

**PINELLAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 2, 2025, at 10:00 AM**  
**Pinellas County Extension, Magnolia Room**  
**12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774**

**Call to Order** - Jody Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**Roll Call –**

**Present**

Jody Armstrong, Chair (Disability Achievement Center)  
Jacqueline Wunderlich, Secretary (Commissioner Scherer)  
Connor Carlisle (Commissioner Peters)  
Jack Humburg (Boley Centers)  
Angel Overly (FL Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans of America)  
Jodi Schad (Parc Center for Disabilities)  
Stuart Strikowsky (Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas)

**Not Present - Excused/Unexcused**

Ross Silvers, Vice Chair (Commissioner Eggers) -- Excused  
Doreen Caudell (Commissioner Latvala) -- Unexcused  
Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Commissioner Flowers) - Excused  
Todd Jennings (Commissioner Scott) - Excused  
Bradlee McCoy (Commissioner Nowicki) - Excused

**Others Present**

Betina Baron, Compliance Manager, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights  
Carol Strickland, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights  
Keiah Townsend, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney  
Other interested guests

**Approval of Minutes** – A quorum was met at this meeting. The minutes from March 3rd, 2025, were unanimously approved.

**Beach Access Mats** – All beach mats were removed last fall in preparation for hurricanes and took considerable time to be reinstalled. All council members were given a questionnaire to gather accessibility data to move forward with the disability tourism aspect of the mat project. This will also help answer the question of what facilities are still accessible post-hurricane.

**Patient Discharge Issues** – Vice Chair Silvers was absent, so discussion was deferred to next meeting. The issue involves patients being discharged from hospitals with only hospital gowns and nowhere to go, requiring further research and discussion.

**Beach Access Video Presentation** – Presented by Jack Humburg, Chief Operating Officer for the Boley Centers, who is also the Florida affiliate for the Southeast ADA center. The video explained ADA requirements for beach access, Architectural Barriers Act standards, technical requirements for beach access (such as one access route per 1/2 mile of shoreline), various accessibility devices (such as beach wheelchairs, mats, boardwalks, etc.), and legal obligations under ADA Title II and Title

III. This video has been distributed across southeastern states and Florida is ahead of most other states in beach accessibility implementation.

**Employment Presentation** – Presented by Patti Sanchez, MBA, CPCC, Job Developer at MacDonald Training Center, Inc. She explained the challenges deaf & hard of hearing job seekers face when looking for employment and provided resources for how employers can foster communication and best practices to hire deaf and/or hard of hearing individuals.

**New Business: Introductions** – each person introduced themselves, where they work and a little about their organization and how they work with those who have disabilities or who have a disability themselves.

**Gas Station Phone Number Compliance Issues** – Angel Overly explained that although Pinellas County made it a law to have phone numbers on gas pump stations, the numbers are often disconnected or do not ring inside of the gas station. There is no enforcement to ensure this is actually correct. This is a big issue for paralyzed veterans. The Department of Agriculture claims issue is outside their jurisdiction for ADA compliance. Betina Baron will research enforcement options.

**Older Americans Act Funding** – Stuart Strikowsky reported that funding is shrinking. Others concurred that this is happening with their organizations as well, however, there have been no service interruptions or disruptions as this time.

**City of Clearwater ADA Committee** – Chair Armstrong reported lack of progress on establishing an ADA advisory committee for the City of Clearwater, despite previous assessment recommendations. Seeking residents of Clearwater to advocate for committee creation.

**Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery** – There will be a Deaf Community Hurricane Town Hall on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at the Lealman Exchange Community Center, co-hosted by Pinellas County and Family Center on Deafness, to discuss Deaf community hurricane preparation needs and the potential for a specialized evacuation shelter. Additionally, Pinellas Long term Recovery organization is looking for an executive director. Chair Armstrong is also the secretary for VOAD and exploring long term recovery possibilities with Hillsborough County and maybe Pasco or Manatee counties down the road.

**Deaf Mental Health Services Gap** – Jacqueline Wunderlich explained that there is a critical shortage of mental health services for the Deaf community in Tampa Bay. There are no signing therapists or social workers in the area apart from one social worker in Pasco County. Interpreter services are often inadequate for mental health needs due to confidentiality concerns. To be discussed more at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.