



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, March 25, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM – 1 PM

Call to Order Time: 10:35 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 PM

Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed.

- District 1 Oliver G. Gilbert, III Damian Gregory 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 A
- District 6 Kevin M. Cabrera Vacant
- District 7 Raquel A. Regalado Rabbi Yossi Harlig A
- District 8 Danielle Cohen Higgins Vacant
- District 9 Kionne L. McGhee Ulrica Garcia A
- District 10 Anthony Rodriguez Natalia Wong A
- District 11 Roberto J. Gonzalez Katherine Magnoli Chairperson P
- District 12 Juan Carlos Bermudez Maria Mercedes Villar Secretary
Treasurer A
- District 13 René Garcia Theo Karantsalis Vice Chairperson P

Miami-Dade County Staff and Members of the Public:

- Heidi A. Johnson, PIOD, ADA Coordinator
- Jody Cox, PIOD, ADA Projects Administrator
- Michael Moran, ADA Senior Officer
- Marie-Chantal Darius, ADA Coordination Specialist
- Brenda Lampon, Office of the Mayor, Senior Advocate
- Roberto Cepeda, Miami-Dade Emergency Management Coordinator
- Kulsum Agha, Miami-Dade Emergency Management
- Caroline Lewis, Miami-Dade Emergency Management
- Joyce Galbut, CAHSD Center Manager
- Paulina Wolff, UM Family Navigator Program Director

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - Meeting called to order at 10:35 AM. With only four members present, CODI did not have quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: These items will be addressed at the next meeting due to today's lack of quorum.

3. Public Comments (Two minutes per person) No comments were made.

4. New Business
 - A. Roberto Cepeda - Annual presentation about the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program
 - The Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) provides free evacuation assistance to eligible residents living in Miami-Dade County who need specialized transportation and/or sheltering or who would like to receive a wellness call after a disaster. It provides a safe place during emergencies and a wellness check for those who choose to shelter in place.
 - Prior to an emergency, residents who may require medical monitoring, assistance with daily living or have life-saving medical equipment dependent on electricity should register for the EEAP to ensure help is available when needed. Pre-registered residents will receive priority during an emergency. The system may also be utilized post-disaster to provide other assistance.
 - Communications and information are provided in three languages: English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. People register once a lifetime. The info on participants is updated twice per year. There are approximately 4,200 people in registry. To make the public aware of the program, the staff do outreach to different agencies, vulnerable populations, etc. Applications to register can be requested by telephone via 311 or 305-513-7700. Special format applications are available. They will assist anyone who needs help registering. PWDs can register online, too.
 - Mr. Cepeda said they don't ask about medical details due to HIPPA laws, but they need to know how to help people in event of an evacuation and what services they will need. Many evacuation centers are schools. School buses and STS transport people to and from the centers. PWDs are encouraged to bring a caregiver with them. However, the centers have nurses that can assist.

CODI Attendance and Quorum

- Damian Gregory suggested that CODI approach current CODI members with attendance issues and encourage them to attend as audience members and not as CODI members.
- Marilyn Orozco said that CODI members need to be willing to dedicate four hours per month, or give that opportunity to someone else.
- Chairperson Magnoli agrees with Theo Karantsalis's idea about praising those who attend and Mr. Gregory's input about letting other CODI members know they are on thin ice.

- Chairperson Magnoli opened a discussion about how to recruit and fill vacant spots. Ms. Johnson said that all CODI members should help recruit new members. The ADA Office can send applications to those interested in joining, then submit applications to Commissioners with open appointments.
- Ms. Johnson said that part of the attendance problem is due to CODI choosing to accept any excuse for lack of attendance as valid. Chairperson Magnoli said there should be a penalty for failure to attend meetings. She then asked if the ADA Office warns members about their accumulation of absences. Ms. Johnson said no because all of the members are adults. She suggested emulating the City of Miami Beach's Disability Access Committee which does not differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable reasons for failure to attend meetings. The city's code states that: " If any member of an agency, board or committee fails to attend 33 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings per calendar year, such member shall be automatically removed. To calculate the number of absences under the 33 percent formula, .4 or less rounds down to the next whole number and .5 or more rounds up to the next whole number. Attendance shall be recorded when an individual arrives within 30 minutes of the scheduled meeting time and remains for at least 70 percent of the meeting."
- Chairperson Magnoli requested that Mike Moran send her attendance records for all CODI members.

5. Old Business:

Reviewing letter drafts:

Assistance at Gas Stations

- Mr. Moran said he can send out a letter via email to a list of 700+ gas stations and emails. Ms. Cox suggested inviting to a CODI meeting an outreach employee from Sunshine Gas Distributors, which owns and operates hundreds of gas stations across the County. This could be done via a phone call.

STS and Disability Etiquette

- Mr. Gregory said that STS training must include disability etiquette. We must be part of the training, too. Chairperson Magnoli agreed.
- Brenda Lampon said she would work with Ms. Johnson to add comments to improve the STS and gas pump letters, then email comments to Mr. Moran.
- Chairperson Magnoli said CODI should get the Miami-Dade County Board of Education to send someone to talk about how they will help students with disabilities, since the U.S. Department of Education is being dismantled.
- Ernie Martinez, member of the public, asked if CODI had committees. Ms. Johnson said that CODI had them back in 2012, but the system did not work due to lack of quorum. If some CODI members are reluctant to attend one monthly meeting, then they are unlikely to attend two or three additional committee meetings each month.
- Chairperson Magnoli said that the gas station ordinance should be copied and pasted into the letter. Ms. Johnson pointed out that there is no enforcement mechanism nor penalties in the County code section regarding gas stations and accessibility requirements.

Miami-Dade County Code: Article III, Sec. 11A-20.1. - Accessibility Requirements.

- (1) Within ninety (90) days of enactment of this Ordinance, all gas station retailers shall be required to prominently display a sign, decal or sticker, no smaller than fifteen (15) square inches, on the front of all gasoline pumps clearly stating the telephone number for that gas station retailer, the international symbol of accessibility ("ISA), and wording such as "Call for Assistance" or "Assistance Available upon Request," in substantially the form pictured below. The sign, decal or sticker must also be on a blue background. The telephone number indicated on the sign decal or sticker shall be operational and answered directly by an employee of the gas station retailer is open for business to the public.
- (2) The gas station retailer shall require an attendant to provide refueling assistance to any motor vehicle properly displaying an exemption parking permit as provided in Section 316.1958 or 320.0848, Florida Statutes, as may be amended, or a license plate issued pursuant to Sections 320.084, 320.0842, 320.0843, or 320.0845, Florida Statutes, as may be amended, when the person to whom such permit has been issued is the operator of the vehicle and such service is requested during the hours the gas station retailer is open for business to the public.
- (3) However, should such assistance be requested during times when a second attendant is not present at a self-service gasoline station, the gas station retailer is not required to provide the requested assistance. In such case, if a remote or electronic means of communication with the requester exists, the one attendant on duty shall inform the person that he or she is unable to provide such assistance as a result of having only one attendant on duty.
 - b. Text to 911: No updates this month

Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2025: 10:30am-1pm, SPCC 18-4