

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2019 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

| MEMBERS | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | APPOINTED BY: |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|
| | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | |
| Blake Sando | * | P | P | | | | | | | | | | Vince Lago |
| Shedrick Boren | * | P | P | | | | | | | | | | Mayor Raul Faudi-Valdes |
| Mary Palacio-Pike | * | P | P | | | | | | | | | | Patricia Keon |
| Richard Whittington | * | P | P | | | | | | | | | | Frank C. Quesada |
| Marie-Ilene Whitehurst | * | P | P | | | | | | | | | | Michael Mena |

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

STAFF:

1. Raquel Elejabarrieta – Labor Relations & Risk Management
2. Egllys Hernandez – Labor Relations & Risk Management

STAFF GUEST:

Ericka Kofkin – Parks & Recreation

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

Bonnie Blaire
Debbie Dietz

PUBLIC GUEST:

Ms. Haley Collier – Center for Independent Living of South Florida
Ms. Pilar Gomez
Ms. Phillipa (Pippa) Milne

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 8:03am

MEETING ABSENCE:

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

February 6, 2019

Motion by: Shedrick Boren / 2nd: Dr. Richard Whittington / All approved unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

None

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Haley Collier – Center for Independent Living of South Florida (CILSF)

Ms. Collier addressed Board regarding services provided by Center for Independent Living of South Florida (CILSF) to anyone of any age with disabilities such as various classes, information referral, and youth transition assistance, advocacy as well as interpreting services. Ms. Collier provided Board with informational pamphlet *Only My Strength Can Define Me* (Exhibit 1) and notice of upcoming event scheduled for March 15, 2019 *YOU-nique Dance Party* (Exhibit 2). Dr. Whittington asked if Ms. Blaire during her tenure as a Board member was responsible for obtaining office location for CILSF and the Video interpreter located at Youth Center. Ms. Blaire stated she was. Dr. Whittington asked if video interpreter was being utilized and how many are there. Ms. Kofkin advised that one of her coworkers as well as herself have utilized it. Ms. Collier advised there are not many throughout the County and in order for it to function properly high-speed internet connection is needed. Ms. Blaire advised that the City has invested in assuring the necessary internet connection is available in order to facilitate its use. Mr. Sando stated he would like to invite a representative from CILSF to attend monthly Board meetings.

Proclamations – Presentation at Commission Meeting March 12, 2019:

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised Board of upcoming Proclamations presentation regarding Autism month and recognition of former City Attorney Craig Leen at commission meeting of March 12, 2019. Mr. Sando advised Board of upcoming CARD Fund Raiser Event taking place on April 27, 2019 where former City Attorney Craig Leen will be honored.

Training – Autism Safety 101- Autism & Law Enforcement Response:

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised Board of training being offered to police officers regarding *Autism Safety 101 – Autism and the Law Enforcement Response* (Exhibit 3). Ms. Elejabarrieta advised this particular training is being conducted by retired City of Coral Gables Police Officer Mr. Bart Barta. Ms. Dietz advised back in December 2015 Miami Dade Commission passed resolution requiring all police officers be trained on the Wallet Card Project and Video as well as municipalities which have adopted their own resolution and embedded their own training.

Ms. Palacio shared with the Board incident which occurred at her school where they observe the skills a Fire Fighter who had received training regarding children with autism utilized when assisting one of the students in distress. Ms. Palacio stated she believes the training not only facilitated the Fire Fighter the ability to calm the student but also to assure she receive proper medical care.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Rebecca Sosa – Pledged Funds:

Mr. Sando addressed Board reference his email conversation with Commissioner Keon requesting status update of funds pledged by Miami-Dade Commissioner Rebecca Sosa which he understood to be for an Adult Autism Center. Mr. Sando stated Commissioner Keon advised Commissioner Sosa had indicated she would prefer for center to be within her district in the north section of Coral Gables, however type of center was not made clear. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated discussions are still taking place and there is not much movement. Mr. Sando stated in order to bring this issue ahead Board should continue to discuss and request updates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Presentation/Discussion Business Inclusion Awards

Ms. Elejabarrieta and Ms. Kofkin conducted presentation regarding process of Business Inclusion Awards program. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated a sample of the application will be provided via email to Board members. Ms. Elejabarrieta explained a committee is going to be created in order to review applications and determine a winner. Ms. Blaire asked if there was possibility of having several categories or level of awards other than just grand winner. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised since it is the first year this is being conducted it would be best to see the response received and if able to do so, it can be expanded to include other categories.

