

**Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board  
August 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

**Revised & Approved**

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on August 6, 2008 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:15pm. Chairwoman Beverly Cody presided.

**PRESENT:**

**GROUP A**

Bruce G. Blower	Representing County Executive Steve Levy
Jack Caffey	Representing Presiding Officer William Lindsay
Linda O'Donohoe	S.C. Department of Social Services
Donna Passin	S.C. Department of Labor
Terry Maccarone	S.C. Department of Parks
Paulette Bartunek	S.C. Human Rights Commissioner
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Department of Health Services/Division of Services With Special Needs
Gerald Anderus	S.C. Department of Public Works, Design & Construction Division

**GROUP B**

Beverly Cody	Member, Secretary & Acting Chair
Kleo King, Esq.	Member, United Spinal Association
Valerie Lewis	S.C. Cooperative Library System
Debbie Epple	Member, S.C. Office of Public Information

**GROUP C**

Teresa Strum	Member, Western Suffolk Boces
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**GROUP D**

Roy Probeyahn	Member, LI Aging Out Task Force
Mitch Shapiro	Member, Foundation for Sight and Sound

**GUESTS**

Bob Delagi	S.C. Department of Health Services, EMS Division
Tom Knobel	S.C. Board of Elections
Bob Shinnick	S.C. Department of Public Works, Transportation Division
Kevin Darcy	S.C. Department of Public Works, Transportation Division

**STAFF**

Stacey English, Clerk Typist, Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services

**EXCUSED** Ingo Gloeckner, Glenn Campbell, Frank Krotschinsky, Esq., Jim Sorrentino, Judy Record, Edward Ahern, Joseph Sanseverino

The meeting started with a presentation from Bob Delagi, Chief of Operations of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division. The county FRES and EMS recently held an emergency evacuation drill at 4 nursing homes. There are 9 of the county's 100 nursing facilities that are located in 'flood zones'. In order for a successful evacuation to take place, efforts must be coordinated between volunteer and commercial ambulance providers, Suffolk County Transit, school district bus companies and trucking companies to move people and supplies in an emergency evacuation of nursing homes situation. There are only about 6 commercial ambulance companies in Suffolk County. EMS believes the best thing for emergency situations is to have the nursing homes and the commercial ambulance companies that they have contracts with, for their every day transportation needs, to agree to give up those contractual rights during an emergency evacuation and allow the county to move people based on threat.

For this drill, St. Johnland Nursing Home, Nesconset Nursing Center, Bellhaven and San Simeon by the Sound Nursing Home all volunteered to prepare one unit in each of their population for transport. The residents weren't actually moved off location for this particular drill.

The lessons EMS learned during the drill were: how to deal with narcotics and controlled substances, how to deal with the shortage of nursing staff to patients, and how to deal with some of HIPAA related issues with patient confidentiality.

SC Board of Elections' Tom Knobel updated the SCDAB on the new electronic optical scan accessible voting machines. Every election district is required to accommodate a person in a wheelchair and have these new voting machines under HAVA – the federal Help Americans to Vote Act. It is estimated this will be done by 2009. This year for the primary general election, there will be one ballot marking optical scan voting machine in every polling place. SCBOE is training 800 coordinators with two, 3-hour sessions on how to operate the new voting machines to make sure people are comfortable with them. The Board of Elections has hired a consultant to draw up and general information for the public about these machines. They plan to have a website and want to e-mail information to various agencies, specifically targeting people who need to use the accessible machines. Bruce reported that SILO's Glenn Campbell sent an e-mail saying that he has been working with Ivan Young and Tom to set up a new voting machine demonstration at SILO in Coram on Friday, October 17, 2008. There will be another demonstration Monday, September 29, 2008 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead. The consultant that is working with the Board of elections sent over a sample notice of what they want to put on the website. Bruce says there will be some problems with the color and the size of the print for those who are visually impaired. He asked Beverly to set up a sub-committee to go over the sample and make recommendations. Valerie volunteered to be on the committee. Debbie and Bruce will also be on the committee.

In regards to SCAT Origin to Destination service, the sub-committee has met twice since the last SCDAB meeting. SCDOT's Bob Shinnick and Kevin Darcy met with County Attorney Christine Malafi and Bruce to go over the legal issues pertaining to the new SCAT policy. Four out of 5 of the sub-committee members approved the policy. The sub-committee wants to make a motion to accept the policy. Roy made a motion to

accept the policy. Bruce seconded the motion with an amendment for the Board to approve this concept of the policy, but the wording might need to be slightly changed for clarity. Roy approved the amendment to his motion. The amended motion was approved unanimously by voice vote and the Board to approved the policy concept. The Chair authorized Bruce to tweak the wording.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2008**

Beverly asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. Roy said there were no changes and made a motion to accept the minutes. Jack seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Bruce had nothing new to report.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Beverly had nothing new to report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Architectural Barriers** –Gerald reported that this will be his last time attending a meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board. County Architect Tedd Godek will now be attending the SCDAB meetings. Bruce noted that Tedd had represented DPW on SCDAB several years ago and would be welcomed back.

**Community Partnership** – There was nothing new to report.

**Education** – Teresa updated the Board on some issues she spoke about in the past. The decision that students who were home schooled by parents (not through the school district) were not eligible for special education services has been reversed. Also, the Medicaid ruling regarding claims for transportation to and from school has been stopped and is being reevaluated. In addition, a new decision has been made – parental consent must first be secured in order for a school to claim Medicaid reimbursement.

**Housing** – There was nothing new to report.

**Legislation** – Frank was excused. Bruce said that the ADA Restoration Act passed the House of Representatives in late June. The bill # is HR 3195, 'ADA Amendments of 2008'. The bill will now go before the US Senate.

Bruce suggested the Board should send letters to our senators supporting the bill. Beverly made a motion for the Board to send letters. Jack seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to send out letters as a committee.

**Transportation** –

**Employment** – Donna reported that the SCDOL has formed a relationship with Edward Canale, a federal probation officer. Edward reported that there is less recidivism when

an individual is employed. Therefore, people with felonies will be targeted for services at the SC Department of Labor One Stop Employment Center in Hauppauge. During an inter-agency meeting with the DOL, Carol Tetro of the Social Security Administration offered to be a guest speaker during DOL community workshops. Donna also wanted to make the Board aware of the website [www.disaboom.com](http://www.disaboom.com). The website contains information on employment, health, etc. for people with disabilities. Bruce pointed out that Disaboom is an offshoot of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

## **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

**Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services** – Bruce had nothing new to report.

**Suffolk County Parks** – Terry had nothing new to report.

**Suffolk County Department of Social Services** – Linda had nothing new to report.

**Suffolk County Office of Public Information** – Debbie reported that she and Bruce finished the 2007 SCDAB annual report. Hopefully the report will be ready for distribution by the next meeting.

**Suffolk County Human Rights Commission** – Paulette had nothing new to report.

**Suffolk County Community Development** – Joseph was excused.

**Suffolk County Cooperative Library System** – Valerie had nothing new to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Old business was covered during the SCAT Origin to Destination policy discussion and vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Jack made a motion to adjourn and Beverly seconded the motion. All were in favor to adjourn the meeting. The meeting came to a close at 4:00pm. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2008 in the conference room, Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge. Please note Beverly Cody will not be in attendance at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey English