

Disability Advisory Board Meeting

September 12, 2016

The meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board was called to order at 2:07 pm on September 12, 2016 at Health Services Administration, 2002A E. Michigan St., Orlando, FL 32806. Chairperson Fernandez opened the meeting with pledge of allegiance and conducted the roll call. Board members present were: Chairperson Jose Fernandez, Brian Michaels, Elizabeth McCarthy, Tiffany Namey, and Kirk Root. A quorum was present. Absent were: Vice-Chair Reinaldo Vazquez and Joe Waczewski, who later arrived at 2:20 p.m. Board member Tiffany Namey left the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Fernandez welcomed board members and attendees to the 7th meeting of the year. Board members and attendees introduced themselves with name and organization. Others present were Family Services Administrator and Interim ADA Advisor, Dianne Arnold and Family Services Project Coordinator, Judi Kerr; Community Advisors – John Hurt, Center for Independent Living; Tim May Benjamin Gonzalez and Tiffany Jones, Access Lynx, Earl Solano, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and Carolyn Austin, Florida House District 46.

Fernandez welcomed two new board members Brian Michaels and Elizabeth McCarthy. He also informed the group that board member Christopher Rodman resigned due to conflicts with his new job assignment with the Florida Lottery. He further reported that Rodman was the Disability Advisory Board liaison to the Community Advisory Board (CAB); therefore, the board will need to select a replacement board member for that assignment. He asked whoever is interested to email ADA Advisor Dianne Arnold.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Board members were issued copies of the draft minutes from June 13, 2016. Namey made a motion to approve the minutes. Root seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by all board members.

Presentation

This meeting's scheduled presentation was by the Division of Blind Services (DBS) with Brian Michaels presenting. The presentation covered the minimum requirement for services through DBS which is bi-lateral impaired vision. He detailed the types of programs offered out of their 10 district offices and 5 satellite offices including: Blind Babies, Children's Services, Vocational Rehab, Independent Living Services, Older Blind and Adult Program, and the Business Enterprise Program. As a division under the Department of Education, Michaels also shared information about their Talking Books Library Services, available for clients on USB. A discussion ensued on the difference between services provided in public schools K-12 and college.

Community Advisors

- Tim May with LYNX reported they have six more para-transportation grants in motion that should be ready to provide services by early next year. He further added that LYNX will be hiring a consultant firm to help evaluate para-transport services.
- Earl Solano with Agency for Persons with Disabilities reported they received money from the Federal Government to help with transitional housing for those on their waitlist. He said 50,000 were served through the transitional housing program, but another 20,000 are on a waitlist. A discussion ensued about the waitlist.
- John Hurt with CIL reminded attendees about their Annual Stroll n' Roll fundraiser, which will be on Sat., Sept. 17, 2016 on Lake Baldwin in Baldwin Park in Orlando, starting at 8:30 a.m. He stated they are trying to raise money for home modifications such as wheel chair ramps, grab bars, etc. Chairperson Fernandez asked for ADA Advisor Arnold to email the details to board members.

- Carolyn Austin, District Secretary, with Florida Representative Bruce Antone stated she is in attendance to learn more about the DAB to take back to the district office.

Old Business

Board member Namey inquired about the letter she drafted to the Florida Legislature and Advisor Arnold stated it was slated for discussion at the Legislative Subcommittee meeting that had been scheduled for May 9, 2016 but had to be canceled due to lack of available attendees. A discussion ensued. Arnold confirmed from Namey, the Legislative Sub-committee chairperson, that the next bi-monthly Legislative Subcommittee meeting will take place on Monday, October 10, 2016, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at this same meeting location. Also confirmed was the next date for the next Veteran's Bi-monthly Subcommittee meeting, which will begin on Monday, November 14, 2016, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and will occur every other month thereafter. Chairman Fernandez asked Sub-committee chairperson Waczewski to email ADA Advisor Arnold a suggested agenda.

New business/Items for Awareness

No new business at this time.

Board Business/Discussion Items

Fernandez asked if anyone is interested in volunteering to be the DAB liaison to the Community Action Board. Waczewski stated that he would like to volunteer. Michaels made a motion to approve the nomination with a second by Root. The motion was unanimously approved by all board members.

Board Member Reports

McCarthy reports having worked closely with the Pulse victims as a Physician. She also reports that as a Legislative Director of the GLBTA Democratic Caucus, she is working closely with this community on competitive workforce bills. In addition, she is working with Mayor Buddy Dyer on a community engagement project.

Michaels reports that the Division of Blind Services is finalizing its WIOA rules passed down in June with Federal regulation changes that will affect their current contracts.

Waczewski reports he is conducting Active Duty Days at Oakridge High School to get young voters registered. He said it is strictly a non-partisan effort to make sure 18 year olds or soon-to-be will have a voice by voting.

Chairman Fernandez reports that he worked Precinct 410 for the August 30th primary elections and was able to get full training from the Clerk of Courts on the Express Vote Machine in order to be ready to help the disabled voters that needed to use it. A discussion ensued on early voting and issues on missing signatures and changes in a person's signature, which can cause a person's vote to not be counted.

ADA Advisor Report

Interim Advisor Arnold reported on the status the ADA Advisor position. She announced that the County's HR division has completed its evaluation of the position and the job should be posted within the next couple of weeks.

Public Comments

No public comments requests at this meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Michaels made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Root . The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 10, 2016, at 2010 E. Michigan St., Facilities Training Center, Orlando, FL. 32806. Any changes will be noted in the posted meeting agenda per Orange County regulations regarding meeting notifications. Board members will be notified of any changes by ADA Advisor at least one week prior to the next scheduled meeting.