Adventure Day for All

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised Board October 12, 2019 as date of upcoming Adventure for All Event. Ms. Elejabarrieta asked for Board members to assist with ideas regarding activities, participants and other suggestions for upcoming event. Mr. Sando stated that it would be further discussed in upcoming meetings. Dr. Whittington advised that he is part of a Car Club which may be interested in participating at event this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Milne advised the Board in regards to the status of Affordable Housing project. Ms. Milne stated she had spoken with Commissioner Keon. Ms. Milne provided Board informative sheet – *ROOF – IDD/DD Community Land Trust* (Exhibit 4) for their review. Ms. Milne stated if approved by Board, she would like to continue to provide updates regarding this project.

NEXT MEETING:

April 3, 2019

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:03am

Motion by: Marie-Ilene Whitehurst / 2nd: Dr. Richard Whittington / All approved unanimously

EXHIBIT 1



WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

Empowering people with disabilities to reach their highest level of achievement, advocating for system change that results in access, choice, equality, inclusion, integration and independence.

Our History

CLISF was founded in 1993 following Hurricane Andrew to assist the disability community in the immediate aftermath and beyond.

CLISF is a consumer driven organization that believes in an Independent Living philosophy. Over 51% of our board management team and the organization as a whole are persons with disabilities.

In the past two decades CLISF has worked with tens of thousands of individuals with disabilities in the Miami-Dade County to help them reach their own independent living goal.



Center for Independent Living
South Florida

4770 Biscayne Blvd Suite 150

Miami, FL 33137

☎ 305-751 8025

☎ 305-751 8944

www.clisf.org



Center for
Independent
Living South
Florida



ONLY MY

Strength

CAN DEFINE ME

WHAT WE DO



Information & Referral

Individuals and families can receive referrals related to a variety of community resources: housing, employment, transportation, health, assistive technology and more.



Independent Living Skills Training

Training, resources and information on a one-to-one basis or in-group workshops. Sample topics include: budgeting, transportation skills, self-advocacy, communication & more.



Peer Counseling

To adapt to life with a disability or transition to adulthood or independent living, our staff peers can help you achieve your independence goals.



Systems Change & Advocacy

We help advocating for accessible buildings, transportation, housing, healthcare or government programs. Offering technical information, training and support.



Transition

Youth Transition: Assist consumers ages 14-26 to transition from high school to community life, including the exploration of community resources and skill instruction leading to increased independence.



Reintegration

Support people with disabilities to gain the confidence, knowledge and resources necessary to move from a nursing home to independent living options.

WHO WE HELP

We serve people with all types of disabilities or simply impairments that affect their ability to perform a major life activity at all stages of life.

We serve English, Spanish, Creole and ASL speakers. Our consumers are immigrants, seniors, members of the LGBT community, 6th generation Floridians and all other communities present in Miami-Dade County.

With our consumers, we focus on practical, person-centered achievement that puts consumer's goals front and center. Respect, choice, change for our consumers are some of our core values.



EXHIBIT 2



JOIN US FOR

You-nique

(DANCE PARTY)



FRIDAY MARCH 15
7PM TO 10 PM

176 NW 24TH ST
MIAMI, FL 33127

RSVP
www.cilsf.org

UNDER 21 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT 21+

PERFORMANCE BY
KAREN PETERSON

STREET PARKING WITH BLUE CARPARK NEARBY

**Center for
Independent
Living
South
Florida**

f <https://www.facebook.com/centerforindependentlivingfl>
@ <https://www.instagram.com/centerforindependentlivingfl>

*OR ACCOMMODATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

EXHIBIT 3

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SAFETY
TRAINING INSTITUTE
9601 NW 58 STREET
DORAL, FLORIDA 33178-1619
Phone: (305) 715-5000
Fax: (305) 715-5100



Autism Safety 101 Autism and the Law Enforcement Response Region XIV (Free)

- DATE:** March 13, 2019
- TIMES:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute
9601 NW 58 Street Room #402
Doral, Florida 33178
- OVERVIEW:** This course will provide the law enforcement officer with a basic understanding of autism and how individuals with autism behave, communicate, and react in various situations. It will address high-risk and crisis incidents and provide law enforcement officers with tips and strategies to diffuse and de-escalate these situations. It will also address methods on how to conduct interviews involving victims, witnesses and suspects who have autism.
- ATTIRE:** Within departmental and Region XIV policy standards. Blue jeans and t-shirts are not acceptable attire.
- ENROLLMENT:** This course is open to all sworn personnel. Outside agencies should submit requests on departmental letterhead, with the student's name and official email address. Letters must be signed by an authorized agency administrator. The request to attend training is not an automatic enrollment; selection to attend will be confirmed by the coordinator. All training requests must be received by **Monday, February 25, 2019.**
- INSTRUCTOR:** Bart Barta, (President, Autism Safety 101, & Ret. Commander, Coral Gables Police Department)
- COORDINATOR:** Sergeant Miroslava Garcia, lavagarcia@mdpd.com or (305) 418-3090

