

MINUTES
ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
January 16, 2025

Members Present: John Neff, Chair
Diana Esposito
Roslyn Greenberg
David Feldman (via CMT)
Mona Malbranche (via CMT)
Janine Young (via CMT 12:43 p.m.)

Members Absent: Malice Dasilva
Michelle Bitter-Oakley
Michelle Jones
June McCarthy

Also Present: Carol L. Powell-Phillips, Professional Standards/Human Rights Section
Dolores Crawfords, Professional Standards Section
Nixsa Serano, Emergency Management Manager
Danay Cravey, ADA Compliance Officer
Delwyn Freeman, Human Resources Manager
Marty Cassini, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
Karen Pannell, Real-Time Reporter

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities (ABID) was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 12:34 p.m., in Room 427 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Neff called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. Following the Roll Call by Ms. Powell-Phillips, a quorum was present.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Greenberg made a motion to adopt the agenda. Chair Neff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES (December 19, 2024)

Ms. Powell-Phillips provided a copy of the November 21, 2024, meeting minutes. The ABID members stated they had not reviewed the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes. Chair Neff made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Ms. Esposito seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Note: The November meeting minutes were previously approved at the December 19, 2024, meeting. The December 19, 2024, minutes were not voted on at this meeting.)

4. (3) BROWARD COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS FOR QUESTIONS

a) 12:45 p.m. - Emergency Management (Clay Pacheco, Director)

Nixsa Serano was present on behalf of Director Clay Pacheco. She stated that the Office of Emergency Management is beginning preparations for hurricane season in June. She explained that there will be several meetings to update the county's information and provide training.

Chair Neff stated that most recommendations for the ABID Annual Report pertain to the Office of Emergency Management. He explained that ABID would like to have an observer in Emergency Management meetings and during the setup for control centers. Chair Neff mentioned that ABID would appreciate receiving the After-Action Reports and any information regarding individuals with disabilities during an emergency. Ms. Serano stated that it may be possible to have an observer during the training, but due to limited space and special criteria it would be difficult to have someone attend during an activation. Chair Neff requested faster access to the After-Action draft. Ms. Serano will discuss this with Mr. Pacheco.

Ms. Serano discussed the emergency response and communication between Broward County and the municipalities during an emergency. She answered questions regarding the vulnerable population registry and the follow-up after an emergency. She explained that Broward County encourages the vulnerable population to re-register each year. The ABID members requested more information on the amount of contact with the vulnerable population post emergency. Ms. Serano stated that the municipalities remind the community members to register for the Special Needs Registry and contact those registered during and after emergencies.

Chair Neff thanked Ms. Serano for her time and answering questions.

- b) 1:05 p.m. – American Individuals with Disabilities (Danay Cravey, ADA Compliance Officer)

Ms. Cravey introduced Delwyn Freeman, Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She spoke on the work being done to highlight invisible disabilities. Ms. Cravey discussed several programs available, such as, the “Sunflower Campaign”, which uses a lanyard with sunflowers on it to indicate that the individual has an invisible disability. She noted that people can self-identify at the airport, and at the Convention Center through Visit Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Neff stated ABID’s concern of individuals with hidden disabilities and the interaction with police or emergency personnel. He noted the need for identification for the individuals, so the emergency personnel are made aware right away that the person has specialized needs. Ms. Cravey showed support to the idea, noting that it would be more beneficial at the State level since it is not only a local issue.

After several personal accounts of hidden disabilities from the ABID members, Mr. Freeman stated that suggestions could be made to the Broward County Board regarding training for employees on the topic of hidden disabilities. Chair Neff indicated that ABID will be working to advocate to the State for a driver’s license decal for those with hidden disabilities. Mr. Freeman referenced the “Sunflower Campaign” noting the importance and convenience of the sunflower making immediate notification to the airport staff. Ms. Cravey spoke on the potential to expand the program. She announced the Broward County Abilities Expo has been scheduled for October 17-19, 2025. Discussion ensued regarding the Broward County Abilities Expo.

- c) 1:25 p.m. – Intergovernmental Affairs/Board Section (Marty Cassini, Director)

(In the beginning of the meeting) Mr. Cassini introduced himself providing a brief background and explained several roles of the Intergovernmental Affairs Department. He stated that the department represents Broward County in front of the Legislation in Tallahassee and in front of Congress. Mr. Cassini noted that that Intergovernmental Affairs oversees the general administration of Advisory Boards. He explained that the department provides the ABID Annual Report to departments throughout the County for feedback.

Mr. Cassini answered questions from the ABID members and will check on the status of the potential return of Jorge Ibacache to ABID. He detailed the changes of quorum that took place during the Covid pandemic including the virtual meeting option. He stated that it is up to the board if the members want to continue the virtual, hybrid, or in-person options.

1:31 p.m.- Mr. Cassini answered a question regarding an outdated grant program, that is no longer available, which was for updating homes for accessibility.

Mr. Cassini stated that the Legislative Session will be starting March 4, 2025. He explained that the Governor has requested a press conference to combat illegal immigration, discuss hurricane recovery, and change the way signatures are collected for ballot measures, and condominium reform. Mr. Cassini announced that there have been approximately 200 bills that have been filed at this time. He noted that most of them will not affect Broward County. Chair Neff spoke to the lack of bills that pertain to ABID. Mr. Cassini stated that the County Administrator and the County Commissioners decide what bills to support through the Lobbyist. He described the legislative process and the passing of bills. Much discussion ensued regarding legislation.

The ABID members thanked the speakers for attending the meeting. Ms. Powell-Phillips reviewed the topics that were discussed with the ABID members.

5. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Greenberg spoke on places to drop off acceptable and unacceptable hazardous waste. She noted that the individuals that want to drop off household hazardous waste in Fort Lauderdale would need to register. Ms. Powell-Phillips indicated that she will pass along the information to all ABID members.

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

(None.)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Greenberg made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Esposito seconded the motion. With no objection, Chair Neff adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.