

**MINUTES
ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

June 11, 2019

MEMBERS Denis Bayle
PRESENT: Toby Gordon
Roslyn Greenberg
June McCarthy
John Neff
Veronica Palomino
Pamela Romack
Tracy Stafford
Elaine Turner

MEMBERS Jorge Ibacache
ABSENT: Elizabeth Espinoza

ALSO Chad Zurko, Office Manager, Professional
PRESENT: Standards/Human Rights Section
Vanesha Sinclair, Administrative Assistant, Professional
Standards/Human Right Rights Section

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, June 11, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., in Room 301 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The 1st Vice Chair called the meeting to order. A quorum was present following Roll Call by Vanesha Sinclair, Administrative Assistant, Professional Standards/Human Right Section.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Stafford, second by Ms. McCarthy and unanimously carried, the ABID adopted the agenda, as submitted.

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2019

Ms. McCarthy referred to page 3 paragraph 3 of the May 16, 2019 meeting minutes.

Ms. McCarthy suggested that “vulnerable population” verbiage be provided on County websites. The Chair suggested that questions be formulated for Emergency Management.”

Ms. McCarthy confirmed that the vulnerable population verbiage is already on the County’s website, however, the term “disabilities” should be added into this

verbiage to ensure that the reader understands that persons with disabilities are identified as “vulnerable population”.

Ms. McCarthy further explained that the vulnerable population is considered a general category. Individuals with disabilities falls under the subsection of this category. Ms. McCarthy is concerned that individuals with disabilities are unaware to click the general link titled “vulnerable population” to find information regarding individuals with disabilities. The ABID further discussed the need to add the term disabilities on County websites.

Without objection, the ABID amended the meeting minutes from May 16, 2019, to read:

Ms. McCarthy suggested that the term “disabilities” be added into the current verbiage on the County website regarding “vulnerable population”. This would ensure that the reader understands that persons with disabilities are identified as “vulnerable population”. The ABID agreed to the suggestion. The Chair suggested that questions be formulated for Emergency Management.

There were no other additions or subtractions for the May 16, 2019 meeting minutes. On motion of Mr. Neff, second by Ms. Palomino, the ABID approved the Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2019, with the amendment.

4. CHAIR’S REPORT

The 1st Vice Chair introduced the newly appointed ABID members.

Ms. Toby Gordon introduced herself. She has lived in Broward County for a couple years after moving from New York. Ms. Gordon stated she worked in assigned nursing homes, there she gathered experience with both the elderly and children with disabilities. Her strengths are thinking outside of the box and developing solutions to critical problems. Ms. Gordon noted that she is a certified paralegal in the states of New York and Florida.

The ABID welcomed Ms. Gordon.

Ms. Roslyn Greenberg introduced herself. She served on the Charter Review Commission for 3 years. She noted that she is a former teacher; with 21 years of teaching experience. Ms. Greenberg stated that she is very interested in helping the disabled, as she herself walks with the assistance of a cane.

The ABID welcomed Ms. Greenberg.

Members of the ABID introduced themselves to Ms. Gordon and Ms. Greenberg.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Turner mentioned her discussion with Mr. Stafford, as he is a consumer of Transportation Options Program (TOPS). Mr. Stafford pointed out to Ms. Turner that most times transportation sends out a minivan for him. Although the minivan has ramps to accommodate his wheelchair, an issue occurs when Mr. Stafford attempts to make adjustment so that he is positioned properly. The limited space within the minivan causes damage to Mr. Stafford's wheelchair. Ms. Turner suggested that what TOPS offers to persons that occupy a wheelchair should be consistent in providing the appropriate space to prevent this from occurring.

Ms. Turner advised that Mr. Stafford also inquired about establishing a prepaid account; similar to SunPass. This helps to prevent the consumer from the physical strain of going to the bank to withdraw the correct dollar amount for their rides. This accommodation should also allow the consumer to store payment information in order to automatically replenish their account once the balance is below a certain threshold.

Ms. McCarthy noted that this suggestion was given last year on the ABID's Annual Report and Recommendations.

Ms. Turner recalled attending a recent event for individuals with disabilities May 18, 2019. The individuals at the event requested transportation through TOPS. Ms. Turner recalled TOPS providing 8 or 9 vans to transport the individuals to their destinations. Ms. Turner suggested to be more efficient perhaps TOPS could have grouped individuals with destinations in close proximity, as oppose to providing a vehicle for each person.

Ms. Turner recalled an unfortunate incident where a passenger of TOPS was brought to the wrong destination with no way of communicating his location. Ms. Turner stated Mr. Paul Strobis, Transit Manager, has previously stated that a tracking system will be implemented for TOPS' passengers. Ms. Turner suggested at the next meeting with Mr. Strobis an update is requested regarding the progress of this tracking system.

Ms. Turner mentioned an individual who expressed their concern regarding TOPS' timely arrival with the service to Boca Raton. The individual stated he was waiting at least an hour for the arrival of his vehicle. Ms. Turner stated late arrivals is a reoccurring issue that must be addressed with TOPS.

The ABID agreed that the Transportation Committee's goals are as follows:

- Ensure that TOPS arrive to passengers with the proper size vehicle to accommodate individuals with disabilities.
- Send reliable vehicles in a timely manner to assist individuals.

- Determine the percentage of individuals that are experiencing problems with the transportation payment system.
- Improve TOPS routing system to serve passengers more efficiently.
- Establish a tracking system to account for passengers' location.

