethics requirements, forms, class, or whatever needed. Check copies of previous year and follow instructions to fill out form, reporting for 2023.
- Brenda: everything is electronic and you can find yourself on the website to see what you need to do.

b. DTPW Customer Service Survey (Marque Dixon, ADA Coordinator, DTPW)

- Heidi: Customer Service Survey was brought up by Nicole Attong in previous CODI meeting, but she was absent today and CODI did not get more information today.
- Maria: we need to submit something and get more done, even if it's not perfect.
- Theo: financial disclosure form 1 needs to be done. Theo thanked Heidi for help. Person was caught selling 500 fake handicapped parking passes and is facing jail time. Alerts do work and PWD in unison have power working together.
- Audience did not want to say anything when asked for comments.
- Eddie: I was amazed that it took so long to capture the person because I can never find handicapped spots in Miami Beach and other places.
- Heidi: disabled placard system should be overhauled because there's big problems with it. Don't forget about our upcoming disability events in July, especially Friday July 26th and Saturday September 21st.
- Mike and Heidi clarified expectations of CODI coming to the ADA events.
- Theo: can we get a shirt for CODI? Maybe with a County logo?
- All CODI members agreed that would be great. However, Heidi is unsure if it's allowed.
- Marilyn: we want to send a letter about moving to Advocacy to Brenda.

**5. Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 - 10:30am-1pm
SPCC 18-4**

- Meeting officially adjourned at 12:30 PM.