Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Public Meeting

Thursday, June 24, 2026

West Dade Adult Day Care Center

6950 North Waterway Drive

Miami, FL 33155

MINUTES

Members Present: Johnnie Kerr, Deborah "Debbie" Lowe, Miguel del Ribero, Winnie Tang, Alejandra Cortina.

Members Excused: Marina Blachman, Armando Riera, Danielle Desvallons, Barbara "Barby" Morales, Brenda Lampon.

I. Welcome

Vice Chair Deborah Lowe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed Board members, guests, and participants of the West Dade Adult Day Care Center and thanked the Center for hosting the meeting. Program Director Vanessa Garcia Azzam welcomed attendees in Spanish and briefly explained the mission of the Elder Affairs Advisory Board (EAAB), emphasizing the Board's role as an advisory body to the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

A quorum was not established. Therefore, no official business was conducted, no votes were taken, and no formal Board actions were approved. The Board proceeded with informational presentations and discussion items only.

II. Introduction of New Board Member

Vice Chair Lowe introduced Miguel del Rivero, recently appointed by Commissioner Vicki L. Lopez, District 5. Mr. del Rivero briefly introduced himself and shared information regarding his professional and community background. Board members welcomed him to the Elder Affairs Advisory Board.

III. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard

The public comment period was deferred until later in the meeting to allow additional attendees to arrive and to proceed with the scheduled presentation.

Following the presentation, participants, caregivers, family members, and staff of the West Dade Adult Day Care Center addressed the Board.

Comments focused on transportation challenges associated with STS services, particularly for participants traveling from southern Miami-Dade County; concerns regarding the closure of adult day care centers in South Dade and the impact on older adults, caregivers, and staff; requests for additional transportation assistance and expanded access to adult day care services; recognition of the exceptional care provided by the staff of the West Dade Adult Day Care Center; suggestions for increasing recreational programming, volunteer involvement, educational activities, donations of supplies, and partnerships with community organizations; and requests that the Board continue advocating for expanded services and improved access to programs supporting older adults.

Board members explained the advisory role of the EAAB and assured attendees that their concerns would be shared with the appropriate County departments and elected officials. Staff also offered to connect attendees with available County resources following the meeting.

IV. Approval of Agenda – June 24, 2026, Meeting

Because a quorum was not established, the agenda was not approved.

V. Approval of Minutes – May 28, 2026, Meeting

Because a quorum was not established, May 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes were not approved.

VI. Presentation

Resources and Crime Prevention Information for Older Adults and Vulnerable Adults

Presenter:
Mariangelli ("Angie") Fernandez
Public Information Officer

Community Outreach Division
Office of State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle

Ms. Fernandez provided an overview of the services offered by the Office of the State Attorney's Community Outreach Division and discussed initiatives designed to educate and protect older adults throughout Miami-Dade County.

Topics included the mission of the Elderly and Vulnerable Adult Unit; prevention of financial exploitation, fraud, abuse, neglect, abandonment, and other crimes affecting older adults; current scams targeting seniors, including telephone scams, utility scams, Medicare/Medicaid fraud, AI-generated voice scams, and WhatsApp impersonation scams; hurricane preparedness and emergency planning; reporting procedures and available hotline resources; and the importance of promptly contacting law enforcement when criminal activity is suspected.

Ms. Fernandez also explained the process followed after reports are submitted to the appropriate hotline and emphasized the importance of providing detailed information when reporting suspected abuse or fraud.

Board members and attendees asked questions regarding reporting procedures, response times, fraud prevention, and available community resources. Ms. Fernandez concluded by inviting the Board and the community to participate in a future educational presentation focused specifically on elder abuse prevention and crime prevention strategies.

VII. Community Outreach Committee Updates

A. 6th Annual Older Adult Resource Fair (2027)

Vice Chair Lowe reported that planning has begun for the 2027 Older Adult Resource Fair. Although a venue has not yet been finalized, discussion included the possibility of returning to the Milander Center based on the success of previous events. Planning will continue during upcoming committee meetings.

B. Older Adult Resource Guide (4th Edition)

Staff provided an update regarding the next edition of the Older Adult Resource Guide, including plans to combine the English, Spanish, and Creole editions into one comprehensive publication, update agency listings and community resources before submission to the Communications Department, and continue distribution of the current guides while revisions are underway.

Board members noted that the Resource Guide remains one of the Board's most valuable outreach tools.

VIII. Old Business

A. Board Vacancies Update

Staff provided an update regarding current Board vacancies in Districts 3, 7, 9, and 11 and ongoing recruitment efforts. Staff also reported continued coordination with AARP and the Clerk of the Board regarding the residency waiver request for the AARP-appointed representative.

B. Ethics Refresher Training

Staff reminded Board members that the annual Ethics Refresher Training presented by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust would be held during the July 30, 2026 EAAB Monthly Public Meeting.

C. 2026 Meeting Calendar and Locations

The updated 2026 Meeting Calendar was reviewed, and Board members were reminded of the confirmed meeting locations for the remainder of the year.

IX. New Business

A. At-Large Member Selection Process

Discussion was held regarding the future establishment of a Member Selection Committee to review applications submitted by prospective Board members.

Because a quorum was not established, no action was taken.

X. Announcements

A. Older Adult Resource Fair – North Dade Regional Library

Staff reported on the Board's participation in the Older Adult Resource Fair hosted by the Miami-Dade Public Library System at North Dade Regional Library, where the EAAB participated as both a vendor and presenter.

B. City of Hialeah Division of Emergency Management's Second Annual Disaster Preparedness Fair

Staff highlighted the Board's participation in the Second Annual Disaster Preparedness Fair hosted by the City of Hialeah. The EAAB participated as a vendor and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its participation.

C. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

Staff shared highlights from the Board's participation in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), where members connected with community organizations serving older adults and helped raise awareness about elder abuse prevention.

D. Senior Planet Partnership Update

Staff provided an update on the Board's partnership with Senior Planet, including confirmation that the September 24, 2026, EAAB Monthly Public Meeting will be hosted at Senior Planet and will include presentations by Senior Planet and AARP.

E. Second Annual Housing and Social Services Community Fair

Staff announced the Board's upcoming participation as a vendor at the Second Annual Housing and Social Services Community Fair, scheduled for Friday, July 17, 2026, at the Joe Celestin Center.

F. Reminder: Board Members May Not Abstain from Voting

Staff reminded Board members that they may not abstain from voting unless a conflict of interest exists.

G. Reminder: 2025 Financial Disclosure Form

Staff reminded Board members that the 2025 Financial Disclosure Form must be submitted before July 1, 2026.

H. Next EAAB Monthly Public Meeting

The next EAAB Monthly Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Stephen P. Clark Center, 18th Floor, Room 4.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Deborah Lowe adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.