



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Citizen Resource & Outreach Office
2100 East Michigan Street • Orlando, Florida 32806

June 5, 2025

To: Mr. James Auffant, Chairperson,
Membership and Mission Review Board
201 S. Roslind Avenue
Orlando, FL 32802

Family Resource
407-836-6500

Crisis Assistance
407-836-6500

Veterans
407-836-8990

Office on Disability
407-836-6568

Re: Disability Advisory Board Sunset Questions and Answers

1. Please state the purpose and/or mission of the advisory board. Is the advisory board serving the purpose for which it was created?

The mission of the Disability Advisory Board; “Dedicated to improving the life conditions of persons with disabilities through community awareness, communication, advocacy and service.”

Yes, the DAB is serving its purpose for which it was created by aligning and collaborating with agencies and organizations that work to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. The DAB also provides citizen input to the Board of County Commissioners about related issues that will also improve the quality of life and living conditions of its disabled citizens, their families and caregivers.

2. What are the current need(s) of the county being served by the advisory board?

The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) continues to address many needs of the County that range from; transportation issues (mostly paratransit), accessible and affordable housing, road safety issues for the blind community, explores laws and statutes that impact the disabled population as well as raising awareness and providing much needed information to the disabled community.

The monthly DAB meetings provide a forum for people with disabilities and their loved ones to express their concerns and explore ways to address these concerns.

3. What are the accomplishments of the advisory board?

The Disability Advisory Board has made many great accomplishments since 2019 and listed are some of the most notable:

- Spearheaded obtaining the Beverly Chapman Historical Marker.
- Created a “Hurricane Emergency Preparedness” document that addressed concerns for people with special needs and made recommendations to OC Emergency Management Services and their current Emergency Management Plan.
- Updated the Disability Resource Guide. Removed many businesses and

organizations that no longer exist due to COVID and added new ones.

- Developed a working relationship with Access Lynx. Toured the operational facility and gained knowledge of the day-to-day operations.
- Advocated for two all-terrain (2) track chairs/wheelchairs to be placed in Orange County Parks and recreation to promote access
- Co-hosted “Monday the Musical” for Orange County Disability Pride Month.

4. Is there another public or private board that would better serve the function of the advisory board? If so, please list the board and explain why it would better serve the function.

No. There is no other public or private board that serves the disabled community like the Disability Advisory Board. Board members serve as advocates and ambassadors for individuals with disabilities and have been doing so since 1995 upon its inception.

5. Should the resolution creating the advisory board be amended to enable the advisory board to better serve the purpose for which it was created? If so, how should the resolution be amended?

The only recommendation would be to combine some of the duplication under the “Purpose” of the board and the “Function” of the board.

6. Should the advisory board’s membership requirements be modified? If so, how should the requirements be modified?

Yes. We are asking to add an “ex-officio” non-voting position to the membership categories. In the past the DAB encountered a few board members that brought valuable expertise, and a unique perspective during their tenure, but due to the time limits they were not able to stay and continue to provide input.

7. What are the direct and indirect costs of maintaining the advisory board?

There are no direct/indirect costs associated with the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). All DAB members are unpaid volunteers. The DAB falls under the Office on Disability and the ADA Program Manager in that office the DAB liaison.

Sincerely,



James “Chip” Byers, Chairperson, Disability Advisory Board