Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Public Meeting

Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

City of North Miami Beach Public Library

1601 NE 164 St, North Miami Beach, FL 33162

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Magali Abad

I. Welcome

Chairwoman Lupe Bruneman called the meeting to order at 10:21 AM and welcomed everyone to the monthly public meeting of the Elder Affairs Advisory Board. She thanked the City of North Miami Beach Public Library for hosting and noted that a city commissioner was expected to join later. She expressed appreciation for the library's hospitality.

II. Approval of Agenda (Vote)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 26 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of April 17, 2025

The board discussed clarifying language under item VII.B (Alliance for Aging) in the April 17th minutes. Chair Bruneman recalled that the board had agreed to keep the item on the

agenda as a recurring topic, rather than only through July 2025. This understanding was supported during the discussion.

A motion was made to amend the April minutes to reflect the item as an "ongoing agenda item." Another motion was made to bring the amended minutes back for final approval at the next meeting.

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

A local resident addressed the board regarding a dispute with her condominium association over water damage. She explained that the association refused responsibility despite strong evidence. Chair Bruneman and Brenda Lampon thanked her for sharing and offered to meet with her after the meeting to provide support and resources.

The resident also raised concerns about jurisdiction in her area near the Golden Glades Interchange. Board members acknowledged the complexity of overlapping boundaries and reaffirmed their commitment to offering assistance.

John McIntosh, Event and Program Community Director, welcomed the board to the North Miami Beach Library and encouraged future collaboration to support older adults in the city.

City of North Miami Beach Commissioner Lynn Su arrived and was warmly welcomed. Attendees praised her active involvement and the city's senior programming. Chair Bruneman noted that the board had committed to alternating meeting locations between the northern and southern parts of the county to improve accessibility.

Brenda Lampon encouraged calendar coordination with the Office of the Mayor. Commissioner Su and staff described local senior programs such as Tai Chi, yoga, and monthly senior luncheons. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for continued collaboration.

V. Committee Reports

A. Community Outreach Committee / Older Adult Resource Fair Recap
Board members shared feedback from the successful May 20 Older Adult Resource Fair. Highlights included transportation for seniors, broad community participation, and over-capacity vendor attendance. Suggestions for next year included:

- Having two food vendors to avoid long lines
- Clearer senior entry protocols
- Assigned board member roles for smoother event coordination

Director Vanessa Azzam, Betty Hermida, and Barby Morales acknowledged the efforts of everyone involved, including Gabrielle Mendez for food and Exclusive Senior Center, which

transported more than 150 older adults—not only from their own center, but also in coordination with the Community Action and Human Services Department (CASHD) Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Services Division. Special recognition was given to the Milander Center, which served as a wonderful venue. They generously opened their doors free of charge and took care of every detail. Staff worked until 9 PM the night before the event setting up the room, tables, and chairs, and remained present throughout the entire event to ensure everything ran smoothly. Nicole served as the main point of contact.

It was reported that three Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to organizations that significantly supported the event and contributed to the success of the fair.

Board members emphasized the fair's role in fundraising to support initiatives like the Older Adult Resource Guide.

B. Older Adult Resource Guide

The guide was celebrated as a major accomplishment. Concerns were raised about the Spanish and Creole versions not being available at the May fair. Vanessa clarified that she had submitted the translation requests to the Communications Department, which is currently handling them. She explained that Communications is the designated department for the entire County and, as such, operates on its own schedule. The Elder Affairs Advisory Board does not have jurisdiction over their timeline, and there is a formal process that must be followed. Once the translations are completed, the files will be sent for printing.

Chair Bruneman took responsibility for not including this as a formal agenda item and proposed including ongoing updates on the resource guide in future agendas. A motion was made and seconded to ensure multilingual updates remain on the agenda.

Board members also discussed ensuring better promotion of the resource guide, especially among underserved language communities (e.g., Chinese, Thai).

VI. Work Group Updates

A. Elder Issues Committee

This report was postponed to the July meeting due to technical difficulties.

B. Alliance for Aging

Betty Hermida provided an update on the Florida state budget process and its potential impact on elder services. She encouraged board members to advocate using a letter template provided by the Alliance for Aging and to coordinate with local, state, and federal officials.

The board discussed whether an official letter could be sent on behalf of the board. Brenda Lampon clarified that members should consult their appointing commissioners before sending any official communications.

A motion was made to prepare a draft message for board and commissioner review.

Mario Tapia shared concerns about longstanding issues with the Alliance for Aging, including unresponsiveness and the absence of a five-year strategic plan. Brenda noted that a new 2024–2027 strategic plan had been released and shared with Vanessa. Betty emphasized the board's advisory—not oversight—role.

A motion was made to include Mario's concerns in the draft message and revisit them at the July meeting. Another motion was made to include Resource Guide updates as a standing agenda item.

VII. Old Business

A. Follow-up on Alliance for Aging Letter – Incorporated into ongoing messaging and advocacy efforts.
B. Brain Center Presentation – Rescheduled for October 30, 2025, at Westchester Regional Library.
C. July 30 Meeting Reminder – CITT SMART Plan presentation scheduled.

VIII. New Business

A. Fall Outreach Initiatives – Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

IX. Announcements

- Board participation was noted in recent and upcoming events:
    - Alliance for Aging Conference (May 2)
    - Age-Friendly Initiative Stakeholder Meeting
    - Elder Abuse Prevention Fair (CASHD)
    - Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
- **Personnel Updates:**
    - Dionne Polite's retirement
    - Rosa Kasse's resignation
- **Reminders:**

- Financial Disclosure Forms due by July 1, 2025
- Board members must submit proof of completed sexual harassment training, if still pending

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 PM.