

**Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board  
February 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on February 24, 2010, in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:00 pm  
Chairwoman Beverly Cody presided.

**PRESENT:**

**GROUP A**

Frank Krotschinsky	Representing County Executive Steve Levy
Alice Young	Suffolk County Department of Labor
James Kokindo	Representing S. C. Human Rights Commission

Barbara Falkman	S. C. Dept of Health Services/Div. of Services for Children with Special Needs
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**GROUP B**

Beverly Cody	Member, Secretary & Acting Chair
Kleo King, Esq.	Member, United Spinal Association

**GROUP C**

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

Glenn Campbell, Esq.,	Member
Roy Probeyahn	Member

**GUESTS:** Kevin Darcy, SCDPW Transportation  
Douglas King, Representing Congressman Steve Israel  
Erin King

**STAFF:** Heidi Zeitler, Senior Clerk Typist, Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services

**EXCUSED:** Leg. Kate Browning, Jack Caffey, Linda O'Donohoe, Tedd Goddek/Lew Johnson, Debbie Epple, Joseph Sanseverino, Valerie Lewis, Ingo Gloeckner, Mitch Shapiro, Terry Maccarrone, Jim Sorrentino

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2010:** Beverly asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none. Roy made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Frank seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Beverly mentioned that at its regular meeting on January 27, 2010, Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board unanimously voted to send a letter expressing opposition to proposed cuts to service provided to Long Island by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Beverly read the draft letter to the board out loud. Frank said on March 8, 2010 there is going to be a public hearing held in Riverhead and he will read the letter there.

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Roy asked to whom we are sending this letter and Frank said to our local and Statewide Legislators, State Assembly Members, State Senators, Governor Patterson and MTA Chairman Jay Walder. Roy made a motion to send the letter, Kleo seconded the motion and all were in favor of sending the letter.

At the last SCDAB meeting a request was made by Mitch Shapiro to have ADA compliant traffic signals installed on Main Street in Smithtown when and if the DOT goes ahead with making improvements for pedestrians to cross safely.

Frank said he sent an email to Kevin Scott at the State Transportation Department stating that we have received requests on behalf of a number of visually impaired and blind individuals for ADA compliant traffic signals to be installed on Main Street in Smithtown, State Route 25/25A. This street is a heavily traveled area and we would be most appreciative of your help in directing this request to the appropriate individual or office. Frank also followed up with a phone call.

Beverly reported that Marion Johnson, a 91 year old member of St. Thomas Canterbury Church in Smithtown, was honored recently as a winner of the 2010 "Art from the Heart" wall calendar contest at Smithtown Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. She was presented with a plaque by NYS Senator John Flanagan and NYS Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick. The contest was co-sponsored by the Foundation for Quality of Care and the New York State Health Facilities Association. The contest features original artwork submitted by nursing home residents across New York State. It was quite an honor to be a winner of this contest since there were 270 nursing homes which submitted artwork.

Frank suggested we move the next SCDAB meeting from March 31<sup>st</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup> because many members would be unable to attend. Beverly asked if all were in favor to send out notice of date change, no one was opposed, motion carried. Heidi will send an email out with date change to everyone.

Kevin Darcy asked if the SCDAB meeting time could possibly be changed permanently from the usual time of 2:00 to possibly 1:00 or 1:30. It was discussed and suggested to ask board members of their opinions regarding changing the time of the meeting. Heidi will include this question in the email about the SCDAB date change. This topic will be brought up again under *Old Business* at the next meeting to discuss member's opinions.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Architectural Barriers** – Tedd was excused.

**Community Partnership** – Frank and Michele DelMonte from the SCOHS were invited to take a tour of United Cerebral Palsy's new accessible facility in Central Islip on Carleton Avenue. Their facility offers medical and mental health care.

**Education** - Teresa said she found the memo from VESID dated December 23, 2009 which was a summary of the meetings that had taken place regarding the IEP diploma. This issue is

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still alive with respect to shifting diploma titles and possibly doing away with the IEP diploma. There was broad support for the Department to develop an exiting credential that specifically documents a student's academic and career skills. It was strongly recommended that his credential not only replace the IEP diploma for students with disabilities but also be considered as an option for all students. The summary talks about a proposal for framework for a new certificate. It will not be considered a diploma but a certificate which will provide them with exiting credentials.

Frank asked if we need to contact Senator Kenneth LaValle to alert him regarding the IEP diplomas. Roy said it could never be too soon to get the movement started since there is a follow-up meeting scheduled for May 2010.

Roy said he went to the hearings at VESID because the publicity was about eliminating the IEP diploma. Many supporters including our Disability Advisory Board sent letters in support of keeping the IEP diplomas in place. Roy was told that we were taking it all wrong, what they want to do is, because they have some students who basically drop out and will never get a school or regents diploma, they want to develop a technical diploma in addition to the IEP diploma. Roy feels this is going to drive these students even further away.

Teresa said she will e-mail Heidi the memo so she can forward it to all board members and then it can be discussed again at the **next meeting on 3/24/10 at 3:00 p.m.**, this way it will give everyone a chance to read the entire document.

***Post meeting:*** Heidi forwarded the information from Teresa on 3/1/10 to everyone on the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board.

**Housing** – Vacant.

**Legislation** – Vacant. Frank had nothing new to report.

**Transportation** - Cliff was absent.

Glenn/SILO asked Kevin if records of complaint are made and kept at Kevin Darcy's office. Glen said several people have complaints regarding SCAT paratransit service and have asked SILO to intercede on their behalf. Glenn would like to set-up a meeting with Kevin to help address these issues. Kevin said he has no problem with that, but they would need specifics of the complaints. Kevin said when a complaint generally comes in they address it immediately. Glenn said that many of the complainants who have called feel that their issues have not been addressed. Glenn and Kevin agreed to set-up a date to meet.

