



**Miami-Dade County  
Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)  
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)  
111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33128  
18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room 18-4**

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM – 1 PM

Call to Order Time: 10:45 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 Vice Chairman      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      Vacant
- District 10 Anthony Rodriguez      Natalia Wong      P
- District 11 Roberto J. Gonzalez      Katherine Magnoli Chairman      P
- District 12 Juan Carlos Bermudez Maria Mercedes Villar A
- District 13 René Garcia      Theo Karantsalis      P

**Miami-Dade County Staff and Members of the Public**

- Heidi Johnson, PIOD, ADA Coordinator
- Jody Cox, PIOD, ADA Projects Administrator
- Michael Moran, PIOD, ADA Senior Officer
- Marie-Chantal Darius, PIOD, ADA Coordination Specialist
- Brenda Lampon, Office of the Mayor, Senior Advocate
- Matthew Tisdol, HCD, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator
- Jorge Batista, PROS, Therapy, Recreation & Inclusion Therapy
- Karla Damian, CITT, Chief Communications Officer
- Janet Bravo, DTPW, Administrative Secretary
- Jarice Rodriguez, DTPW, Principal Planner
- Cheryl Mizell, CITT, Customer Advocate Program Coordinator
- Javier Betancourt, CITT, Executive Director
- Susan Holtzman, President and CEO, NAMI

- Nelson Trujillo, ITS/MMS, Transport Services
- Lili Portmann, CILSF

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 10:45 AM. Only five members were present so there was no quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Without quorum, no vote for the approval of agenda or minutes could be held.

3. Public Comments (Two minutes per person): N/A

4. New Business

a. Jarice Rodriguez (DTPW), Interim Chief of the Paratransit Operations (STS) Division

- STS Services currently has only 26 of 32 staff positions filled. More training is needed for STS Staff. Brenda Lampon will assist with arranging for training. The following has been identified:
  - Disability Etiquette training began in March and will be held again in May.
  - We are also providing one-hour training online and another group of employees will take it soon. Twelve employees already took the first part of the training out of the three-month training process that we have put in place.
  - There is an upcoming refresher training for all staff about policies and regulations.
  - STS drivers will focus on courtesy and providing better services generally.
  - The Division will explore resources such as Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and other nonprofits that can provide services for travel training, especially for disabled riders who use a combination of paratransit and fixed route transit.
  - Chairperson Kat Magnoli stated that STS staff can benefit from more hands-on training. Ms. Rodriguez said they have a series of training materials to provide to drivers plus additional training.
  - Ms. Rodriguez said that riders should call 311 when they spot issues that need to be reported.

b. Javier Betancourt, CITT Executive Director and Cheryl Mizell, CITT Ambassador Program Coordinator (Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust)

- For the last 22 years, CITT has monitored, audited and overseen the use of funds.
  - They spend 5 percent of the half penny tax and put bulk of the funds into the system. Cities get 20 percent of the funds and County gets 80 percent. There is a free transit pass for seniors. There is a rapid bus network in six corridors. By summer, 38 corridors will be open.
  - Cheryl Mizell spoke about the CITT ambassador program that was launched in 2023. They are seeking frequent riders who will test the system and receive rewards. The rewards include Lyft and Uber credits as well as credit for monthly passes. They can receive points just by mentioning #CITT ambassador on social media posts. There

will be an anniversary celebration and Mayor will announce the Ambassador of the Year.

- Regarding transit on demand, each city has its own contract. We are still working to bring it all together. CITT over sees how the funds are being used. There is no central dispatching for wheelchair-accessible on demand vehicles and not every on-demand vehicle is accessible for wheelchair users. What is the percentage of those that are fully accessible?

Brenda Lampon: Office of the Mayor, Senior Advocate

- There are 528 accessible housing units, 423 of which are certified and 128 are pending. It's unclear when certification will be complete.
- PHCD confirms that it meets the HUD minimum requirements of 5 percent of units accessible for residents with mobility impairments and 2 percent units accessible for those with sensory disabilities. PHCD is working on making its website accessible. [www.miamidade.gov/housing](http://www.miamidade.gov/housing)
- Mr. Gregory expressed concern regarding a housing report previously requested by CODI. The Director believes the report was completed and he will verify and return with answers.

Susan Holtzman, President and CEO, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

- Sometimes mental health is not considered a disability. The schools have a program for students to recognize signs of mental illness.
- Mental Health issues change dynamics. 988 is the National Mental Health Crisis line to send mobile response units to your home.
- May 10 is the Mental Health Awareness Walk at Marlins Park and NAMI is expecting 4,000 people. Mayor Levine Cava will open and Channel 6 is hosting the event from 8am to 10:30 am. [Outpouring@NAMIiami.org](mailto:Outpouring@NAMIiami.org).

5. Old Business:

- a. Gas Pumps - No update was provided due to lack of quorum.
- b. Text to 911 - No update was provided due to lack of quorum.

Next Scheduled Meeting and Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 2025: 10:30am-1pm, SPCC 18-4