



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, June 25, 2024	
Time:	10:30 AM – 1 PM	
Call to Order Time:	10:50 AM	
Meeting Adjourned:	12:24 PM	
Opening and Attendance: 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	P
District 4 Commissioner Micky Steinberg	Melissa Knowles	A
District 5 Commissioner Eileen Higgins	Eddie Sierra Vice Chairman	P
District 6 Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera	Vacant	A
District 7 Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado	Rabbi Yossi Harlig	P
District 8 Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins	Nicole Attong	P
District 9 Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee	Ulrica Garcia	A
District 10 Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez	Natalia Wong	P
District 11 Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez	Katherine Magnoli	P
District 12 Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria Mercedes Villar	A
District 13 Commissioner René Garcia	Theo Karantsalis	P

<p>Miami-Dade County Staff Present</p>	<p>Heidi A. Johnson, ISD, ADA Coordinator Jody Cox, ISD, ADA Coordinator Michael Moran, ISD, ADA Senior Officer Brenda Lampon, Mayor’s Office, Equity and Engagement Manager: Older Adults, Mental Health and Disabilities Joyce Galbut, CAHSD, Center Manager Laura Morilla, Director of Community Advocacy Odilanda Brito, PHCD, Compliance Reviewer</p>	
<p>Member(s) of the Public:</p>	<p>Rob Collins, Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Education & Outreach Coordinator Anthony Gonzalez, head representative of Sunrise</p>	

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Attendance was called and we had quorum with 9 CODI members present.

2. Approval of Today’s Agenda and Minutes: CODI Monthly Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2024

- Theo Karantsalis requested edits to the April minutes:
 - more details on Rene Garcia
 - more details on Brenda Lampon’s Miami-Dade College housing presentation.
 - Theo Karantsalis made a motion, requesting the two edits above, and Rabbi Yossi Harlig seconded it. Proposed amendments were approved.
 - Agenda was also approved (Nicole Attong made the motion and Jackson David seconded it).

3. Public Comments (Two minutes per person)

- Joyce Galbut, CAHSD’s DSAIL Center Manager, said that CAHSD has a daycare program for all disabled clients 18-59 and homecare programs delivering services. She works with Brenda Lampon, Mayor Levine Cava, District 13 Commissioner Rene Garcia and city leaders to improve the community and provide resources. Joyce is also a registered nurse.
- Jody Cox provided details on the 2024 ADA Celebration scheduled for July 24-26 (10AM-2PM) and on the Disability Resource Fair scheduled for September 21. Children’s Trust is providing some funding. Ms. Cox discussed specific performances by various groups, including Lighthouse for the Blind and Miami Heat Wheels. The Mayor and Commissioners have been invited to speak.
- Regarding the Resource Fair, Michael Moran confirmed there will be tables ready for at least 50 organizations and that there is space for up to 62 tables. CODI Chairman Damian Gregory expressed interest in speaking at the ADA Celebration. Ms. Cox will provide CODI members with a sign-up sheet to work shifts manning a table at the Resource Fair. Mr. Karantsalis will extend invitations to the Commissioners to speak at the celebration. The

ADA Office will email new electronic versions of fliers to the CODI members so that the members can distribute them to the public.

New Business

a. Gas Pump Ordinance (Brenda Lampon: Equity and Engagement Manager – Older Adults, Mental Health and Disabilities, Office of the Mayor)

- Chairman Gregory gave an overview of the ordinance which requires gas stations to post stickers on the pumps with a phone number. Disabled customers who cannot pump their gas can call the number to request assistance. If the station has at least two employees on duty, then one of them is supposed to assist the customer. Unfortunately, many gas stations are not posting the required phone number. Ms. Johnson spoke with Assistant County Attorney Shanika Graves, who said that the ordinance contains no enforcement mechanism. However, the Mayor has the power to create one. Chairman Gregory suggested that perhaps when inspectors are at stations checking compliance with food storage, they could also check the pumps for stickers with working phone numbers. Brenda Lampon thanked everyone for the information and said that CODI should spearhead the effort to create an effective enforcement mechanism.
- Chairman Gregory will write a proposal to carry out this project. CODI will review it, then it will be sent out to Commissioners. He then asked for a motion. Nicole Attong made the motion and Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion of Damian to further investigate the gas issue and he will report back to CODI in July. Motion passed.

