Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Public Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

111 NW 1St Street, 18th Floor, Room 1

Miami, Fl 33128

MINUTES

Members Present: Armando Riera, Barby Morales, Winnie Tang,

Members Absent: Johnnie Kerr, Deborah J. Love, Marina Blachman, Brenda Lampon

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I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at **10:28 a.m.** Attendance was taken. It was determined that a quorum was not present.

II. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard (2 minutes per person)

Public comments and introductions included:

- **Susie Weddle**, Owner & President, First Quality Medical Supplies, Inc.
- **Matthew Fernadez**, United Way Miami.
- **Harold Foster**, Office of Senator René García, District 13
- **Alex Modric**, CEO and Founder of Phoenix Pro Management, who was present to provide the informational presentation.

III. Approval of Agenda – February 26, 2026, Meeting (Vote)

No vote could be taken to approve agenda, no quorum

IV. Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2026, Meeting (Vote)

No vote could be taken to approve agenda, no quorum

V. Presentation: Phoenix Pro Management

Informational Presentation on HCBS services for Medicaid-eligible older adults

Presenter: Alex Modric

Mr. Alex Modric, CEO and Founder of Phoenix Pro Management, provided an informational presentation regarding the company's services and statewide operations. He explained that Phoenix Pro Management specializes in home accessibility modifications and related services designed to help older adults and persons with disabilities remain safely in their homes and promote aging in place.

Mr. Modric stated that the company works primarily with government-funded programs, with a strong focus on long-term care Medicaid. Services discussed included:

- Home modifications
- Grab bar installation
- Ramps and accessibility improvements
- Deep cleaning
- Pest control
- Home repairs, remodeling, and hurricane-related repairs

He noted that Phoenix Pro Management is fully contracted with all long-term care Medicaid plans and also partners with agencies and programs such as:

- Department of Elder Affairs
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Community Care for the Elderly (CCE)
- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)
- Older Americans Act (OAA) programs
- PACE programs, including Mount Sinai Elder Care and Florida PACE Centers

- Agency for Persons with Disabilities / ICMC / IDD-related services
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Hurricane recovery initiatives and Centers for Independent Living

Mr. Modric emphasized that Phoenix Pro Management performs its services in-house, without subcontracting, and that its personnel are level 2 background screened and trained to work with vulnerable populations.

Board members and attendees asked questions regarding:

- Eligibility requirements
- Access to services through long-term care Medicaid
- The role of case managers in requesting services
- Services available for individuals who are not enrolled in long-term care Medicaid
- Availability of services to lower-income older adults and persons with disabilities
- Age requirements for various programs
- Whether providers may issue prescriptions or supporting documentation for medically necessary modifications
- The need for culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach to Asian and Chinese older adult communities
- The importance of education regarding fall prevention, home safety, clutter removal, and available support services

Mr. Modric explained that:

- For members enrolled in long-term care Medicaid, requests for services must generally be initiated through the member's case manager.
- A doctor's note or prescription can strengthen a request for home modifications.
- If a request is denied, there is generally an appeal process.
- Individuals paying privately may contact Phoenix Pro Management directly for assessment and services.
- The company offers free estimates and maintains a resource page on its website identifying programs and funding sources.

Discussion also included the idea of developing simplified, community-friendly materials in multiple languages to explain how older adults and caregivers can request and access services.

The Board thanked Mr. Modric for his presentation and community service. It was also announced that Phoenix Pro Management will serve as one of the sponsors for the 2026 Older Adult Resource Fair.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Older Adult Resource Fair 2026

Ms. Garcia Azzam reported that the full Board had previously agreed to participate as part of the planning effort for the Older Adult Resource Fair 2026, scheduled for April 30, 2026.

The following updates were discussed:

- The first Community Outreach Committee meeting of 2026 will take place on March 19, 2026, at the Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment.
- A walkthrough of the venue will also take place that day.
- Elections for Committee Officers are scheduled for March 19, 2026.
- Sponsorship outreach is underway.
- Invitations are being sent to vendors and supporters.
- The event flyer is still in development, pending coordination with the Communications Department and/or other approval channels as needed.
- Board members discussed ideas for student volunteers and community participation, including possible support from nursing students for wellness-related activities.
- It was noted that First Quality Medical Supplies, United City of Consultants, and Phoenix Pro Management are among entities expected to support or sponsor the event.