Accommodation for participants with special needs:

To ensure that we can accommodate persons with disabilities who wish to attend our courses, please be sure to identify the accommodation needed when you register, or if applicable, at the time you register by phone.

EXHIBIT 4

ROOF – IDD/DD Community Land Trust

Community Land Trusts are a relatively new way of addressing the need for affordable housing for low-income individuals. There are a few in South Florida, but only one which focuses particularly on housing for the ID/DD population. This is Residential Options of Florida, or “ROOF.” (<http://froof.org>).

ROOF is a not-for-profit organization started in 2014 as a result of work done by a task force of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. (<https://www.fddc.org>). ROOF’s goal is to provide affordable housing to individuals with ID/DD within their chosen communities. The organization works with the parents, or guardians of the individuals involved, to buy or build a house, tax-free, using affordable housing funding sources and additional fundraising as needed. Donating a home is also an option. ROOF is composed of two 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations. One serves as the developer and the other owns, maintains, and operates the houses.

How it works is that a local “Sub-Board” of Directors is set up consisting of parents, ROOF members, community members and institutions (starting with 5-7 members and building up over time to around 25 members). This Board identifies a possible house or piece of land. ROOF then searches for grants and other affordable housing funding sources to build or acquire the home. Since ROOF is a 501(c)(3) entity, it is exempt from paying property taxes. The house is then leased to the tenants. The rent for qualifying tenants is set at 30% of their income. The live-in care is done through separate agencies such as Sunrise.

ROOF then manages the house, proactively, with continuing input from the involved parents and other locals. Money from the rent is set aside each month for repairs and maintenance in the capital reserve account. ROOF carries out regular capital needs assessments, applies for any necessary continuing funding, and does all the paperwork and bookkeeping to ensure compliance with all grant requirements and other legal strictures.

In the few years it has been up and running, ROOF has established three single-family homes: a 3/2 in Lake Wales, a 3/2 in Immokalee, and a 4/4 in Port Charlotte. There are two other projects underway for Orlando and Palm Bay. There are no homes so far operating in high land-value areas like South Florida and funding would be more of a challenge, but the operating principle would seem to make such homes possible.

As noted above, the current structure has one official ROOF Board with local informal “sub-boards.” The plan, though, is for each home, eventually, to be separately owned through individual LLCs, each with a single managing partner reporting to ROOF on behalf of an LLC board composed in three equal parts of disability self-advocates, parents/guardians and invested locals.

Living in a home owned by ROOF would yield several advantages. There would be security of tenure: tenants be there for as long as they wanted and would not be at the mercy of a landlord. There would be rent stabilization: with rent set low and relatively free from market forces. There would be rent protection: with rent set at an established fraction of their own income, which would relieve the need for perpetual parental or SNT subsidies. There would be freedom of movement, since there would be no obligation on any one tenant to stay forever if plans changed: their place

could always be taken by another, mutually compatible, qualifying tenant. And there would be the advantage of living in a geographic location close to school, parents, work, etc., i.e. their community, rather than far out where market rents are lower.

ROOF is new and small, and the concept is cutting edge. The organization is run on a day-to-day basis by its Executive Director, Sheryl Soukup, with help from a couple of staffers. Sheryl is extremely knowledgeable in this area. She has a solid background in fundraising and nonprofit management and is also very motivated by being the mother of a child with a disability. When asked, Sheryl estimated a possible time frame of 1-2 years to achieve this. There is a lot more at <http://flroof.org>.¹

¹ A note: in browsing the website, you will see that a fair bit of the information is dedicated towards an ambitious ultimate plan for allowing the tenants to “buy” a stake in a long-term lease of the house, but not the underlying land, through the payment of rent, and, if they need to leave, being able to “sell” the remainder of their lease to a new qualifying tenant. This is something *maybe* for the future (and I am not sure the tax problems and other complications would ever be worth it). But disregard all that for now. There is no existing legal structure in Florida specifically worked out to deal with this concept.