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

- Laura Morilla is Director of the Office of Community Advocacy (OCA). She works with advisory boards under the purview of the Board of County Commissioners.
- Chairman Gregory said CODI wants to be housed under OCA. This would require getting funding to create a new board secretary position who would provide the CODI with the necessary administrative support. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Morilla clarified that the County budget for FY 24-25 is already nearly finalized.
- Laura Morilla listed the 12 advisory boards already under the OCA. The BCC must approve CODI's move to a new office, a process which takes three-to-four months. The boards on Domestic Violence and the Social & Economic Development Council were transferred to OCA through this process. Natalia Wong wants to speak with representatives from these boards about their moves to OCA.
- Ms. Johnson clarified that, even after a move to OCA, CODI would remain subject to sunshine and open meetings requirements.

- Ms. Morilla suggested writing a letter or resolution to county commissioners to get them to approve and sponsor CODI's move. Both Chairman Gregory and Eddie Sierra support the move. Chairman Gregory believes that moving to OCA will provide CODI with a more direct line to commissioners and that will help get things done.
- Ms. Attong asked about the disadvantages of moving to a new office. Since no funding has yet been requested to hire a board secretary, the move to OCA is indefinitely on hold. Ms. Attong said she would support a different plan to work with other groups if CODI cannot move to OCA. Can CODI work with Ms. Morilla's boards without moving? Ms. Morilla affirmed CODI can work on joint projects and initiatives without moving offices. But Laura clarified that her office cannot speak to Commissioners on behalf of CODI unless CODI moves to their office.
- Chairman Gregory said his commissioner, BCC Chairman Oliver Gilbert, will sponsor legislation to move CODI to OCA. Ms. Johnson advised CODI members to meet with their Commissioners before and after the First Reading of the item and to attend the meeting of whichever BCC committee the legislative item is assigned to. Laura confirms that advocacy takes hard work and lots of phone calls and meetings to get things done. It all must be done early so commissioners are not surprised mid-meeting.
- Mr. Sierra requested further clarification as to the advantages of moving to OCA. CODI members clarify that we already had a letter distributed with these points. Ms. Johnson advised CODI to be very clear about why they need to move to OCA and how the move will help improve CODI's efficacy. Ms. Attong said we need more steps to get a sponsor, address budget, go to a committee, talk with commissioners, etc. Nicole says we must create a document that is powerful and specific about us moving the office.
- Ms. Magnoli wants to organize CODI's move, assigning roles, etc. She has two different commissioners who will help. Every CODI member must reach out to every commissioner about moving CODI to OCA. Chairman Gregory will re-circulate the talking points drafted a few years ago on this topic. The talking points will help CODI members when they speak with elected officials and administrative staff.

5. Old Business:

a. DTPW Customer Service Survey; Audible Announcements on Trains (Marque Dixon, ADA Coordinator, DTPW)

- Due to Mr. Dixon's absence, the transit issues will be tabled until the next CODI meeting.
- Jackson David was nominated to help with the transportation issues since he has connections with transportation.

- Mr. Gregory says that announcements on trains are not happening, so blind passengers don't know what stations they are at or what's coming next. There are station elevators that are out of service.
- Mr. Karantsalis said Metrorail stations do not having enough disabled parking spaces, so disabled people should be permitted to park anywhere and not receive a citation. Mr. Karantsalis sometimes has to park in regular spaces and pay \$4.50 for parking even though he is legally disabled. Eddie says City of Miami Beach gives four hours of free parking in municipal parking spaces (on-street and city lots) for disabled drivers with disabled plates or a placard.
- Marilyn wants affordable and accessible housing to be discussed at the next CODI meeting. Damian says the PHCD study was completed, but commissioners wanted questions answered and they have not come back yet. Ms. Johnson will check on the status.
- There are no updates on text to 911.

5. Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment: Session adjourned at 12:24 PM. Next meeting: July 23, 2024.