

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	
Sally Baumgartner	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	*	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst									P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Jeannette Slesnick

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

1. Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department

**GUEST:**

1. Officer Kelly Denham, Public Information Officer, Coral Gables Police Department
2. Ernie Martinez & Jim Baker, Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.S.F.)

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Katie Kreter

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**MEETING ABSENCE:** None.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- **February 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Sowers moved to approve the February 3, 2016 meeting minutes. Dr. Whittington second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** None.

**BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS:** None.

**CITY UPDATE:** None.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:** None.

**PROGRAM:**

**Officer Kelly Denham, Public Information Officer, Coral Gables Police Department**

Officer Denham presented a training video being added to their Police Officers' training modules. This video describes how the hearing impaired community interacts with Police Officers and what Police Officers can also expect. Officer Denham added that maybe the wallet card can be used to identify the hard of hearing community. However, this is still in the beginning stages.

**Ernie Martinez & Jim Baker, Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.S.F.)**

Mr. Martinez provided informational handouts to the Board about the Center for Independent Living. He reminded the Board that the C.I.L. works with individuals with disabilities in order to assist them in taking control of their lives to live independently. In addition, he discussed their services based on five Core Service areas: 1-Information and Referral; 2-Advocacy; 3-Independent Living Skills Training; 4-Peer Support; and 5- Transition.

Mr. Baker stated as far as their satellite office in the Youth Center, they are working in building clientele. He added there's a lot of interest in this area. Mr. Baker said they are looking to expand their deaf services, but the Youth Center Building is not feasible due to lack of transportation and parking. However, they are looking at other areas that may work such as Kendall or Homestead. Mrs. Baumgartner suggested the Adult Activity Center. This may need further discussion. Mrs. Baumgartner also suggested for the C.I.L. to advertise their satellite office and to also prepare a press release. Mr. Baker agreed it would be a good idea and stated he would forward the information.

Mrs. Whitehurst shared that her 23 year old son has autism and that her husband recently started a non-profit called Work for America. The idea is to increase employment opportunities for autistic individuals, give families support, and encourage entrepreneurship to create sustainable businesses that can employ individuals with intellectual disabilities. She added there's a large number of these individuals in which there's 90% of unemployment rate. Mr. Martinez requested for Mrs. Whitehurst to provide him with her son's contact to provide him with helpful information.

Mrs. Blaire discussed the Sorenson Video Relay Service phone which allows deaf people to communicate with their families. The C.I.L., under a federal program, was able to obtain this

machine for free and there was preliminary discussion about having it installed in a City facility. She added this would be an incredible tool for our community. This machine will require a telephone line, hard wire, and privacy. It also needs to be available and accessible. The Board has an interest in this machine and requested for Mrs. Spain and the City to confirm installation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Baumgartner reported there's no sign language class in Coral Gables High School. It was previously discussed to have a student work the summer at the Youth Center, teaching sign language and providing community service hours in return.

Mr. Martinez commented that the Miami-Dade College, north campus has a language department that offers sign language. This may be something to look into.

Mrs. Baumgartner commented this should also be discussed with Fred Couceyro, Parks & Recreation Director. Mrs. Blaire stated this has been presented to Mr. Couceyro but in a different format.

Mrs. Blaire asked if our internal programs have been scheduled for a particular month. With discussion, October 2016 was assigned to "Hearing" and the others will be scheduled soon.

1. Hearing
2. Speech
3. Sight
4. Mobility/Cognitive

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.*