

## **Disability Advisory Board Meeting Ad-hoc Veterans Subcommittee**

**March 12, 2018**

The Ad-hoc Veterans Subcommittee meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board was called to order at 4:14 p.m. on Monday March 12, 2018, at 2100 E. Michigan St., ABC Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Orlando, FL. 32806. Veterans Chairperson Joe Waczewski conducted roll call. All board members were present: Joe Waczewski; Disability Advisory Board Chairperson Sandra Algarin; DAB Vice Chairperson Kirk Root; and Karolyn Campbell. Also present was Supervisor Daisy Morales. Orange County ADA Program Manager Karen Ashmeade was in attendance. A quorum was established.

### **Purpose Overview**

Ashmeade stated the purpose of the sub-committee; “to discuss issues related to veterans with disabilities in the community, report findings and make recommendations to the Disability Advisory Board”.

### **Public Comments**

David E. Bottomley, Orange County citizen was present and participated in the discussion surrounding disabled veterans, and the challenges they face with homelessness and mental health issues.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

The board was presented minutes from the February 12, 2018 meeting to review. Campbell motioned for the minutes to be approved, seconded by Algarin, there was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Action Items to Vote on or Discuss**

For the 2018 objectives, the sub-committee voted to focus on veteran’s mental health and homelessness, but Ashmeade advised that those issues may be too broad. Root, Morales, Algarin, Waczewski, and Bottomley all contributed to the discussion regarding potential ways to narrow the objective. Ashmeade will contact a

representative from the VA to present to the subcommittee on identified gaps in the system surrounding mental health and homelessness that the subcommittee can assist with on a local level. Once that occurs, the subcommittee will decide on how to fine tune the objective and proceed with working collaboratively with the necessary partners to make an impact in the community.

Ashmeade was asked about the Mayor having breakfast with the board again, as well as having “alternate” board members. Ashmeade was informed by the Mayor’s Office that breakfast with Mayor Jacobs is suspended at this time. Ashmeade was further informed that applications are always accepted from citizens in the community that are interested in joining any Orange County board. Applications are kept in a pool and when the need arises for new board members, the Mayor selects from that pool of available applicants. Ergo, there is no need for alternate board members at this time as there is a process in place to secure new board members. That could change however when a new Mayor is elected.

The subcommittee decided in the February’s meeting that “voting” would be a backup objective for 2018 if for any reason mental health and homelessness could not be approached. Ashmeade requested clarification on “voting” and the subcommittee is interested in learning more about the services available to aid disabled veterans with transportation to the voting polls. The subcommittee was also interested in learning more about voter registration forms, and possible improvements that could be made to identify voters that may need assistance during election time.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Waczewski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m., with a second from Algarin. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018, 4:00 -5:00 p.m., - 2100 E. Michigan St., ABC Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Orlando, FL. 32806.