

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

**May 16, 2019**

**MEMBERS** Jorge Ibacache, Chair

**PRESENT:** Denis Bayle  
Elizabeth Espinoza  
June McCarthy  
John Neff  
Pamela Romack  
Tracy Stafford  
Elaine Turner

**MEMBERS** Veronica Palomino

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO** Jennifer DiBono, Professional Standards/Human Rights Section

**PRESENT:** Steve Patterson, Professional Standards/Human Rights Section  
Janet Stein, Member of the Public  
Jean Russo, Broward County Realtime Reporter

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 1:30 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 Jean Russo, Broward County Realtime Reporter.

Member of the Public Janet Stein noted that she would like to speak on Item 8 of today's agenda.

The Chair made reference to persons having difficulty accessing buildings and rental cars. The Chair suggested that the ABID draft Recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. DiBono expressed that the ABID committees should meet so as to create goals, objectives and Recommendations. In addition, Ms. DiBono noted that meetings can then be scheduled with agencies.

(Ms. Espinoza entered the room.)

ABID discussion ensued as to how to procedurally draft questions and/or topics to agencies for feedback, and presentation to the ABID.

(Mr. Patterson entered the room.)

In response to Ms. DiBono, Mr. Patterson noted that the ABID could draft questions for agencies via email that are related to goals and objectives that are attained through subcommittees. Subsequent to questions being answered, the ABID could then make Recommendations to the County Commission based on goals and objectives and feedback from agencies. In addition, Mr. Patterson provided an overview of Sunshined Meetings.

Mr. Neff and the Chair suggested that for today's ABID Meeting, the ABID should discuss topics that the ABID would like work on, and then assign topics to subcommittees.

Mr. Neff brought forth the following topics:

- Employment Opportunities and incentives for businesses
- Disadvantaged business and incentives for businesses and small businesses
- Accessible Communities

The Chair suggested that Mr. Neff, Ms. Palomino, and Ms. Espinoza formulate questions so as to provide questions to the appropriate agency.

Ms. Romack brought forth the following topics:

- Emergency Management and recent changes
- Disaster planning
- Specific education related to Emergency Management and recent changes

Ms. McCarthy stressed the importance of educating persons as to recent changes that have been made in Emergency Management.

Following Emergency Management discussion, Ms. McCarthy, Ms. Romack, and the Chair suggested that questions be formulated for presentation with an emphasis on press releases, medication, and oxygen as a topic for Emergency Management, Education and Transportation.

Mr. Patterson provided an overview of the Emergency Management responsibilities of the County and municipalities, as well as special needs shelters.

Ms. Espinoza suggested that the ABID be provided a legislative update on the last Legislative Session. The Chair suggested that Ms. Espinoza draft questions for the appropriate agency.

Mr. Bayle brought forth the following topics:

- Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan
- Corrective actions on shelters
- Obtaining further information on staffing of shelters
- Utilities at shelters and backup power sources
- Evacuation success rates
- The possible creation of flow charts on the County's website

Mr. Patterson provided an overview of the essential functions of county personnel in an emergency. In addition, Mr. Patterson noted that generators are regulated by the State, and not the County.

The Chair suggested that Mr. Bayle bring forth questions so as to provide questions to the appropriate agency, as well as to reach out to the ABID for help in formulating questions.

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

Ms. Turner made suggestion for a tracking system for consumers who are transported.

Ms. DiBono clarified Sunshined meetings and noted that a meeting could be coordinated through staff via email for Ms. Turner and Mr. Stafford to meet relating to Transportation. Ms. McCarthy offered her conference room as meeting space.

The Chair referenced staffing at group homes and nursing homes, as well as referenced evaluations, and building improvements. The Chair suggested posing a question to the Board of Rules and Appeals under Accessibility Compliance for Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners as to building improvements.

Mr. Patterson advised the ABID that the ABID is unable to make Recommendations, if homes are regulated by the State of Florida.

The Chair noted that he will pose a question to the Board of Rules and Appeals or other entities to clarify if there is authority to identify possible violations at group homes and nursing homes.

Ms. Espinoza noted that Accessibility Compliance is not listed on today's Agenda.

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

(No Board action taken.)

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

(No Board action taken.)

**4. CHAIR’S REPORT**

(No report given.)

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discuss Article 10 of Bylaws.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(Item 6 was taken up earlier in this day’s meeting as reflected on Pages 1, 2 and 3 of today’s Meeting Minutes.)

**A. Transportation**

Ms. Romack noted that she provided her questions to Ms. Turner.

