Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Public Meeting

Thursday, April 17th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

De Hostos Senior Center

1897 NW 20th St, BLDG C, Miami, Fl 33142

MINUTES

Members Present: Betty Hermida, Armando Riera, Barby Morales, Winnie Tang, Lupe Bruneman, Brenda Lampon

Members Absent: Johnnie Kerr, Mario Tapia, Magali Abad, Rosa Kasse, Dionne Polite

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I. Call to Order and Welcome

A. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Board Chair, who welcomed attendees and officially opened the meeting.

II. Introduction of New Board Member

A. **Ms. Winnie Tang** was welcomed as the newest member of the Elder Affairs Advisory Board, representing District 12.

B. Ms. Tang introduced herself, sharing her decades of experience serving the Chinese community and her current role as a radio host and community advocate.

C. She emphasized her commitment to representing Asian-American seniors and helping bridge gaps in language and access to services.

III. Welcome – Mayor's Office Engagement Team

A. **Ibis Valdes** and **Brenda**, representing the Office of the Mayor, introduced themselves.

B. Ibis serves as Director of Community Engagement and Hispanic Outreach Lead.

C. Brenda focuses on older adults, disabilities, and mental health within the Mayor's Office.

IV. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. A motion was made and seconded to approve the day's agenda. Motion passed.

B. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from January, February, and March 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment Period

A. The Board agreed to forego public comment for this session due to the structure of the meeting and its joint programming with the senior center.

VI. Committee Reports

A. **Community Outreach Committee:**

- Board is preparing for the Older Adult Resource Fair on **May 20, 2025**, at Milander Center in Hialeah.
- Over 37 vendors confirmed; food, entertainment, and presentations will be included.
- Applications are still being accepted, though new vendors will not be featured in the flyer or printed guide.

VII. Workgroup Updates

A. **Elder Issues Committee:** Scheduled for the following week.

B. **Alliance for Aging:**

- Discussion about ongoing funding issues.
- Betty shared that the Alliance is preparing FY 2026 appropriations requests.
- Concern was expressed about the Alliance's ability to handle increasing demand due to staffing limitations and budget constraints.
- The Board agreed to continue developing a formal advocacy message, with finalization delayed until after the State budget is confirmed in late June.

- Motion passed to keep this item on the agenda.

VIII. Old Business

A. **Board Letter to Commissioners:**

- Board reconfirmed its intention to develop a letter in support of increased funding for senior services through the Alliance for Aging.
- Discussion included the need for inclusive assessments, multilingual surveys, and broader community outreach.
- Motion passed to postpone finalizing the letter until after State-level budget updates are received.

IX. New Business

- **June Meeting Planning:**

A. Board is exploring hosting the June meeting in North Miami.

B. Suggestions were made to partner with local centers and possibly host at Community Center or locations in Cutler Bay, Little Havana, or Homestead, etc.

C. Motion passed to invite a representative from the Alliance for Aging and local commissioners to the June meeting.

- **Use of EAAB Trust Fund:**

A. Motion passed to authorize the use of EAAB Trust Funds for potential expenses related to the May 20 Older Adult Resource Fair.

X. Announcements

A. Board members were reminded to complete and submit their annual Financial Disclosure Forms.

B. **Upcoming events:**

- May is both **Older Americans Month** and **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**.
- Several community celebrations and festivals were shared by Ms. Tang.
- Alliance for Aging Conference to be held on **May 2, 2025**, downtown – Board participation encouraged.

XI. Adjournment and Transportation Presentation

A. The Board formally adjourned the public portion of the meeting.

B. Representatives from the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works conducted a transportation access and services presentation.

C. Seniors provided direct feedback about route changes, safety concerns, and service accessibility, especially related to MetroConnect and former Route 6 service in Alapattah.

D. Transportation staff committed to evaluating drop-off locations, service gaps, and the potential for route or virtual stop updates based on resident input.

Next Meeting:
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Westchester Regional Library
Presentation: Brain Center