

**CISCO WEBEX TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES  
ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

**March 18, 2021**

**TELEPHONIC  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:** Jorge Ibacache, Chair  
Mary Kinirons  
Elizabeth Granucci-Espinoza  
Toby Gordon  
Roslyn Greenberg  
John Neff  
Mona M. Malbranche

**TELEPHONIC  
MEMBERS  
NOT  
PRESENT:** June McCarthy  
Denis Bayle

**TELEPHONIC  
PRESENT:** Carol L. Powell-Phillips, Professional Standards/Human  
Rights Section  
Jennifer DiBono, Professional Standards/Human Rights  
Section  
Shawn Weber, Broward County Realtime Reporter  
Jean Russo, Broward County Realtime Reporter

A Cisco Webex meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 1:31 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the meeting to order. A quorum was present following Roll Call by Ms. Carol L. Powell-Phillips.

**2. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and urged continued pandemic safety into summer, noting vaccine availability for vulnerable individuals as well as potential unused doses at vaccination sites.

Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Gordon expanded on the Chair's comments, reporting that inoculations are also being offered at several pharmacies.

**3. WELCOME – NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed new members Mary Kinirons and Mona Malbranche to ABID.

Ms. Kinirons introduced herself, highlighting her background and experience volunteering with Victory Living Programs.

(New ABID Member Mona M. Malbranche joined today's telephonic Cisco Webex ABID Meeting.)

Ms. Malbranche introduced herself and provided a summary of her background and experience in relation to individuals with disabilities.

**4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES (September, December and January)**

**On motion of Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Gordon and unanimously carried, ABID approved the Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2020; December 17, 2020; and January 21, 2021, as submitted.**

**5. ABID BOARD ELECTIONS – CHAIR NOMINEE**

Citing a limitation of two terms for Chair of ABID per ordinance, the Chair called for nominations for a replacement Chair.

**On nomination motion of Ms. Granucci-Espinoza, seconded by Ms. Greenberg and unanimously carried, ABID elected Ms. Gordon Chair and Mr. Ibacache First Vice-Chair of ABID.**

Mr. Neff advised Ms. Gordon that it is customary for the Chair to present the objectives of ABID to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Gordon requested any previous material presented to the County Board from the Chair as an aid in preparation of a draft, which she will send to Ms. Powell-Phillips and Ms. DiBono for review prior to her presentation to the Commissioners.

**6. REVISIT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE 2021**

Upon inquiry of the Chair as to the status of the 2021 Committee Meeting Schedule, Ms. Powell-Phillips requested committee meetings be confirmed in order to prepare the schedule.

After extensive discussion, the Board identified 2021 committee members and tentative meeting months as follows:

Emergency Management Committee: Denis Bayle, Chair; June McCarthy; Mary Kinirons; tentatively meeting in April.

Transportation Committee: Roslyn Greenberg, Chair; Mona Malbranche; Mary Kinirons; tentatively meeting in July.

Education and Awareness Committee: June McCarthy, Chair; Toby Gordon; Mary Kinirons; tentatively meeting in October.

Planning Committee: John Neff, Chair; Jorge Ibacache; Mary Kinirons; tentatively meeting in October.

Legislative Committee: John Neff, Chair; Elizabeth Granucci-Espinoza; Jorge Ibacache; Mary Kinirons; tentatively meeting in August.

Employment Committee: Elizabeth Granucci-Espinoza, Chair; Toby Gordon; tentatively meeting in August.

In connection with the Employment Committee, Ms. Gordon, in referencing a list of companies furnished by Human Resources, inquired if other companies could be utilized, stating that she would be willing to contact their HR departments to explore availability.

In response to Ms. Gordon's inquiry, Mr. Neff informed that in representing Broward County, there are some limitations.

Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Gordon inquired as to the proper course of identifying and accessing those limitations referenced by Mr. Neff.

Ms. DiBono advised Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Gordon that those inquiries could be brought to Human Resources staff.

Ms. Gordon stated that an individual in attendance at the Employment Committee meeting stated that companies outside of those provided by Human Resources could not be utilized as employment options for individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Granucci-Espinoza suggested to Ms. Gordon that ABID's parameter with the Education Committee is limited to employment within Broward County government and requested further confirmation from Ms. DiBono.

Ms. Powell-Phillips thanked the Board members for their patience in confirming committee members and tentative meetings dates, stating this will allow for quarterly scheduling.

