

**MINUTES
ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

November 21, 2019

MEMBERS Jorge Ibacache, Chair

PRESENT: Denis Bayle
Elizabeth Espinoza
Toby Gordon
Roslyn Greenberg
June McCarthy
John Neff
Veronica Palomino
Pamela Romack
Tracy Stafford
Elaine Turner

ALSO Carol L. Powell-Phillips, Professional Standards/Human Rights

PRESENT: Section
Jean Russo, Broward County Realtime Reporter
Shawn Weber, Broward County Realtime Reporter

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities, (ABID) was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1:32 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 Carol L. Powell-Phillips.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Stafford, and without the objection, the Board adopted the Agenda as submitted.

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

a. Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2019

On motion to Ms. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Gordon and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2019, as submitted.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reminded the ABID of email communications relative to Committee Meetings. In addition, the Chair noted ABID's Annual Planning Meeting being held on December 19, 2019, from 1:30 to 3:00. Ms. Powell-Phillips's noted that she will check the meeting date and time.

The Chair noted that Steve Patterson is no longer with Broward County staff.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Transportation

Ms. Terner commented that she will be emailing Ms. Powell-Phillips a written Transportation Committee Report later on today for distribution to the Board. Ms. Terner highlighted the following in the Transportation Committee Report:

- Timely and reliable transportation services
- Appropriate sized vehicles for consumers
- Timely pickups and returns
- Cashless system
- Verification and tracking system for the transportation of consumers
- Lack of response as to complaints being filed

In response to Ms. Terner, Ms. Greenberg referenced verification and a tracking system for the transportation of consumers, and suggested that consumers wear information on their shirts so as to help identify where consumers are leaving from and returning to. In addition, Ms. Greenberg suggested contacting Commissioner Mark Bogen to inform him that there is a lack in response from customer service relative to complaints being filed.

Ms. McCarthy noted that the ABID made Transportation Recommendations last December. In response to Ms. McCarthy, the Chair affirmed the Recommendations made by the Board, and noted that the Board did receive a response of "we're working on it." In addition, the Chair noted another response as to Recommendations that were received relative to bus seats being designated for persons with disabilities. The Chair noted that the response is "unable to implement." Ms. McCarthy stressed the importance of ABID's Recommendations being heard.

Mr. Neff referenced the Golden Passport in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Neff noted that persons 65 years or older on Social Security, as well as persons with disabilities, can ride public transportation free of charge.

Ms. Greenberg noted that the City of Coconut Creek has a similar program.

Ms. Espinoza suggested that that ABID make Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for a similar program in Broward County.

Ms. Romack made suggestion for a Recommendation for individuals with developmental disabilities to not have to be reevaluated for the Transportation OptionS (TOPS) Program on a yearly basis.

Ms. McCarthy recommended that the ABID prioritize Recommendations in the hope that at least one of ABID's past Recommendations receive further clarification.

Ms. Greenberg noted that Commissioners Bogen, Geller, and Mayor Holness are eager to assist as relates to (TOPS.)

b. Education and Awareness

Ms. Espinoza suggested that more information should be available on Broward County's website relative to individuals with disabilities and the vulnerable population, as well suggested that a search engine tool be provided to search the word, "disabilities."

Mr. Bayle stated that there are quick links imbedded on Broward County's website relative to Emergency Preparedness, Disabilities, Elderly, Homeless, Special Needs, Shelter information and the Vulnerable Population.

Ms. Romack suggested adding a link to Broward County's website with the verbiage "vulnerable/disabled."

c. Legislation

Ms. Espinoza suggested that the ABID support measures that increase available affordable housing, including people with disabilities; as well as suggested an additional Homestead Exemption for people with disabilities. In response to Ms. Espinoza, Mr. Neff and Mr. Stafford noted that currently there is an additional Homestead Exemption for people with disabilities.

In response to Ms. Espinoza, Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that she reached out to Marty Cassini relative to Ms. Espinoza's inquiries. In addition, Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that she will follow up with a courtesy reminder to staff so as to receive a response to inquiries.

