

**MINUTES OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE
(ECDAC) MEETING
April 16, 2025**

Present: Tammy Straughn – Present
Kristen Wilson – Present
Deborah Carty – Present
Jason Coffey – Present

Location: 3363 West Park Place, Room 104, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: Cecelia Amos

REGULAR DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

1. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Motion: To elect Jason Coffey as Chair and Kristin Wilson as Vice Chair.
Made by: Deborah Carty
Seconded by: Tammy Straughn
Disposition: Passed unanimously

2. Call to Order

Chair (Jason Coffey), called the Disability Awareness Committee Meeting to order at 2:10pm.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Jason Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Did we have a quorum?

Yes, a quorum was established.

5. Was this meeting properly advertised?

The Disability Awareness Committee Meeting was published in the Pensacola News Journal on April 11, 2025.

6. Public Forum

No speakers participated in the public forum.

7. Adoption of the Agenda Recommendation: That the Committee adopt the agenda as prepared (or duly amended).

Motion: Adoption of the Agenda
Made by: Kristen Wilson
Seconded by: Tammy Straughn
Disposition: Passed unanimously

8. Sunshine Law and Ethics Training

Speaker: Christi Hankins, Assistant County Attorney, from the Escambia County Attorney's Office

Provided an overview of Sunshine Law, ethics requirements for advisory boards, and Florida's Form 8B process. Emphasized avoiding private discussions among members on matters that may come before the board.

9. Special Guest Presentation – Special Olympics Florida

Speaker: Michael Stone, Regional Community Engagement Manager
Presented on the structure, goals, and impact of Special Olympics in Escambia County. Discussed the organization's growth, free health screenings, athlete programs, partnerships with schools, and fundraising needs. Expressed interest in future collaboration with the County and highlighted community benefit.

10. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes Recommendation:

Approve the Minutes of the Disability Awareness Committee Meeting held on November 20, 2024.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the November meeting as written.
Made by: Deborah Carty
Seconded by: Tammy Straughn
Disposition: Passed unanimously

11. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

12. New Business – Guest Speaker Suggestions

Committee members suggested inviting a representative from the Lions Club and ECAT (Escambia County Area Transit) to speak at future meetings.

Action: Deborah Carty will reach out to the Lions Club.

Action: Tammy Straughn expressed interest in contacting ECAT or agencies with adaptive vehicles.

Upcoming Events

- Civitan Club Annual Picnic at Seville Square – Saturday at 11:00 AM
- ARC Gateway’s “Drop-In” Art Show – Saturday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Members attending will share highlights at the next meeting.

Annual Report Preparation

Staff will coordinate with the committee to compile a report of 2025 accomplishments to present to the Board of County Commissioners. Members were asked to send information about activities, outreach, and guest presentations.

Additional Business and Closing Remarks

- Encouragement for members to promote the committee and build attendance.
- Reminders about Sunshine Law compliance and using staff liaison for coordination.
- Discussion on growing community engagement and improving visibility of the committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10pm.