In response to Ms. Gordon's inquiry in regard to receiving the committee list, Ms. Powell-Phillips confirmed that she will update and distribute it to the Board.

In response to the Chair noting that time constraints would not allow for discussion as to committee agendas and questions to send to agencies, Ms. Gordon stated that members and others attending the committee meetings will form the questions to send to agencies.

In response to Ms. Gordon, the Chair clarified that objectives and questions should be ready before the meeting is scheduled, which would aid the agencies in preparing for meetings.

Ms. Gordon noted that if Ms. Powell-Phillips sent out an email soliciting questions from committee members, the committee members would respond.

Mr. Neff stated that Ms. DiBono determines, based on the questions of committee members, the appropriate person to answer them.

The Chair concurred and added that committee members should have an objective, scope of work and vision to disclose to the county agencies.

The Chair noted that it needed to be determined if a request for an ABID Proclamation has been made to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and whether it has been placed on their Agenda.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORT – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

In providing a report to the Board, Mr. Neff presented an overview of the legislative process, highlighting House and Senate Bill websites which list potential ADA related bills. Mr. Neff noted that Bobby DuBose, a Broward County legislator, has been an ADA advocate for Broward County in sponsoring a number of ADA bills in the House. In addition, Mr. Neff recommended preparing recommendations for the Broward County Legislative Team to present to Mr. DuBose in preparation of a potential bill.

Ms. Kinirons inquired as to obtaining the websites referenced by Mr. Neff.

In response to Ms. Kinirons' inquiry, Mr. Neff advised that he would furnish them to Ms. Powell-Phillips, who would then distribute them.

## **8. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Ms. Greenberg requested input from the Board as to what can be done for residents when elevators are out of service.

In response to Ms. Greenberg, the Chair commented on the legality of the issue, advising that he will bring this issue to the Board Rules and Appeals meeting.

In response to Ms. Greenberg, Ms. Gordon and Ms. Malbranche shared comments in relation to their experiences with the same type of situation.

The Chair and Mr. Neff referenced state law requiring elevators to be operational at all times.

In response to the Chair, Ms. Malbranche clarified that elevator operations are the responsibility of private property building associations.

Ms. Granucci-Espinoza encouraged people to receive vaccinations and suggested individuals with vulnerable conditions confirmed by a physician may receive priority. In addition, Ms. Granucci-Espinoza expressed hope for all to take care in staying healthy, as well as welcomed the two new members to the Board.

Mr. Neff remarked that obese individuals and/or those with type A blood who receive the Pfizer vaccine may require a third dose.

Mr. Neff also inquired as to the ABID attendance policy in reference to Ms. Romack and Ms. McCarthy.

In response to Mr. Neff, the Chair clarified that after three no-shows, members are removed from the Board, with attendance status being reset in January. The Chair further clarified that Ms. McCarthy is no longer on the Board.

In regard to meeting Minutes, the Chair inquired as to the meaning of the language “telephonically not present.”

In response to the Chair, Ms. Russo clarified that the language indicates that a member was not physically or telephonically present.

Mr. Neff inquired as to the status of new ABID badges.

In response to Mr. Neff, Ms. Gordon reported that per the commissioner who appointed her, ABID members will be receiving new badges.

In response to Ms. Granucci-Espinoza’s inquiry as to arrangements for obtaining new badges, Ms. Powell-Phillips stated she is waiting on a response from security as to further details. Ms. Powell-Phillips also indicated she will send the Chair a follow-up as to the two new members after she receives a response.

Ms. Gordon advocated for continued vigilance in wearing masks and avoiding crowds.

Ms. Malbranche reported concerns of individuals utilizing TOPS! in relation to lack of social distancing.

In response to Ms. Malbranche, Ms. Gordon suggested that this topic, as well as utilization of Yellow Cab, be addressed when individuals are invited to speak at the Transportation Committee meeting.

Ms. Malbranche expressed hope of being an asset to ABID, noting that she is familiar with many elected officials, including Bobby DuBose, who may be of assistance in achieving objectives of the Board.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and for the opportunity to chair ABID meetings for the past few years and to now serve in another capacity.

Ms. Gordon thanked Mr. Ibacache for chairing ABID for all these years.

**9. NON-AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

(None.)

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and unanimously carried, the Chair adjourned this day's Telephonic ABID Meeting via Cisco Webex at 2:45 p.m.**