



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, December 17, 2024	
Time:	10:30 AM – 1 PM	
Call to Order Time:	10:58 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	A
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	A
District 11 Roberto J. Gonzalez	Katherine Magnoli	P
District 12 Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria Mercedes Villar	P
District 13 René Garcia	Theo Karantsalis	P

- Marilyn Orozco said that door to door service is not always provided. Customers are left in the middle of the street instead of at their door. Ms. Hernandez said that complaints about pickups and drop-offs should be directed to the County, either by phone or online.
 - Chairman said that the key component for a productive discussion is to have both representatives of the contractors and Jarice Rodriguez at the January meeting. STS will be 90 percent of the January agenda.
- b. Ms. Elizabeth K. Fisher, Chairperson for the City of Miami Springs Disability Advisory Board:** Madi has Multiple Sclerosis, where her body and brain do not communicate properly. While on a trip 3,500 miles from home, influenza caused her muscles to shut down. Madi could not eat or drink or move without help. A plane ride was impossible for her, so medical air transport at a cost of \$50,000 was arranged. She went through therapy and can now move. She can ride a bike and attended her daughter's wedding. Ms. Fisher is asking CODI to try and help get clarity with insurance companies and coverage for people with disabilities. She hopes that CODI can communicate with disability organizations, Disability Florida, law professors, Disability Independence Group, etc. Ms. Fisher wants to humanize Madi's story and help CODI push for legislative change to get HMO policy and air ambulance procedures to be streamlined and easier to access for people with disabilities like Madi.
- CODI members agreed to help Ms. Fisher and Mr. Karantsalis thanked Ms. Fisher. Next year, Mr. Karantsalis will be inviting people to CODI meetings. James Longman is a book writer and war correspondent. His new book is about schizophrenia. He interviewed Mr. Karantsalis about his medical issues and included his story in the book. It's a book about hope, DNA, socializing, and other ways to help PWD to deal with issues.
- c. 2025 CODI Calendar:** Mr. Moran announced the proposed CODI meeting dates for next year. However, they could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

5. Old Business:

- a. Letter about gas station pumps:** This discussion item was postponed due to lack of quorum.
- b. Letter about subminimum wage:**
- Chairman Gregory asked all CODI members to email the subminimum wage letter that he drafted to their commissioners and other elected officials. While the BCC doesn't have the power to legislatively change this, they can pass an urging. (Mike Moran will email the letter to the CODI members.)
- d.** Jody Cox suggest getting others to send in similar letters. Contact state elected officials, too.
- e.** Mercedes Villar said that the states of Florida, Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington still permit the payment of subminimum wage to people with disabilities in certain circumstances.

c. Text to 911: This discussion item was postponed due to lack of quorum.

d. Election of CODI members for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary Treasurer: Officer elections were postponed due to lack of quorum.

5. Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment:

- Chairman Gregory adjourned the meeting at 12:32 PM.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 - 10:30am-1pm, SPCC 18-4