

# Veterans Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board Veterans Subcommittee was called to order on Monday January 14, 2019 at 4:15 p.m., at 2100 E. Michigan St., Second Floor ABC Conference Room, Orlando, FL. 32806. Chairperson Joe Waczewski opened the meeting and proceeded to call roll. Subcommittee members present: Chairperson Joe Waczewski; Sandra Algarin; and Karolyn Campbell. Jen Vargas from the Disability Advisory Board was present; Community Partner Nathan Washington of Care First; and David Bottomley, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) advocate was in attendance. Orange County ADA Program Manager Karen Ashmeade was also in attendance. Subcommittee members not present: Beverly Jackson. A quorum was established.

## Purpose Overview

Waczewski 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

There were no public comments at this meeting.

## Meeting Minutes Approval

The board was presented with minutes from the October 8, 2018 meeting for review. Campbell motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Algarin, there was no discussion. Motion carried – minutes approved.

## Action Items to Vote On and Discuss

Ashmeade provided an update regarding the subcommittee’s inquiry into transportation needs for veterans. Ashmeade contacted the Orange County Veterans Office and spoke with Tommie Maldonado regarding any known transportation gaps for veterans. Maldonado was unaware of any transportation gaps for this population. Ashmeade also contacted LYNX and was informed that there was no tracking system currently in place to identify veteran riders. LYNX also stated that there were no transportation gaps identified for this population. Ashmeade also informed the subcommittee that no complaints had been received by the Office on Disability regarding transportation gaps for this population. Ashmeade

further explained that if a transportation gap exists for veterans, it has yet to be identified. The subcommittee moved to close this inquiry at this time.

The subcommittee voted to focus on available housing for veterans in 2019 – identifying and sharing the information in the committee. Ashmeade suggested that the board partner with Tommie Maldonado to host an information session for veterans to share the housing information gathered, provide information on credit repair, veteran’s homeownership, etc. The subcommittee requested to proceed, so Ashmeade will speak with Maldonado to gauge his interest and will circle back with the board in February. Motion made by Waczewski with a second by Algarin. Motion carried – 2019 objectives and outreach was approved.

Ashmeade will contact Maldonado to request that he provide an update on veterans at the May subcommittee meeting.

Washington asked to be informed of the programs/initiatives led by Orange County to assist homeless veterans. Ashmeade will compile this information and inform the board at the March meeting.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2019, 4:00 -5:00 p.m., 2100 E. Michigan St., ABC Conference Room 2nd Floor, Orlando, FL. 32806.