



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes - Draft

Date: October 28, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Meeting video link: <https://youtu.be/0rvscaZdQGw> *video recording started approximately 20 min. after meeting started.

Call to Order: 10:45 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 pm

Miami-Dade County Staff in Attendance:

- Michael Moran, Senior ADA Coordinator
- Marie-Chantal Darius, ADA Coordinator Specialist
- Jody Cox, ADA Project Administrator
- Daniel Borges, Assistant Director, PIOD
- Shanika Graves, Assistant County Attorney, CAO
- Odilanda Brito, Compliance Reviewer, HCD
- Nathanel Surrancy, Manager, OCR/LR/DTPW

Members of the Public in Attendance:

- David W. McMillan, Ph.D., Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
- Juan Carlos Gil
- Cynthia M. Hall- Palombo
- John C. Williams
- Willie Lucas
- Joel Llanes

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

A. Roll Call:

- District 1, Commissioner Oliver Gilbert: Damian **Gregory** (present)
- District 2, Commissioner Marliene Bastien: **Vacant**
- District 3, Commissioner Keon Hardemon: Marilyn **Orozco** (present)

- District 4, Commissioner Micky Steinberg: Vacant
- District 5, Commissioner Eileen Higgins: Eddie **Sierra**, Vice Chair (present)
- District 6, Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera: Marisabel **Rey** (present)
- District 7, Commissioner Raquel Regaldo: **Rabbi Yossi Harlig** (present)
- District 8, Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins: **Vacant**
- District 9, Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee: Vacant
- District 10, Commissioner Anthony Rodriguez: Natalia **Wong** (present)
- District 11, Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez: Katherine **Magnoli**, Chairperson (present)
- District 12, Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez: **Maria Mercedes Villar** (present)
- District 13, Commissioner René Garcia: Theo **Karantsalis** (present)

B. Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am with seven CODI members present during roll call, and a total of nine attending. Quorum was achieved.
- Chairman Magnoli requested a motion to approve the September minutes as well as the October agenda.
 - During the motion to approve the minutes from the previous month, Theo Karantsalis addressed an item regarding public parking that he wanted added to the September minutes. Amending the minutes was discussed.
 - “At this point, Ms. Graves addressed the Board and stated that before any motions could be voted on, the September minutes needed to be approved. Chairwoman Magnoli then asked for a motion on the minutes.
 - Mr. Karantsalis raised a point of order, stating, ‘We have had three interruptions now from a young lady without being recognized first by the Chair,’ and objected that Ms. Graves had spoken several times without first being recognized by the Chair in accordance with Robert’s Rules.
 - Ms. Graves stated that she could be recognized by the Chair and that, as the board’s attorney, she believed it was her role to speak when the Board was conducting its business improperly, including making motions while another motion was pending.
 - Mr. Karantsalis then asked who she was, and she restated her name and position.

- Damian Gregory moved to approve the agenda and Marilyn Orozco seconded the motion. After a vote, the motion to approve October's agenda was adopted unanimously.
- Marilyn Orozco moved to add October agenda items E and F to the November meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Natalia Wong. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Mercedes Villar moved to recognize Cynthia Hall's (Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins' pending appointee to CODI) military service with the motion seconded by Eddie Sierra. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comments:

