

MINUTES

ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

March 21, 2019

MEMBERS Jorge Ibacache, Chair

PRESENT: Denis Bayle
Elizabeth Espinoza
John Neff
Veronica Palomino
Pamela Romack
Elaine Turner

MEMBERS June McCarthy

ABSENT: Tracy Stafford

ALSO Vanesha Sinclair, Administrative Assistant, Professional

PRESENT: Standards/Human Rights Section
Priscilla Coq, Manager, Professional Standards/Human Rights
Section
Orlando Garcia, Intergovernmental Affairs
Lori Shepard, Public Communications
Jean Russo, Broward County Realtime Reporter

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 1:31 p.m., in Room 301 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Espinoza, and without objection, the ABID adopted the agenda, as submitted.

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2019

On motion of Mr. Neff, seconded by Ms. Romack and unanimously carried, the ABID approved the Board Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2019, as submitted.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair thanked the Board for their work.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Text-To-911 Presentation – Margaret Stapleton, Director Office of Public Communications, (OPC)

(Office of Public Communications Director Margaret Stapleton was not present.)

(This item was taken out of order following Item Number 6, so as to allow Ms. Sinclair an opportunity to reach out to the office of Public Communications as to the status of the Text-To-911 Presentation as reflected in Item 5.)

(Ms. Sinclair left the room.)

Upon Ms. Sinclair's return to the meeting room, Ms. Sinclair reported that Ms. Stapleton was double booked for meetings today, and will not be present at this day's meeting. Ms. Sinclair noted that the Office of Public Communications is making effort to provide another staff member to make presentation today.

Later in the meeting, Lori Shepard, Office of Public Communications Specialist reported that Text-To-911 will be launched on April 2, 2019 with a news conference to be held at the Sunrise Public Safety Complex at 10:00 a.m. In addition, ABID Member June McCarthy will be speaking on behalf of Individuals with Disabilities. Ms. Shepard then highlighted the following:

- Call 911, and text only if you can't. Text 911 if speaking puts you in danger.
- Be specific as to your location.
- Brochures will be provided in several languages, and provided to numerous agencies and entities.

Texting limitations include some of the following:

- Texts may take longer and may not be received.
- Text characters are limited to 160 characters.
- Slangs, photos, video, and abbreviations cannot be used.
- Potential delay of text communications due to various language translations, as well as potential cell phone carrier limits.

Board discussion ensued as to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). Ms. Shepard noted that Coral Springs and Plantation are participating in Text-To-911.

(Ms. Shepard left the room.)

Ms. Sinclair noted that Ms. McCarthy asked if the ABID would like to discuss anything specific as to the launch of Text-To-911. In response to Ms. Sinclair, Ms. Espinoza and the Chair asked that Ms. McCarthy emphasize the importance of educating children as to Text-to-911, as well emphasize the use of Text-to-911 for the speech and hearing impaired.

The Chair asked Ms. Sinclair to send the ABID an updated Committee List as a refresher to the ABID.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(This item was taken out of order prior to Item 5.)

In response to the Chair, Ms. Espinoza noted that she reached out to Ms. Sinclair for an updated list of Committee Reports.

Ms. Turner stated that a person by the name of Roland expressed interest in becoming a Board Member; however, his application was lost.

Taking into consideration specific districts and Board appointments, the Chair noted that confirmation should be made as to Roland's application.

The Chair read aloud from a December Committee Report List and noted that ABID Members are on the following Committees:

- Transportation Committee – Ms. Turner and Mr. Stafford.
- Education – Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Ibacache, and Ms. Romack.
- Inclusive Communities – Mr. Stafford, Mr. Ibacache, and Mr. Neff.
- Legislation – Mr. Neff, Ms. Espinoza, and Mr. Stafford.
- Emergency Management – Ms. Romack, Mr. Bayle, and Ms. McCarthy.
- Employment – Ms. Palomino and Ms. Espinoza.
- Accessibility Compliance – Mr. Ibacache and Mr. Neff.

The Chair noted that the ABID needs the Bylaws on Accessibility Compliance. In addition, the Chair noted that the ABID will be working on Committees in May of 2019. In addition, the Chair encouraged the ABID to go through their notes in preparation for Committee Reports in May.

A. Emergency Management

(No report given.)

B. Transportation

(No report given.)

C. Education and Awareness

(No report given.)

D. Inclusive Communities

(No report given.)

E. Legislation

Mr. Neff noted that the Florida Legislature is currently in Session. In response to Ms. Espinoza, Mr. Neff noted that Bills can be read online.

(Ms. Sinclair returned to the meeting room.)

Orlando Garcia introduced himself to the ABID, and noted that he is the legislative analyst for Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Garcia made presentation to the Board as to current legislation, and provided an overview of the following:

- Currently there are no Bills related to law enforcement and Individuals with Disabilities.
- Current status of nursing home facility staffing; Senate Bill 1088, and House Bill 897.
- Creation of an Assisted Independent Living Task Force - House Bill 253 and Senate Bill 670
- House and Senate budgets will be released tomorrow, and information will be posted online.

In response to Ms. Espinoza, Mr. Garcia noted that he can provide information as to Criminal Justice Reform at a later time. In addition, Mr. Garcia noted that Affordable Housing is a number one priority in Broward County. As to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Funding, Mr. Garcia noted that when his analysis is completed, he could send information to Ms. Sinclair as to Broward County projects. On another topic, Mr. Garcia noted that Mr. Neff is being appointed to the ABID by Commissioner Fisher.

In response to Ms. Romack, Mr. Garcia commented that the Florida Housing Corporation should be able to provide information to the ABID as to Affordable Housing data. In addition, the Office of Economic Demographic Research could mostly likely provide data as well.

(Mr. Garcia left the room.)

F. Employment

(No report given.)

7. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

(None.)

8. NON-AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Neff commented that the airlines have passed new rules relating to emotional support animals.

Mr. Bayle thanked Ms. Sinclair for her assistance. In addition, Mr. Bayle asked if he could be provided three hard copies of the State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, as opposed to viewing it online. If hard copies are unavailable, Mr. Bayle asked Ms. Sinclair to email him.

Ms. Espinoza noted that persons are advocating for an increase in the amount of respite care hours. In response to Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Romack noted that she believes funding comes from Broward County, as well as the United Way, and that respite hours are available to the public with children. In addition, Ms. Romack stated that respite hours can be obtained through Medicaid and other sources as well.

Ms. Turner stated that recently Transportation OptionS (TOPS) did not show up for an individual's appointment. In response to Ms. Turner, Ms. Romack noted that a complaint can be filed with a Personal Identification Number, (PIN.)

In response to the ABID, the Chair noted that the Board can brainstorm as to information surrounding Transportation, consumer complaints, and the like, at another ABID Meeting.

In response to Ms. Turner, Ms. Sinclair noted that Transportation questions and the like, should be formulated by Ms. Turner and Mr. Stafford and then forwarded to Ms. Sinclair so that a meeting can be scheduled and Sunshined.

In response to the Chair, Ms. Sinclair stated that persons interested in becoming a Board Member can go to Broward County's website. In addition, Ms. Sinclair noted that Ms. McCarthy sent out notes related to the Emergency Coordinating Council Meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Romack and without objection, the Chair adjourned this day's ABID meeting at 2:32 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.)