

Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind (FRCB)
Public Forum
Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
408 White Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

February 5, 2019

Chair Mikey Wiseman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with a welcome, introductions and Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present:

Mikey Wiseman, Patricia Lipovsky, Robert Kelly, Nicole Attong, Paul Edwards, Paul Kurtz, Howard Bell, Tracie Inman, Jorge Hernandez, Denise Valkema, Bruce Miles, Dwight Sayer, Kim Carr, Robert Doyle

Council Members via Phone:

Louise Peyton

Council Members Absent:

Rose Conry, Leanne Grillot

Council Staff:

Selena Sickler

DBS Staff

Bridget Giles, Ana Saint-Fort, Marian Rezkallah, Sila Miller, Phyllis Heath, Stacy Smith, Joe Abraham, Jim Woolyhand, Holly Ryan, Tami Oates

Speaker 1 from the audience praised DBS for the services he had received.

Speaker 2 asked about the criteria for being on the FRCB. Mikey stated the Council was appointed by the Governor and there was an application process. The speaker encouraged participation in a survey conducted by Volusia County regarding health services citizens.

Speaker 3 from the audience encouraged participation in the faith based resolution regarding workforce movement.

Speaker 4 from the audience stated he was grateful for the assistance he received from DBS. He encouraged collaboration between the agencies in assisting clients receive services.

Speaker 5 from the audience stated her appreciation for the services she received at the Rehabilitation Center.

Speaker 6 stated her appreciation for the services she has received which has opened up a new world.

Speaker 7 stated that her DBS counselor saved her life. She has started college and made friends. She suggested improvement in the sensitivity of staff.

Speaker 8 on the phone stated her appreciation for library services she received and she likes her instructor from CVI. She suggested not to be ashamed for using a cane.

Speaker 9 on the phone recommended better services regarding canes. Director Doyle thanked her for her comment.

Speaker 10 on the phone stated his appreciation for being able to participate in the public forum by phone.

Speaker 11 from the audience stated there was a stigma with using canes. He promoted the AIRA™ service.

Speaker 12 from the audience stated she was the parent of a blind child who has benefited from the services offered at the Rehabilitation Center.

Speaker 13 from the audience supports counseling support for blind and visually impaired citizens. She is a deaf/blind consumer who is attending Mississippi State University.

Director Doyle recognized Cynthia Slater who is retiring from DBS after 35 years.

Tracie Inman recognized the passing of Peter Cerullo.

Robert Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Paul Kurtz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The public form adjourned at 6:00 p.m.