- Ms. Hall reported issues with privately operated parking areas using accessible spaces improperly and a lack of enforcement. She requested clearer definitions and oversight of accessibility requirements in County facilities and partnerships.
- Juan Carlos Gil raised concerns about STS pickup and drop off accessibility at the Shake-A-Leg facility, elevator outages in Coconut Grove, and general accessibility deficiencies at Tri-Rail and other County locations.
- Mr. Karantsalis made a point of information for the record that he submitted a Sunshine Law and Public Records Integrity Complaint to the Miami-Dade State's Attorney's Office. He contended that an October 20, 2025, zoom meeting between Chairwoman Magnoli and ADA Office staff to set the meeting agenda (during which item B of the agenda was purportedly discussed) should have been noticed and advertised as a Sunshine meeting.
 - "He responded to comments made at the previous meeting regarding the amount of time he and another member had spoken. He referred to a prior staff comment suggesting that CODI members should be limited to two minutes of speaking time so that the board could get more accomplished. He then played an audio excerpt from October 20, 2025, zoom meeting between the Chair and staff, which he stated reflected that discussion.
 - After the recording was played, Chairwoman Magnoli stated that she felt personally targeted and made an emotional statement expressing that she wanted the CODI board to work together and accomplish goals for the disability community. She stated that she had spoken with staff because she felt hurt and felt that she was being targeted by certain members during the last meeting.

- “A transcript of the audio excerpt played by Mr. Karantsalis should be prepared and attached to these minutes as part of the official record.”

D. Old Business Discussion:

- **Parking Issues:** Chairwoman Magnoli address the parking issue that was brought up during the last meeting and discussion began regarding fees, fines, and communication between the County and municipal parking authorities.
 - Ms. Wong proposed that CODI members draft a letter to County Commissioners to request consistency and elimination of parking fees for vehicles displaying valid disability placards.
 - Damian Gregory made a motion to have all CODI board members speak with their Commissioners regarding making all accessible parking spaces across municipalities free to individuals with a valid placard. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Orozco. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Mari Rey will invite staff from the Miami Parking Authority to a future meeting to discuss accessible parking enforcement.

E. New Business Discussion:

- **Benefits of the Ocean for People with Disabilities:** Due to a shortfall in time, David W. McMillan will present more about the neurological benefits of the ocean on people with disabilities at a future CODI meeting. He offered to provide his points in a written format.
- **Sabrina Cohen Foundation:** Chairman Magnoli shared information about the Sabrina Cohen Foundation and the donor bricks fundraiser.
 - While Sabrina Cohen was unable to attend and present information on Adaptive Fitness and Inclusion Initiatives of the Sabrina Cohen Foundation, CODI members expressed support for the project and emphasized the need for County awareness and funding.
 - **Action items:** Marilyn Orozco reported sending correspondence on increasing accessible beach mats and the required minimum percentage of accessible housing units in County housing.
 - **Motion:** Damian Gregory made a motion that Chairwoman Kat Magnoli and David McMillan draft a letter to County Commissioners requesting County support for the Sabrina Cohen Adaptive Fitness Center initiative. Motion seconded by Marilyn Orozco. Motion approved unanimously.
- **CODI Member Absenteeism:** Mr. Karantsalis raised concerns regarding how CODI member absences present quorum challenges. He moved

that CODI request the Mayor to direct the ADA Office CODI liaison to track attendance in accordance with County Code 21139. At each meeting, staff should alert the board when members reach the threshold of absences triggering removal. They should also confirm on the record in each meeting which absences are excusable. He proposed enforcement of County Code provisions requiring the removal of board members with three or more unexcused absences within the fiscal year.

- Damian Gregory requested guidance from the County Attorney's Office regarding member attendance. Ms. Graves advised that CODI may use existing code provisions or amend them via Commissioner sponsorship. She can provide a sample ordinance template. She said that some boards have amended their code provision to require the automatic removal of members.
- **CODI Member Efforts to Communicate with Commissioners:** Members shared difficulties in obtaining responses from their appointing Commissioners. They discussed the importance of following up with Commissioners and their staff.
- Ms. Wong asked if there was a list of priority issues that could be referenced when communicating with Commissioners.

I. **Next Schedule Meeting and Adjournment:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025: 10:30am-12pm, SPCC 18-4.
- Ms. Wong made a motion to adjourn today's meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Orozco. Meeting was adjourned.

* Florida's Sunshine Law — "Public Meetings" Fla. Stat. § 286.011 (2010)

Sunshine Law applies to — any gathering (formal or informal) of **two or more members** of the same board