



**Human Services Department**  
**Housing Options, Solutions, and Supports Division**  
**Human Rights Section**

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 427 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7800 • FAX 954-357-7817 • TTY 954-357-6181

**Meeting Record**

<b>Human Rights Board Meeting</b>	<b>Date:</b> June 9, 2025
	<b>Call to Order:</b> 4:18PM

Attendees			
	Gloria Battle		Gregory Gayle
	Michael Berger		Thomas Good
	Miya Burt-Stewart, Chair		Palmer Kelner
	Saima Farooqui		Susan Kung
	Ellen Feiler		Angela Mumford
	Patrice Paldino, Director, HOSS-D		Adam Katzman, Deputy County Attorney
	Rhonda Wiltshire, Equal Opportunity Officer		Maxine Martin, Board Coordinator
Members Absent			
Key Decisions			

Action Items			
#	Description	Resource	Status
1.	Homeless Symposium flyer	Nicole Francis	To be distributed to HRB Members

• **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. by Chair Dr. Miya Burt-Stewart. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair. Roll Call was completed by Maxine Martin, Board Coordinator, and a quorum was confirmed.

• **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The June 9, 2025, agenda was adopted after the removal of item 5A. Motion by Ellen Feiler to adopt June 9, 2025, meeting agenda Ellen Feiler. Motion was seconded by Monica Ribeiro. *Adopted unanimously.*

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 21, 2025**

The April 21, 2025, minutes were adopted after the correction of scrivener errors.

Motion by Michael Rajner to adopt the April 21, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Susan Kung. *Adopted unanimously.*

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Dr. Burt-Stewart introduced new HRB member Ms. Catherine Rincon, appointed by Commissioner Alexander Davis.

Ms. Rincon introduced herself and indicated that she has been licensed Mental Health Counsellor for the past 14 years. Ms. Rincon expressed appreciation for being a part of the Human Rights Board and said she is looking forward to working as a part of the team.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Sunset Review

The Sunset Review was tabled until the next meeting.

- B. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) decision on gender identity cases:

Deputy County Attorney Adam Katzman will review the language of the last decision and provide feedback to the HRB. The HRB would like to make a recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) amend the Broward County Human Rights Act (BCHRA) to increase the number of employees.

Mr. Katzman noted that a Texas court found the EEOC enforcement guidance to be invalid.

Mr. Rajner asked if cases can be brought to the EEOC or Florida Commission on Human Relations. Mr. Katzman reminded Mr. Rajner that complainants must first exhaust their administrative remedies. Mr. Katzman also mentioned the complainant's right to get a right-to-sue letter which they can use to pursue other remedies through the court system.

Ms. Rhonda Wiltshire, Equal Opportunity Officer, mentioned that HUD must review gender identity complaints before they can be accepted for dual filing. Mr. Rajner asked if these cases can be filed under the BCHRA. Ms. Wiltshire confirmed that they are being investigated under the BCHRA. Ms. Wiltshire also explained that since the changes, HUD has paid the Section for a sexual orientation case that has been recently closed.

- **REPORTS – CHAIR AND COMMITTEES**

Dr. Burt-Stewart had no Chair's Report.

Dr. Burt-Stewart asked about the outcome of the April 22, 2025, meeting with HUD. Ms. Paldino detailed the five requirements that need to be met for the Section to successfully complete the Performance Improvement Plan. Ms. Paldino explained the Section has met two of the measures and is working to meet the other three measures by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Ms. Paldino reported that HUD is satisfied with the Section's progress. Ms. Paldino expressed her belief that HUD will consider an extension for the measure that it seems unlikely the Section will be able to meet.

Dr. Burt-Stewart asked if the Section could request an extension and what would be the basis for the Section's request for extension. Ms. Paldino explained that the Section is working hard, and HUD sees and acknowledges the progress; therefore, HUD may be inclined to grant an extension.

Dr. Burt-Stewart asked if there was a significant change in the tone of the April 22, 2025, HUD meeting versus the tone of the most recent meeting, to which Ms. Paldino stated yes.

Dr. Burt-Stewart inquired about a meeting schedule with HUD. Ms. Wiltshire explained that HUD cancelled the last meeting, so the Section will not meet with HUD until July.

Dr. Burt-Stewart asked if there is anything the HRB or County can do regarding immigration. Mr. Katzman explained that immigration falls under the purview of the federal government; therefore, the County does not have jurisdiction. Dr. Burt-Stewart asked if there is anything that can be done to ensure rights are protected.

Mr. Rajner suggested that the Section distribute resources about immigration. Mr. Rajner mentioned the photographs that were used on the county building. He asked that the photographs be used in social media outreach.

Ms. Elizabeth Wiegard stated that it is not only people who are undocumented that are being targeted by immigration enforcement but persons who look a certain way. Ms. Wiegard stated that this behavior is leaving a chilling effect and is a reminder that no one is protected.

Ms. Pamela Kelner mentioned that the American Civil Liberties Union provides a script that can be used when one witnesses ICE raids.

The HRB discussed sharing resources with organizations such as Legal Aid and Catholic Charities.

Ms. Feiler expressed frustration with just sharing resources.

Ms. Ribiero stated that the Brazilian Consulate has an organization that brought consulate services to Brazilians countywide but has stopped providing these services for fear that ICE will be waiting to pick up people when they come for these services.

- **HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION REPORT**

Ms. Paldino reported that the HOPE Fair Housing Month event was well attended and a success.

Ms. Paldino mentioned that the Section's flyers will be translated into Spanish and Creole. Ms. Ribeiro volunteered to do the Portuguese translation.

- **OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Ms. Paldino mentioned that the Section will be at the Homeless Symposium on Thursday, June 12, 2025. Dr. Burt-Stewart stressed the importance of informing the HRB of outreach events.

Mr. Rajner asked about diversity and equity as it relates to outreach.

Mr. Rajner asked for a summary of the Section's cases at HRB meetings.

The HRB engaged in a discussion regarding the effectiveness of outreach events. Ms. Feiler stated that HOSS-D staff should be trained to answer questions related to the Section.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

During a discussion related to disability and collaborating with the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities (ABID) and other stakeholders, Ms. Kelner stated that she has obtained emergency phone numbers and other resources and will email the information to the HRB coordinator so it can be emailed to all HRB members.

During a discussion on the budget, Ms. Paldino explained that the recommended budget is “flat,” there will be no staffing cuts.

Mr. Rajner stated that the BCHRA gives the HRB the power to review the Section’s funding levels budget and makes recommendations for the Section to carry out the functions of the BCHRA.

Dr. Burt-Stewart pointed out that the HRB does not have a budget.

- **COUNTY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE/LITIGATION**

Mr. Katzman informed the HRB of an upcoming agenda item asking the BoCC to authorize the County Attorney’s Office to bring a civil action against Galt Ocean Terrace Condominium Association, Inc. among others, after the Section issued a finding of reasonable cause. Mr. Katzman explained that based on the contract with HUD, the County Attorney’s Office must move forward with the case in court.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

- **MEMBER CONCERNS**

Ms. Wiegard mentioned that Equality Florida is available to speak at the next HRB meeting. Ms. Rincon mentioned that the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida is available to speak at the next HRB meeting.

- **IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Discussion related to disability/collaboration with ABID and other stakeholders.
2. Budget recommendation

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

**The next scheduled Board meeting will convene:**

**Monday, August 11, 2025, at 4 PM, Governmental Center**

*If any Board Member or other party would like more detailed information about the contents of these summarized minutes, a compact disk will be available by contacting the Human Rights Section at 954-357-7800.*