

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

September 17, 2020

TELEPHONIC MEMBERS PRESENT: Jorge Ibacache, Chair
Denis Bayle
Elizabeth Espinoza
Roslyn Greenberg
June McCarthy
John Neff
Pamela Romack
Tracy Stafford

TELEPHONIC NOT PRESENT: Toby Gordon
Garrett R. Mayersohn

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

A Cisco Webex Meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 1:40 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Stafford and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the agenda as submitted.

3. CHAIR REPORT

The Chair reminded everyone to say safe during the course of the current pandemic.

4. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 20, 2020**

On motion of Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Stafford and unanimously carried, the ABID approved the Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2020, amending the first sentence of the first paragraph on Page 2 to read: “Discussion ensued as to eliminating the ABID secretary.”

5. **APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE 2020 BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AS PROVIDED BY MS. JUNE.**

(This item was tabled until later in the meeting.)

The Chair reminded Ms. McCarthy of a document that she prepared for the 2020 Board Recommendations.

Ms. McCarthy noted that she thought that this item was relative to Mr. Bayle’s recommendations.

The Chair noted that the Board approved Recommendations to be submitted; however, the Recommendations were put on hold pending recommendations by Ms. McCarthy.

In response to the Chair and Ms. McCarthy, Ms. Powell Phillips noted that the Recommendations were relative to Transit expanding a cashless card system.

Following discussion, Ms. McCarthy read the following sentence into the record: *“ABID recommends the implementation of a cashless card system and passenger ID, and the expansion of the cashless pilot program.”*

Without objection, the ABID approved the above yellow-highlighted sentence as a revision to the 2020 Board Recommendations as read into the record by Ms. McCarthy.

6. **EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – October 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM (SKYPE)**

Phone Number 954-453-1630
Conference: 5503455

Note: Please submit questions for HR Staff by the COB on October 7, 2020.

In response to the Chair, Ms. Powell-Phillips confirmed that the October 15, 2020 Employment Committee has been scheduled.

In preparation of the October 15, 2020 Employment Committee Meeting, the Chair reminded the ABID to submit questions to Ms. Powell-Phillips prior to the close of business on October 7, 2020.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Emergency Management

Mr. Bayle read the below bulleted questions into the record:

- “How many tracers are working in the county, and is the number of tracers adequate to meet the demand in regard to COVID-19 follow up?”
- “Have there been instances in the county that show a hospital or hospitals had COVID-19 positive individuals sent to a nursing home whether they were a previous resident or not?”

In response to Mr. Bayle, ABID Members conveyed that nursing homes were locked down.

Mr. Bayle asked if hospitals sent positive individuals back into nursing homes. Ms. Romack replied, “no.”

- “Does Florida Power & Light (FP&L) personally have a policy that places persons who registered into the county’s vulnerable population special needs database into a priority list to obtain electricity due to power outages directly following a disaster event?”

In response to Mr. Bayle, Ms. Romack commented that individuals need to contact and advise FP&L directly as to their vulnerability and electrical equipment in order to be prioritized.

- “Does the county require that all nursing homes and all ALF’s have a backup plan in case of generator failure during a disaster event? Are these facilities required to have contingent plans for the county?”

Ms. Greenberg noted that Coconut Creek Fire Department does help, and did help her with a generator.

Ms. Romack noted that all nursing homes are licensed by the Agency for Healthcare Administration, (AHCA).

“Is it part of the county’s responsibility to reach out to each municipality having their own oversight responsibility for its own CPR to ensure municipalities periodically are updating registry information in a timely matter?”

Ms. Romack responded that it is assumed that the county is involved, as all municipalities belong with Emergency Management.

Ms. McCarthy noted that she attends Emergency Management Meetings, when needed, and that a report goes out every day from Emergency Management.

- “What are the number of people and the reasons for CPR individuals that may not have been able to vacate high rise buildings and homes as expected to? Does an office or department within Broward County have this information?”

Mr. Neff responded, “that that would be the county.”

The Chair stated that it may be a homeowner’s association’s responsibility that self-governs residents.

- “A bordering county to us had had about 2,200 additional residents call in to enroll in their county’s emergency evacuation program just as Hurricane Irma impacted. To what extent has Broward County had this issue and was it easily accommodated?”
- Ms. Romack commented that she couldn’t provide specific numbers; however, stated that if someone contacts TOPS, in particular, indicating they were disabled, TOPS tried their best, up until TOPS couldn’t get on the road to get people to safety. Ms. Romack stated she is unaware of specifics as to persons registering at the time of impact. In addition, Ms. Romack suggested checking with Paratransit or TOPS for further information.