**B. Education and Awareness**

Ms. McCarthy noted that she prefers emailing goals for Education and Awareness.

**C. Legislation**

Ms. Espinoza recapped from earlier in today’s meeting that a legislative update should be provided to the ABID.

**D. Emergency Management**

Ms. McCarthy noted that she prefers emailing goals for Emergency Management.

Mr. Bayle suggested that short-term and long-term goals can be made between a three-month and six-month period of time.

**E. Inclusive Communities**

Mr. Stafford noted that several cities have associated themselves with Inclusive Communities, AARP and the World Health Organization. Mr. Stafford commented that he believes Broward County is considering being an assessable community. The Chair suggested that this could be a goal for the County to consider.

## **F. Employment**

Ms. Espinoza noted that she will be working on drafting an email to Vanesha Sinclair. In addition, Ms. Espinoza is open to Employment suggestions.

## **7. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Mr. Neff asked if the ABID was permitted to reach out to the ABID's of Dade and Palm Beach Counties to share information, learn, and work on topics. In response to Mr. Neff, Mr. Stafford stated that his recall is that persons can reach out to other jurisdictions and not violate the Sunshine.

Ms. Romack noted that there is an ongoing issue with transportation as to going over the Palm Beach line in a safe manner.

In response to Ms. Turner, the Chair noted that the ABID could work on transportation at its next meeting.

Ms. Romack referenced that Broward County was discussing a contract with Uber or Lyft. Mr. Patterson noted that Paul Strobis would be better able to answer those questions. The Chair suggested deferring this topic to the next ABID Meeting.

The Chair suggested that the ABID draft recommendations relative to goals and committees by the next ABID Meeting.

In response to the question of new Board members, Mr. Patterson noted that information is forwarded to the appropriate staff. Ms. DiBono noted that she will follow up with Orlando Garcia as to potential Board members that may have expressed interest in becoming an ABID Member.

Ms. Stein asked if anyone was aware of being able to reach Uber via telephone versus online. In response to Ms. Stein, the ABID noted that Uber is available via smart apps and online; however, taxi cabs are available via telephone.

Ms. Stein stated that she was told that homeless shelters will not help her, as there is no accessibility. Ms. Stein stated that she spoke to County groups about homeless shelters, and wanted to bring it to the attention of the ABID. In addition, Ms. Stein stated that she is in need of a place to live, as she is unable to live where she is currently living.

ABID members recognized the lack of Affordable Housing in Broward County. Ms. McCarthy asked Ms. Stein to call her. In addition, Ms. McCarthy asked Ms. Stein to call the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Help Line at 954 745 9779.

The Chair asked the ABID if they would like to point out goals via email or point them out currently. An ABID response was not provided; however, Mr. Neff noted that he has two hours on his parking meter.

Ms. Turner recalled a workshop that she attended in North Miami Beach. Ms. Turner noted that three attorneys conducted the workshop, and that each attorney had expertise in employment, Medicare, and estate planning. Ms. Turner stated that she will share workshop materials with the ABID.

The Chair noted that he would like to put forth a goal for Accessibility Compliance surrounding nursing homes and compliance, as well as the identification of an entity or entities responsible for inspections. The Chair noted that he would like to pose questions to the Board of Rules and Appeals and/or the Broward County Building Department.

Mr. Patterson asked the ABID to contact Vanesha Sinclair as to the ADA Proclamation Presentation for the June County Commission Meeting. In addition, Mr. Patterson noted that Vanesha Sinclair has been promoted and will be training for a new position.

The Chair thanked Mr. Patterson for his assistance. Mr. Patterson encouraged the ABID to set goals.

Ms. McCarthy encouraged the ABID to prepare prior to ABID Meetings. In addition, Ms. McCarthy encouraged the Board to type out their goals and send typed goals to staff. Further, Ms. McCarthy suggested that the ABID should decipher whether specific goals are obtainable or unobtainable, and then vote on specific goals, and move forward.

Mr. Patterson provided an overview as to how the ABID should be making goals, meeting with subcommittees, meeting with specific agencies, and presenting at ABID Meetings. In addition, Mr. Patterson stressed that Recommendations are based on goals and objectives.

Ms. DiBono noted that in the past, Committee Meetings would meet one month, and then the following month the ABID would meet as a body. Mr. Patterson encouraged the ABID to email Vanesha Sinclair with available dates so as to schedule Committee Meetings.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Without objection, today's meeting adjourned at 3:35 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.)