



City of Doral Special Needs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Doral Government Center
1st Floor Multipurpose Room
8401 NW 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board Members

Vinita Tandon, Chair	Present
Elizabeth Dager, Vice Chair	Present
Caridad Bouza Merida, Secretary	Present
Nayipzi Gutierrez, Board Member	Absent
Jorge Van Balen, Board Member	Present
Angelica Pinto, Alternate Member	Absent

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

No public comments made.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. May 23, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 meeting made by the board.
By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

a. Recap on Summer Camps

Nerea discussed how they did not get as many participants they thought they would have for the summer camps available. They opened the summer camps to up to 30 participants but there were only 20 (7 to 17 years of age) in total who attended the

camps. There were some 6-year-olds accepted as well. On a case-by-case basis, after the provider evaluated the child. It was a 5-week program. There were time constraints due to the time they could be dropped off and picked up. Some children were already in a summer program with their school and the parents felt it was not a value to move them for the 5 weeks.

Vinita suggested that perhaps the summer camps provide an extended care program so the parents do not have to rush to pick up their children in the middle of the day. The program was 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The cost was \$200 for all 5 weeks of the summer camp programs. They did cooking, arts, crafts, field trips, etc. Planning for next summer should start now.

One parent had a very good experience with the summer camp. Although they could not attend for the whole 5 weeks. Stated her son adapted well. Did a lot of field trips, etc. She was very pleased. Mom stated that the room was very small. All campers have their therapists in the same room, so it made it very cramped. There was one incident last week where her son got out of the front door. Luckily, she was in the parking lot and saw he got out. Otherwise, she felt the program was well organized.

7. Open Discussion

Adult programs were discussed. Nerea advised that they are taking a program to council at the next meeting. The provider of the summer camp also has a day training program for adults with disabilities. It would run from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Doors open from 7:30 am – 2:30 pm for transportation. It is planned to begin sometime in October or November 2023. Monday through Friday. Targeted for individuals who have aged out of school. Working on the program. There is skill 3 and skill 4. Skills 4 would prepare the individuals to apply for work and get a job. It will be at Doral Glades Park. The provider is Kids at Music. The provider currently has programs at two Miami-Dade County parks. This is a life skills program. There will be cooking, life skills, preparing them to become employed, and live independently.

Vinita stated that programs must be driven by the parents and followed through once approved. She requested the timeframe. The older participants in the summer camp program petitioned through the provider to have the adult program started. Narea stated that there is interest in this program. The provider is communicating with the individuals and their families to go over registration requirements, etc. It will be capped at 30 participants. Once it gets approved, the city will advertise the program for registration. Doral residents have priority for the program. Any outside therapists will be checked with the provider. However, Vinita suggested that the parents try to rearrange the other therapies in the afternoon because this program is important, and they would be taken away from the skills training.

The program is a Medicaid waiver program through Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Those who are not on the Medicaid waiver program would have to pay for the program. The city is looking at how this program can be subsidized for those residents who are not on waiver.

Vinita requested that the board be advised when this program will begin.

Narea stated that all the current programs continue, and the city is looking for an art provider.

Parents are still looking into upcoming breaks for public schools. Winter break, Thanksgiving break, teacher planning days, spring break and of course, summer camp.

There will be a Request for Proposal for next year. It was suggested that the RFP go out as soon as possible because it gives the providers adequate time to complete the application and submit.

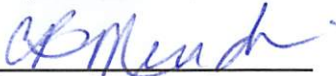
8. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Caridad Bouza Merida, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2023 Special Needs Advisory Board Meeting made by Board Member Jorge Van Balen and seconded by Board Member

Nayipszi Gutierrez

Vinita Tandon, Chair

Elizabeth Dager, Vice Chair

Caridad Bouza Merida, Board Member

Nayipzi Gutierrez, Board Member

Jorge Van Balen, Board Member



APPROVED and ADOPTED this 15th day of November 2023.

Vinita Tandon, Chair