In response to Mr. Stafford, Ms. Powell-Phillips verified that Mr. Neff, Mr. Ibacache, Ms. Espinoza, and Mr. Stafford are on the Legislative Committee.

d. Emergency Management

Ms. McCarthy noted that Broward County is very well prepared for hurricane preparedness and response. In addition, Ms. McCarthy noted that Broward County has 150 oxygen tanks, as well as noted that Broward County purchased oxygen concentrators for special needs shelters. Ms. McCarthy pointed out that oxygen concentrators are interchangeable between pediatrics and adults. As relates to State funding, persons are urged to document costs for hurricane preparedness and response. Further, Ms. McCarthy noted that persons dependent on emergency supplies are encouraged to place supplies on their laps during transport.

In response to Ms. Gordon, Ms. McCarthy noted that there are five special needs shelters in Broward County.

e. Inclusive Communities

Mr. Stafford noted that Inclusive Communities was created based on a presentation to the ABID by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) relative to AARP's Livable Communities. Mr. Stafford noted that Livable Communities is more geared towards the elderly, than it is to disabilities. Mr. Stafford commented that there are overlapping lines between retired persons and people with disabilities. Mr. Stafford noted that Broward County has not sought the designation of Livable Communities; however, some cities in Broward County have.

Following Board discussion, the Chair suggested that the ABID take up future discussion as to pedestrian friendly streets and smart roads.

f. Employment

Ms. Palomino stated that the continuation for job fairs are very important for disabled veterans. A job fair is being held at Broward College on January 18, 2020. Ms. Palomino expressed concern as to self-identification on Broward County's website relative to employment. In addition, Ms. Palomino noted that women veterans are a small percentage of people being recruited for jobs. Further, Ms. Palomino recommended holding a job fair for people with disabilities.

Following Board discussion, Board members stated that a job fair for people with disabilities would be discrimination; however a legal opinion should be sought. Following further discussion, the Board suggested providing incentives to companies so as to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, perhaps at the next Disability Expo.

Ms. McCarthy suggested that ARC Broward be contacted to explore what is currently being done relative to Ms. Palomino's concerns.

g. Accessibility Compliance

The Chair noted a favorable response to past Recommendations. In addition, the Chair stated that his Recommendation this year is whether there will be a requirement for structures to have generators.

6. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Greenberg noted that she knows of a psychologist that would like to attend an ABID Meeting as to anything the Board would like to discuss. In addition, Ms. Greenberg noted that Raphael Vasques is the person to get in touch with relative to Broward 211. The Chair noted that the public is welcome to attend ABID Meetings and present under Public Comment.

Mr. Stafford suggested that future Board discussion should include discussion relative to disabilities and elderly issues, which often times overlap. In response to Mr. Stafford, the Board noted that the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County is a good resource.

Ms. Gordon expressed the importance of effective wording relative to providing attainable Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

For the record, Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Palomino noted that County Commissioners are passionate as to helping the residents of Broward County.

Mr. Neff reminded the ABID and staff that badges expire in January of 2020.

Mr. Bayle referenced discussion and questions at the last ABID Meeting as follows:

- Is there any way to reduce the amount risk prior to an evacuation, for example, a flowchart that was discussed at the last ABID Meeting?
- Is there a realtime website for general and special needs shelters that are opened during an emergency evacuation?
- How often do County employees check Special Needs and Vulnerable Population Registries to ensure individual information is kept updated when a person does not make contact on behalf of themselves?
- Have State guidelines been met relative to generator placement?
- Is there available information that reflects the number of people on the Registry who may not have been able to evacuate due to transportation or support issues?

- Is it possible to ensure that websites are “not slow to load” due to the number of persons logging on during hurricane preparedness or evacuation?
- In other counties, persons failed to enroll in various programs. Could there be similar issues in Broward County relative to residents that may be unaware of programs?
- Are there sufficient shelters and pet friendly shelters in Broward County?
- What is the County’s plan to assist the homeless population during an evacuation, and how successful was the plan, if any?
- Is it proactive and reasonable that the Vulnerable Population Registry does not register persons for transportation or special needs shelters?

Ms. Espinoza noted that she will be looking at legislative priorities for the next ABID Meeting.

The chair thanked the Board for their work.

7. NON-AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT

(None.)

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

(None.)

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, today’s meeting adjourned at 3:03 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.)