The ABID agreed that the Transportation Committee's objective is to meet with Mr. Strobis to obtain the information necessary to determine the percentage of consumers who are experiencing issues with payment, timeliness, appropriate size vehicle with access, and the routing system.

Ms. Greenberg noted she is the ambassador for Coconut Creek 211 Touch Line which assist individuals with approval for TOPS.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Transportation

(Item 6A was taken up during item 5 Old Business.)

B. Education and Awareness

(No report given.)

C. Legislation

Mr. Neff stated the Legislation Committee's objective is to review the legislative laws and administrative codes from Broward County that specifically pertains to persons with disabilities and make suggestions, additions, or edits to meet the County's vulnerable population.

Without any objections the ABID agreed to adopt the objective as stated by Mr. Neff.

Mr. Neff stated that he will review and notate all Broward County Statues that pertains to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Mr. Neff reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting pertaining to set asides and incentives given to small businesses.

Mr. Neff suggested researching County jurisdiction as it pertains to collaborating with the State to extend the requirement for generators in shelters.

D. Emergency Management

Ms. McCarthy stated the objective of the Emergency Management Committee is to suggest to the Board of County Commissioners multiple ways to reach and educate Broward County individuals with disabilities population in a clear and concise way to meet all the various level of needs in media choices.

Ms. McCarthy noted that the Emergency Management Committee goals are as follow:

- Conduct a thorough review of the updated County website with an established deadline and submit any suggestions of possible changes.
- Determine the appropriate personnel and discuss radioing spots for individuals with disabilities before a hurricane as issues aroused during hurricane Irma.
- Determine how to effectively distribute information to individuals with disabilities using print media.
- Promptly provide a clear response after a disaster to provide residents and businesses with information regarding an after-action plan.
- Obtain and analyze data after an emergency to determine if actions taken are measurable.
- Obtain feedback from the Emergency Management Division regarding the status of all corrective actions that were identified in the previous hurricane activation guide.

Mr. Bayle suggested the committee recommend the Emergency Management Division to create and distribute a flowchart that individuals may refer to regarding evacuation, shelters, and other pertinent information pertaining to actions taken during an emergency event, such as a hurricane. Mr. Bayle noted that County staff and the ABID should collaborate in completing the flowchart with a tentative date of 3 months prior to the next publication date. Mr. Bayle suggested the Emergency Management Division extends due date for corrective actions that were not resolved. Mr. Bayle also noted that staff should collaborate with the ABID to better address these issues.

Ms. McCarthy stated that the obstacle to the committee's goal is that the County website is the first and preferred method of communication. Unfortunately, this method excludes the vulnerable population who are unable to access the internet via computers or smartphones from obtaining vital information.

Ms. McCarthy discussed the Broward County Hurricane Guide. Ms. McCarthy noted that having a hurricane guide is a step in the right direction, however, information provided in the guide is inconsistent and not as helpful as it could be. Ms. McCarthy suggested that the guide be rearranged to provide all information, as it pertains to individuals with disabilities, in one section. Ms. McCarthy suggested the County distributes information to the cities to provide to their residents.

Ms. McCarthy stated that as changes occur with information pertaining to special needs shelters obtaining medical necessities, it should be posted in order to update the public with current information which will reduce confusion and eliminate issues faced previously with the shortage of oxygen.

Ms. McCarthy noted TOPS is legally unable to transport passenger with oxygen concentrator. The Emergency Management Committee will determine alternative options for individuals with concentrator seeking transportation to shelters such as asking a friend or family member, Uber, and Lyft.

E. Inclusive Communities

Mr. Stafford noted that he looked at the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) registry to discover that Broward County is not currently apart of the community network.

F. Employment

Ms. Palomino noted as it relates to the Broward County's website she has not checked with Ms. Espinoza or the Human Resources Division to determine whether there is a special tab for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Palomino acknowledged that there is a tab for veterans. Ms. Palomino stated that she will gather registered information from Broward County Business Licensing for Small Businesses and Disadvantaged Businesses.

Ms. Palomino stated that Career Source Broward is one of the agencies that is used for the employment of individuals with disabilities and veterans. Ms. Palomino mentioned, currently, she has not gathered any information as far as the percentage of individuals with disabilities that are employed by

Broward County government. Ms. Palomino also noted that she will research the tax incentives that registered businesses who employs individuals with disabilities are eligible to receive.

G. Accessibility Compliance

(No report given.)

7. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

The ABID asked Ms. Sinclair for clarification of ABID's meeting schedule.

Ms. Sinclair asked the ABID to communicate any request for meetings with her.

Ms. McCarthy briefly discussed the affordable housing crisis in Broward County.

Ms. McCarthy suggested the ABID prioritize to ensure that each Committee meets their deadlines as it pertains to achieving their goals.

Ms. Romack noted that the ABID Committee Chair submit an outline of each Committee's goals, objectives, and deadlines to Ms. Sinclair by September. Ms. Sinclair will compile and distribute to the ABID.

Ms. Greenberg suggested inviting the director of 211 to give a presentation to the ABID. Ms. Romack tabled this matter to be discussed with the Chair.

8. NON-AGENDA/ PUBLIC COMMENT

(No comment discussed.)

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

(No items/announcements discussed.)

10. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Ms. Greenberg, second by Ms. Gordon and without objection, the 1st Vice Chair adjourned this day's ABID meeting at 12:15 p.m.

(A copy of the audio recording of this meeting is available upon request by calling Document Control located in Room 336U, at (954) 357-7297.)