Miami-Dade County Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Public Meeting

Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Westchester Regional Library

9445 Coral Way, Miami FL 33165

MINUTES

Members Present: Johnnie Kerr, Betty Hermida, Armando Riera, Magali Abad, Winnie Tang, Lupe Bruneman, Brenda Lampon

Members Absent: Debbie Lowe, Mario Tapia, Barby Morales

I. Welcome

Chairwoman **Lupe Bruneman** called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., confirmed quorum, and welcomed all Board members, guests, and community participants.

II. CITT Presentation on the SMART Plan

- **Presenter:** Ms. **Karla Damian**, Chief Community Engagement Officer, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT).
- Ms. Damian gave a comprehensive presentation on the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) and the **Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan**.
- **Highlights:**
    - Reviewed the **half-penny surtax (2002)** and its purpose to expand transit, build rail, improve bus service, and enhance mobility countywide.

- Explained CITT's oversight role as an **independent trust** that audits, reviews, and monitors surtax spending.
- Provided updates on funded projects: South Corridor Bus Rapid Transit, new Metrorail cars, the airport extension, and the Golden Passport program for seniors.
- Emphasized transparency through audits, financial reports, the **CITT Ambassador Program**, and the *Mobility Matters* podcast.

- **Board Discussion:**
  - Concerns were raised about **service gaps in Allapattah, Wynwood, and Liberty City**, especially affecting seniors and people with disabilities.
  - Chairwoman Bruneman and Vice-Chair Hermida stressed that older adults must have access to medical facilities, housing, and senior centers via reliable transit.
  - Ms. Damian invited Board members to apply to the **CITT Ambassador Program** to strengthen advocacy for seniors' transit needs.
- **Motion:** Motion by **Winnie**, seconded by **Lupe**, supported by **Armando**, to keep transportation concerns as a **standing agenda item**. **Carried unanimously.**

III. Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to Be Heard

- **Comment – Doris (resident):** Expressed concern that **Meals on Wheels** service days were reduced from 7 to 5 and the food quality declined. She questioned funding use and vendor oversight.
- **Response – Laura Beale (CAHSD):** Clarified Meals on Wheels is federally funded, administered locally, and vendors are chosen through competitive bidding. Invited Doris to submit specific questions for follow-up.
- **Board Action:** Concern entered into record; CAHSD to report back at a future meeting.
- **Comment – Ursula Price (CAHSD):** Reminded participants of the **Mayor's Budget Town Halls**. Flyers will be distributed to Board members for sharing with seniors.

IV. Approval of Agenda – July Meeting

- **Motion:** Motion by **Winnie**, seconded by **Lupe**, supported by **Armando**. **Carried unanimously.**

V. Approval of Minutes

- **April 17, 2025:** Motion by **Winnie**, seconded by **Lupe**. **Carried unanimously.**
- **June 26, 2025:** Motion by **Magali S. Carried unanimously.**

VI. Committee Reports

A. Older Adult Resource Fair 2026

- Planning underway; members emphasized keeping the fair **free for seniors**.
- Considering venues in **South Dade and North Dade** to expand outreach.
- Discussed logistics for **free bus transportation** and ensuring ADA accessibility.
- Funding strategies will rely on sponsorships and municipal partnerships.

B. Resource Guide

- Next edition should be **multilingual** (English, Spanish, Creole, possibly Chinese).
- Strong demand for both **print and digital versions**; distribution continues through police, libraries, and health partners.
- Printing costs remain a challenge; donations and Fair proceeds will help cover expenses.

C. Certificates of Appreciation

- Presented to:
    - **Xclusive Senior Day Care** – for providing transportation support.
    - **Milander Center** – for outstanding venue assistance.
    - **Food distribution partner** – for dedicated service to older adults.

VII. Older Adult Resource Guide (English, Spanish, Creole)

- **Spanish edition:** currently in process.

- **Creole edition:** pending update from Communications Department.
- **Distribution:** continuing through county departments, community partners, and medical providers.
- **Online access:** English and Spanish PDFs available on EAAB website.

VIII. Work Group Updates

A. Elder Issues Committee

- Reported new partnership opportunities with the **Brain Center**.
- Recommended stronger collaboration with the **Age-Friendly Initiative**.

B. Alliance for Aging

- Advisory Council reported **federal/state funding challenges** and possible service reductions.
- Board emphasized need for **education on funding flows** and more **legislative advocacy**.
- Proposal: Invite **AARP legislative team** to present on policy impacts.
- **Motion:** Motion carried unanimously to include Work Group reports in the record.

IX. Old Business

- **Alliance for Aging letter:** follow-up pending.
- Continued discussion on the Board's **advisory vs. direct action role**.

X. New Business

- Reviewed the **Alliance for Aging 2024–2027 Four-Year Area Plan**.
- Discussed **sponsorship and fundraising strategies** for the EAAB Trust Fund.
- **Reappointment:** Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis reappointed **Armando Riera (District 6)**.
- CAHSD update: **survey of older adults** in progress; results will be shared.

- **Meeting Length Adjustment:** Board approved that meetings will run **2 hours**, and be extended to **2.5 hours when there is a presentation**.
    - **Motion by Lupe, seconded by Magali. Carried unanimously.**

XI. Announcements

- **New Appointment:** Ms. **Deborah J. Lowe** appointed by Commissioner Marlene Bastien (District 2).
- **No meeting in August.**
- **September 25, 2025 Session:** The Board agreed this date will be **dedicated exclusively to the Refresher Ethics Training (Mr. Robert Thompson, Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics) and the Rape Treatment Center Program presentation**.
    - **Motion by Betty, seconded by Magali, supported by Lupe. Carried unanimously.**
- **SEC Collaboration:** Miami Regional Office of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will partner with EAAB to deliver **fraud-prevention education for seniors**.
- **EAAB Website:** Updated with **Resource Guide links**.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **12:40 p.m.**