B. Older Adult Resource Guide 2026

Ms. Garcia Azzam provided an update on the Older Adult Resource Guide 2026. She explained that the original goal of producing additional versions or a more integrated multilingual format may not be feasible this year.

Discussion reflected the following:

- Work continues on the guide.
- At this time, a fully expanded multilingual edition may not be completed for 2026.
- A more comprehensive multilingual approach may be pursued in a future edition.

C. Community Outreach Committee Business

It was reiterated that:

- The first Committee Meeting of 2026 is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at the Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment, 4800 Palm Ave, Hialeah, FL 33012.
- Committee Officer elections will also occur that day.
- Members unable to attend in person would be kept informed regarding planning and logistics.

VII. Old Business

Ethics Refresher Training

Ms. Garcia Azzam reminded the Board that the Ethics Refresher Training is scheduled for May 28, 2026, with Robert Thompson, Commission on Ethics, as presenter. She explained that this would serve as a refresher and opportunity for Board members to ask questions and receive guidance relevant to board service. She also noted that other board members and program staff may be invited to participate.

Provide EAAB Bylaws to All Members

In response to a prior request, printed copies of the EAAB Bylaws were distributed to members present.

Alliance for Aging Presentation

It was announced that an Alliance for Aging presentation is scheduled for the March 26, 2026 Board meeting.

Update of 2026 Meeting Calendar and Locations

Ms. Garcia Azzam stated that:

- The next monthly meeting will be held at Westchester Regional Library.

- She is working on securing future meeting locations, including a possible return to North Miami Beach Library in May.
- Board members discussed the importance of continuing to rotate meetings geographically and exploring locations further south in the County, including faith-based and community partner sites serving older adult populations.

A. Community Outreach Committee
Members volunteered; staff will coordinate first meeting and confirm members.

B. Older Adult Resource Fair
Date: April 30, 2026
Location: Milander Center, Hialeah
Discussion included vendor expansion and outreach strategy.

C. Older Adult Resource Guide
The Resource Guide was discussed as a "community resource directory" (compared to "Yellow Pages") intended to help older adults locate services and supports. Updates and expansion of resources were encouraged. The Creole edition was mentioned as forthcoming/near completion, with plans to share it once available. Creole edition published; guide available in English, Spanish, and Creole. Future ideas included combining languages and expanding services info.

VIII. New Business

Discussion: USA 250th Anniversary Theme Concept / America 250 Committee Update

The Board discussed the upcoming **250th anniversary of the founding of the United States** and Miami-Dade County's related commemorative initiative.

Discussion included:

- Incorporating the **America 250 theme** into the **Older Adult Resource Fair 2026**
- Highlighting the important role older adults have played in shaping the nation and local communities
- Using red, white, and blue elements as part of the event theme
- Displaying photos and materials from past EAAB resource fairs and activities
- Possibly including flags and themed visual elements

- Coordinating with the County and the Miami-Dade 250 team regarding use of the official logo
- Seeking appropriate approvals, if needed, for inclusion of the America 250 logo on event materials

Board member Brenda, who had previously shared information about the initiative, was referenced as a liaison to the broader County effort.

IX. Announcements

2026 Legislative Session – SB 1134 and HB 1001

Board members were briefly informed of several state bills, including SB 1134, HB 1001, and other legislation related to local government policies and budget matters. It was noted that these items were shared for awareness only at this time and that staff would continue to monitor the legislation and inform the Board if any changes affecting older adult programs or community partners arise.

Reminder: Board Members May Not Abstain from Voting Unless There Is a Conflict of Interest

A reminder was given that Board members may not abstain from voting unless there is a conflict of interest.

Reminder: 2025 Financial Disclosure Form Due by July 1

Board members were reminded to submit their 2025 Financial Disclosure Form by July 1.

Outreach Coordination with the City of Miami Office of Older Adults

Ms. Garcia Azzam reported that she is in communication with the City of Miami Office of Older Adults regarding potential collaboration and will provide updates as available.

Reminder: March Monthly Meeting

The Board was reminded that the March Monthly Meeting will be held at:

Westchester Regional Library
9445 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33165

Additional Announcements

Board member Armando shared that he serves on a board connected to the Alzheimer's Association and noted their interest in becoming involved with the Older Adult Resource

Fair. He also mentioned other nursing organizations, including Black Nurses, Dominican Nurses Association, and Haitian Nurses Association, as potential participants or collaborators.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.