

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	
Opening and Attendance: Attendistributed.	dance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were	
District 1 Oliver G. Gilbert, III	Damian Gregory Chairman	Р
District 2 Marliene Bastien	Jackson David	Α
District 3 Keon Hardemon	Marilyn Orozco	Р
District 4 Micky Steinberg	Vacant	
District 5 Eileen Higgins	Eddie Sierra Vice Chairman	Α
District 6 Kevin M. Cabrera	Vacant	
District 7 Raquel A. Regalado	Rabbi Yossi Harlig	Α
District 8 Danielle Cohen Higgins	Nicole Attong	Α
District 9 Kionne L. McGhee	Ulrica Garcia	Р
District 10 Anthony Rodriguez	Natalia Wong	Α
District 11 Roberto J. Gonzalez	Katherine Magnoli	Р
District 12 Juan Carlos Bermudez	Maria Mercedes Villar	Р
District 13 René Garcia	Theo Karantsalis	Р

Miami-Dade County Staff	Michael Moran, ISD, ADA Senior Officer
	Jody Cox, ISD, ADA Projects Administrator
	Brenda Lampon, Mayor's Office, Equity and Engagement
	Manager – Older Adults, Mental Health and Disabilities
Members of the Public	Anthony Gonzalez, Head Representative, Sunrise Group
	Elizabeth Fisher, Chairman of Miami Springs Advisory Board
	Victoria Hernandez, STS General Manager at Transportation
	America
	John Williams, STS employee at Transportation America

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Meeting started at 10:58 AM.
- Attendance was called. Because only six members were present, CODI did NOT have quorum.
- 2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: CODI Monthly Meeting Minutes for November 2024
- Minutes and Agenda could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

3. Public Comments (Two minutes per person)

- Elizabeth Fisher spoke about disability topics
- John Williams and Victoria Hernandez spoke about STS

4. New Business

a. Josiel Ferrer-Diaz, DTPW Deputy Director

Mr. Josiel Ferrer-Diaz was on the agenda but was unable to attend the meeting. Victoria Hernandez and John Williams work for STS at Transportation America and spoke with us about STS.

- Kat Magnoli has been using STS for many years, but she feels that STS services have not improved. She said that STS changes her pick-up and drop-off times without notifying her. They also add extra people on the vehicle and Kat often arrives late to her destinations. She often waits an hour for pickups and can be in a vehicle for three hours. She knows of hundreds of dialysis patients that wait for hours for STS pickups.
- Victoria Hernandez explained that the Trapeze software is old and flawed. STS provides 6,000 trips per day occur and the software makes automatic changes to increase efficiency of rides. Trapeze does not use current traffic patterns.
- Jody Cox said that her daughter uses STS three to four times each week. She arranges rides earlier on purpose because she knows STS changes ride times often and will likely arrive late. Also, it's hard to call and get a live STS representative on the phone. Organizations blame each other, but no one wants to take responsibility. Ms. Hernandez said that the contractor provides a ride service, but they don't create the scheduling system. That is done by the County. is very involved in STS county issues and would love to be here. CODI agreed to invite Jarice Rodriguez (DTPW Principal Planner) to the January CODI meeting.

- 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