**Employment** – Alice handed out 2010 calendar dates for Suffolk County Department of Labor Job Fairs in cooperation with Suffolk County Public Libraries. For more information and up to date listings of events, go to [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/labor](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/labor). One of the issues that came up was who would be responsible to pay for the interpreter services? It was agreed that both of the parties would be responsible and work out the payment fees.

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Alice also handed out copies announcing calendar dates in March 2010 for DOL'S on site recruitment for United States Census Bureau Field & Office positions at the Suffolk County One-Stop Employment Center in Hauppauge. You need to score a 90 or above on the exam but you can take it as many times as you want and they will take the highest score. Space is limited and you must be pre-registered. For more information and registration please call (631) 853-6600 to reserve your spot!

Alice also handed out a listing of Computer Tutorial Training classes offered at the Suffolk County Department of Labor One-Stop Employment Center. You must sign-up in person at the Help Desk (Located in the Computer Room) to reserve time for the tutorials (appointment times are 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 & 2:30). Reservations will not be taken over the telephone. If you cannot make the appointment, please call to cancel and please check in at the Help Desk when you arrive for the appointment.

Alice handed out flyers from Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of New York City. Their services are free of charge for adults and offers Help lines, career transitions, support, outreach programs, referrals, and classroom instruction.

### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services** – Frank received a “Press Release” that Suffolk County will be purchasing another 22 paratransit vehicles because of a grant which was approved. It won't cost the County more than \$120,000 even though the purchase price is well over a one million.

Frank mentioned that there is a possibility of having to do a Fair Hearing on either an ADA or Transportation issue. Frank is trying to resolve it, he spoke to Bruce about it recently and if we do have to do a Fair Hearing, Frank believes the process is for 3 people on the S.C. Disabilities Advisory Board to act as the judge and jury. Frank said if that does happen he will send out an e-mail asking for volunteers.

Frank is continuing to work on JEEP and another meeting scheduled for March 3, 2010. Frank also spoke to Valerie Lewis today and she has some input on the bus signage issue. Valerie hopes to be back at the next SCDAB meeting.

**Suffolk County Parks** - Terry was excused.

**S. C. Department of Social Services** - Linda was excused.

**S. C. Office of Public Information** - Debbie was excused.

**VESID** – Ingo was excused.

**Old Business** – Long Island Task Force on Aging Out had a brunch on February 12, 2010 which was well attended. Assemblyman Fitzpatrick and Senator John Flanagan were in attendance as well. The good news is they will be distributing new funds for a variety of programs for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. They just finished up a \$982,000 RFP

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process for Family Support Services. They had over 6 million dollars in proposals with only one million dollars approx. to spend. There were 114 total submissions; they ended up reviewing over a 100 but unfortunately only 2 dozen won because of the significant difference between the proposals and money involved. They also have Request for Services (RFS) for NY State Cares Development which is for independent group homes and the money will be spread out over 4 years. They have 22 proposals by providers, but many of them are ISS (Individual Service Supports). When you take the individuals in total, that's 45 proposals, three of them are traditional group homes. What they are proposing to do is take individuals who are living in a 24hr supervised setting (IRA) and move into a supported or semi independent ISS environments (less restrictive setting). The next phase is the waiver RFP about \$3 million dollars which they hope to use for the expansion of crisis houses and respite houses. Roy said they still have about 2,000 people waiting for group home placement and they need it within the next three years. Roy also mentioned that Tom McGilvry, Division Head of the Mental Health Department of the Dept. of Health has retired.

**New Business** – None

**S.C. Department of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs** - Barbara reported that S.C. Dept. of Health/Div. of Children w/Special Health Care Needs held a Transition Workshop on February 8, 2010. It was for parents of children who are transitioning to preschool Special Education Services through their local school districts. They also had a conference on February 4, 2010 at the Smithtown Sheraton. The title of the conference was Professionalism and Ethics in Early Childhood Education. Early Intervention children are from birth to age 3 and the program is administered through the NYS Dept. of Health and it is generally administered in a home based environment. Most of the pre-school children have home based services as well, but some programs are given in daycares or nursery schools. The conference addressed professionalism & ethics for teachers when they are in a home based environment. They also developed a Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Service Providers who are working in the home and they also developed a power point presentation to address boundary issues. Dr. Bailey is past President of the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts and is Secretary/Treasurer of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, which he founded in 1980. Dr. Bailey has published over 100 peer-reviewed research articles and is a past editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

Barbara said she will e-mail Heidi the information to forward to all the board members.

***Post meeting:*** Heidi forwarded the information from Barbara on 3/19/10 to everyone on the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board.

Kleo announced that United Spinal Association will be having their Disabilities EXPO on June 25 & 26 at the Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood Campus. There will be a series of workshops and a tradeshow with different vendors. Admission is *free*.

Doug King mentioned he has been talking to Congressman Steve Israel and Tim Bishop about the Medicaid rule regarding wheelchairs/repairs which only allows the individual to get a new

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wheelchair repaired once a year. Doug said they are looking to appeal this rule. Another issue is, if someone has both a power wheelchair and a manual wheelchair they are only allowed to get one of them repaired.

**S.C. Department of Public Works/Transportation Division** - John retired.

**S.C. Human Rights Commission** – James had nothing new to report.

**S.C. Community Development** – Joseph was excused.

**S.C. Library System** – Valerie was absent.

**Glenn/SILO** – Glenn said they have the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program at their office now, along with the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Program. For more information you can contact SILO at their main office at (631) 880-7929.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Roy made a motion to adjourn and Frank seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler