

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY DISABILITY AWARENESS
COMMITTEE (ECDAC) MEETING
JUNE 18, 2025**

Present: Jason Coffey – Present
Kristin Wilson – Present
Tammy M. Straughn – Present
Deborah Carty – Present
Lisa Fournier – Absent
Rhonda Dorfman – Absent
Dawn Shumaker Smith – Absent

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

Minutes prepared by: Cecelia Amos

REGULAR DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair (Jason Coffey), called the Disability Awareness Committee Meeting to order at (2:01 pm).

2. Was this meeting properly advertised?

The Disability Awareness Committee Meeting was published in the Pensacola News Journal on June 12, 2025.

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. Are there any items to be added to the Agenda?

There were no items to be added to the Agenda.

6. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the Agenda.
Made by: Kristin Wilson
Seconded by: Tammy M. Straughn
Disposition: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval and Adoption of the April 16 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 16 Meeting Minutes as amended.
Made by: Kristin Wilson
Seconded by: Tammy M. Straughn
Disposition: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Forum

The Council heard comments from the following individuals –

- Stephanie and Donnie Ellington – Failure by Independence for the Blind, Division for Blind Services, the Florida Council for the Blind, and the American Council for the Blind to provide skills for his wife, became blind two years ago, to live independently
 - Rhonda Dorfman noted during the subsequent August 20, 2025, committee meeting that the Ellingtons were denied service because of a comment/racial slur Stephanie Ellington made against her provider.
- Michael Stone – Announced and invited the audience and Board to the regional bowling event, hosted by the Special Olympics and including seven Florida counties, on July 26, 2025, from 8 am – 1:30 pm at Strikerz Entertainment Center
- Thomas Burns – Wanted to speak but left due to a lack of an interpreter for the deaf
 - It was noted that future aids and accommodation for those with disabilities may need to be prepared ahead of time. This would allow disabled citizens the opportunity to speak and be heard, just as able-bodied citizens.

9. Guest Speakers for Meeting: The Committee listened to presentations by two guest speakers.

- Deborah A. Trocki, M.S.W. and Susan Wachob-Joiner – Business Relations Representative and Youth Services Consultant, Bureau of Field Services, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Deborah A. Trocki explained that the purpose of Vocational Rehabilitation services is to help individuals with disabilities, from 14 years of age and up, to secure employment by removing barriers. The disability only needs to be covered through the ADA and financial eligibility for certain services would need to be examined. Susan Wachob-Joiner signed up via Public Forum but was part of the presentation and designated as such. She discussed her personal and professional background on working with barriers for individuals with disabilities. She stressed Vocational Rehabilitation's purpose and commitment to "competitive, integrated employment". A question-and-answer period was held with the audience and Board.
- Glenn Barbee – Director and Secretary of Pensacola Lions Foundation
 - Glenn Barbee introduced the Pensacola Lions Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit that sponsors projects and initiatives for individuals suffering from blindness or vision impairment, in addition to other community projects. A flyer was provided summarizing their projects including the Sight Clinic and Independence for the Blind. He discussed the monetary challenges and successes of sponsorships for eye surgeries, mostly for patients with cataracts, that resulted in a return to independence for most patients. He addressed the additional challenge of dropped attendance and volunteerism with their organization, and the need to recruit younger people to continue the initiatives. A question-and-answer period was held with the audience and Board.

10. Old Business - Announcements

- Civitan Club Annual Picnic at Seville Square on April 19, 2025, at 11 am: Kristin Wilson attended the event and reported that it was a well-attended event with 177 participants.
- ARC Gateway's "Drop-In" Art Show on April 19, 2025, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: Tammy M. Straughn attended the event, explaining that it involved wall climbing and repelling. 1,800 raffle tickets were sold for the event, but it was not well-attended.

11. New Business

- Guest speakers were discussed for the next meeting on August 20, 2025. Kristin Wilson would like to secure Jacquita Stokes, ADA Mobility Coordinator of the Escambia County Mass Transit Department, and Todd Humble, Director of the Escambia County Library Services Department.

Jason Coffey would like to secure a representative from VetCola/Veterans of Pensacola.

- Kristin Wilson announced, with flyers presented to Board members and for the audience, the Five Flags Sertoma Club of Pensacola Bingo Bash Fundraiser on July 31, 2025, located at 1720 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida 32502. The proceeds will benefit the Speech and Hearing Board.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Made by: Kristin Wilson
Seconded by: Tammy M. Straughn.
Disposition: Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Scheduled August 20, 2025

Meeting Adjourned 2:51 pm

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

3363 West Park Place, Room 104
(850)595-4900-Phone
www.myescambia.com



**Escambia County Disability Awareness
Committee**

Speaker Request Form

Please Print Legibly

*Name: Donnie Ellington
*Email Address: _____ *Phone: 850-382-7372
.....

Chamber Rules

1. All who wish to speak will be heard.
2. You must sign up to speak. This form must be filled out and given to the clerk to be heard.
3. When the Chairperson calls you to speak, come to the podium, adjust the microphone so you can be heard, then state your NAME for the record.
4. Everyone will be granted uniform time to speak.
5. Should there be a need for information to be presented to the Board, please provide 6 copies for distribution. The board will determine whether to accept the information into the record. Once accepted, copies are given to the Clerk for Board distribution.

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Speaker Request Form

Please Print Legibly

*Name: Stephanie Ellington
*Email Address: _____ *Phone: 850-382-7872

.....

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**Escambia County Disability Awareness
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Speaker Request Form

Please Print Legibly

*Name: Michael Stone

*Email Address: MICHAELSTONE@SOFL.ORG *Phone: 850 291 6234

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**Escambia County Disability Awareness
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Speaker Request Form

Please Print Legibly

*Name:

Thomas Burns

*Email Address:

ttycaller@yahoo.com

*Phone:

850-208-3154

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**Escambia County Disability Awareness
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Speaker Request Form

Please Print Legibly

*Name: Susan Wachob Joiner

*Email Address: Susan Wachob-joiner *Phone: 850-471-6852

@vd.fldoe.org

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