Mr. Bayle suggested that moving forward, the ABID should collect information relative to identifying topics related to Emergency Management, so as to help ensure the safety of persons. Mr. Bayle commented that there is always room for improvement once topics have been identified. In addition, Mr. Bayle asked if there is a similar report that has identified topics related to COVID-19.

Ms. McCarthy stated that the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Broward County frequently send out information relative to COVID-19 and Emergency Management. Ms. McCarthy explained that the ABID’s focus should be to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for those that are disabled or those that have special needs, and not necessarily on “fixing” the county.

Mr. Bayle offered to provide research relative to Emergency Management topics; however, expressed that research can be put on hold during COVID-19 mitigation.

B. Transportation

Mr. Stafford noted that he is on the Transportation Committee with Ms. Turner; however, Ms. Turner is no longer an ABID Member.

C. Education and Awareness

(No report given.)

D. Inclusive Communities

The Chair noted that Pembroke Pines is looking to discuss inclusive Communities. In addition, the Chair commented that changes should be made as to how new developments are permitted.

Mr. Stafford stated that Broward County did not get onboard with Inclusive Communities, and that the ABID may want to consider eliminating Inclusive Communities.

E. Legislation

Mr. Neff noted that he does not have a Legislation Report; however, Mr. Neff commented that Broward County Transit waived fares for TOPS, and asked if there has been any indication as to when fares will be reinstated. In addition, Mr. Neff asked if there was any analysis performed relative to lack of revenue as to waiving fares.

In response to Mr. Neff, Ms. Romack guessed that service should increase in October, as well as stated that service is based around supply and demand. In addition, Ms. Romack noted that she thinks CARES funding helped transportation.

F. Employment

(No report given.)

In response to Ms. DiBono, Ms. Espinoza stated that she should be able to attend the October 15, 2020 Employment Committee Meeting.

In addition, Ms. Greenberg stated that she will make Ms. Gordon aware of the October 15, 2020 Employment Committee Meeting.

Ms. DiBono asked the ABID to notify Ms. Powell-Phillips of their attendance to the October 15, 2020, Employment Committee Meeting. In addition, Ms. DiBono noted that Ms. Powell-Phillips will send a reminder of the meeting date to the Board.

8. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Stafford stated that after the November Election, he would like to explore how the Supervisor of Elections accommodates the disabled.

Ms. McIntosh advised the ABID that she will bring information back to the ABID, as a settlement was reached relative to issues surrounding accommodations and voting by mail.

Ms. Greenberg offered her assistance to anyone who may need help.

Mr. Neff asked if anyone has monitored or reported which impacts have affected the disabled community; noting that it would be a good idea to look at impacts that have affected the disabled community.

In response to Ms. Romack, Ms. Greenberg commented that she will be sending information to Ms. Powell-Phillips related to Meals on Wheels.

ABID members collectively expressed that telehealth has really helped during the pandemic as relates to appointments for the disabled community.

ABID members jointly discussed masks and the potential of virus transmission.

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

The Chair reminded the Board of the slate for the November Election. In addition, the Chair stated that the Election Committee should meet prior to November and should identify which positions need to be filled. Further, the Chair commented that the secretary position is no longer listed and that there may be a need to reinstitute the position with a job description of the position.

Ms. DiBono asked Ms. McIntosh to look into how to remove the secretary position from the bylaws.

Ms. DiBono suggested that ABID Members come in a half hour early prior to the next ABID Meeting to work on the slate.

Ms. Greenberg noted that she will make Ms. Gordon aware of the November 19, 2020 ABID Meeting.

The Chair asked Ms. Powell-Phillips to send a reminder to the three ABID members to come in a half hour early for the November 19, 2020 ABID Meeting.

Ms. McIntosh reminded the Board of Ethics Training.

In response to Ms. McIntosh, the Chair asked that the January Agenda reflect Ethics Training.

Ms. DiBono pointed out that vacancies are for the first vice-chair and second vice-chair.

In response to ABID Members, Ms. DiBono stated that commissioners are permitted six months to issue a new letter informing ABID Members of their appointment to the ABID.

Ms. McIntosh advised the ABID that she will confirm the timeframe relative to commissioner appointments and bring information back to the ABID.

In response to the Chair as relates to modification of in-person or remote ABID Meeting attendance, Ms. DiBono stated that she will seek clarification relative to the ABID Meeting of November 2020.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Stafford, and unanimously carried, the Chair adjourned this day's Telephonic ABID Meeting via Cisco Webex at 2:28 p.m.