



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, November 19, 2024	
Time:	10:30 AM – 1 PM	
Call to Order Time:	10:47 AM	
Meeting Adjourned:	12:32 PM	
<u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.		
District 1 Oliver G. Gilbert, III	Damian Gregory Chairman	P
District 2 Marliene Bastien	Jackson David	P
District 3 Keon Hardemon	Marilyn Orozco	P
District 4 Micky Steinberg	Vacant	
District 5 Eileen Higgins	Eddie Sierra Vice Chairman	A
District 6 Kevin M. Cabrera	Vacant	
District 7 Raquel A. Regalado	Rabbi Yossi Harlig	A
District 8 Danielle Cohen Higgins	Nicole Attong	A
District 9 Kionne L. McGhee	Ulrica Garcia	P
District 10 Anthony Rodriguez	Natalia Wong	P
District 11 Roberto J. Gonzalez	Katherine Magnoli	P
District 12 Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria Mercedes Villar	P
District 13 René Garcia	Theo Karantsalis	P

Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Heidi A. Johnson, ISD, ADA Coordinator Michael Moran, ISD, ADA Senior Officer Jody Cox, ISD, ADA Projects Administrator Harold Foster, BCC District 13, Commission Aide for Commissioner René Garcia Kimberly Brown, RER, Director of Resilience Planning and Implementation
Member(s) of the Public:	Anthony Gonzalez, Head Representative, Sunrise Group
1. Call to Order and Roll Call Attendance was called; CODI had quorum with 8 members present.	
2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: CODI Monthly Meeting Minutes for October 2024 - Item K concerning Sweetwater was incorrect: Mercedes Villar received a follow-up email, not Natalia Wong. This will be corrected. - Chairman Damian Gregory asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 2024 meeting and agenda. Ms. Villar made the motion and Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion. Motion passed.	
3. Public Comments (Two minutes per person) - Chairman Gregory opened the floor for public comments. - Anthony Gonzalez (Sunrise Group) thanked everyone and expressed an interest in joining CODI in the future. An autism advocate also introduced himself. - Commission Aide Harold Foster introduced himself and said he can help anytime. - Jody Cox and Jhordan Doblado introduced themselves.	
4. New Business a. Accessibility Standards for EV Charging Stations: Presentation on proposed rulemaking by the U.S. Access Board to address the accessibility of EV Charging Stations and an update on a recent Federal grant award to Miami-Dade County to install public EV charging stations at 61 County facilities (Kimberly Brown, RER, Director of Resilience Planning and Implementation) - The County received a \$4.7 million grant to install new EV level 2 chargers in Miami-Dade County at specific facilities. These will include libraries and other high traffic locations. Ms. Brown is seeking feedback about how to do it all correctly. Heidi Johnson and Ms. Brown how discuss installing a demo charger to show how it works and its accessibility features. Also being discussed is an electric car share program to help commuters reach public transit.	

- The US Access Board has drafted standards for EV chargers. In October, a notice of rulemaking preceded the guidelines becoming legal requirements. RER is awaiting release of the final rules.
 - EV charging station spaces won't count against the required minimum number of disabled parking spots. There will be accessible EV chargers with signage. Ms. Brown would like feedback from CODI.
 - Chairman Gregory said accessible charging stations need to be specifically delineated as accessible and displayed on a map online. Also, he expressed concern about the dexterity and strength required to operate the chargers. Ms. Brown said that charger cords retract when not in use. Also, there will be staff at the stations to assist.
 - Theo Karantsalis asked if stickers can be placed on accessible EV chargers with a phone number for PWD to call for assistance.
 - Ms. Brown said she would like to be put on a future CODI agenda when she has more details about exact locations.
- b. **Presentation on how to find BCC agendas online** at [Miami-Dade County - Legislative Information - Board of County Commission's Agendas](#) , the [County Calendar](#) and the County's ordinances at: www.municode.com
- c. **Chairman Gregory introduced Harold Foster, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Board of County Commissioners, District 13.**
- Mr. Karantsalis said that Mr. Foster's Commissioner, René Garcia, helps those in need and is a champion of the disabled community.
 - Mr. Foster said that Florida has too many people with mental health issues in jail. Mental health is an important resource and sometimes better than incarceration. They want to work with everyone like homeless trust, domestic violence, etc.

5. Old Business:

- Chairman Gregory said that officer elections will be on the December agenda. He asked odd numbered districts to share experiences and communications with their commissioners.
- Mercedes Villar said she wants to know how to be more effective in communicating with her commissioner and his staff. Marilyn Orozco said she has had no luck with—phone and email. She has to make in-person visits and they give her the run-around. They seem to turn us down even when she invites them to disability-related events. I don't get much response.
- Kat Magnoli said her experience with her commissioner has been odd. He has been apologetic and diplomatic. They were supposed to do lunch but it never happened. It takes a week or two to get responses which she finds to be superficial.
- Ulrica Garcia brought Commissioner McGee in on telephone. He thanked CODI and promised to attend a future CODI meeting.
- Mr. Karantsalis said he goes to BCC sub-committee meetings which are lightly attended. He is able to communicate with Commissioners before the meetings begin.

- Chairman Gregory said that state lawmakers are more accessible than local lawmakers.
- Ms. Villar said that the commissioners need to know that CODI wants more involvement with the STS contract process.
- Jackson David said that CODI needs to ask specific things from commissioners so they come and offer help. They don't want to listen unless they have something to offer.
- Heidi Johnson suggested that CODI members get more involved with learning about BCC items, then connect to commissioners that way.
- Chairman Gregory said that CODI's December agenda will be focused on transportation. Damian – next meeting requires establishing a new line of communication with STS. Need to get right commissioner to help with transportation.
- Ms. Johnson suggested that CODI members find out which BCC subcommittees their commissioners belong to. The members may want to synchronize what they want with whatever issues the Commissioners are discussing in their agendas.
- Mr. David said every CODI member must get info on which commissioners can help with which specific topics.
- Mike Moran suggested giving commissioners a list of interview questions or ideas before coming to CODI so they can better answer questions and provide solutions.
- Chairman Gregory said he will reach out to Marque Dixon, requesting that he attend next month's meeting. We want everyone involved for agenda items.

5. Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment:

- Chairman Gregory adjourned the meeting at 12:32 PM.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, December 16, 2024: 10:30am - 1pm, SPCC 18-4.