

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board
March 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on March 24, 2010, in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 3:06 pm. Chairwoman Beverly Cody presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky	Representing County Executive Steve Levy
Linda O'Donohoe	S.C. Department of Social Services
Alice Young	Suffolk County Department of Labor
James Kokindo	Representing S. C. Human Rights Commission
Terry Maccarrone	S.C. Department of Parks
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Dept of Health Services/Div. of Services for Children with Special Needs
Lew Johnson	Representing S.C. Department of Public Works, Design & Construction Division

GROUP B

Beverly Cody	Member, Secretary & Acting Chair
Debbie Epple	Member, S.C. Department of Civil Service/Public Info
Valerie Lewis	Member

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member, Western Suffolk BOCES
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GROUP D

GUESTS: Kevin Darcy, SCDPW Transportation, Douglas King, Representing Congressman Steve Israel & Doug's wife, Erin

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

EXCUSED: Leg. Kate Browning, Jack Caffey, Kleo King, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Roy Probeyahn, Joseph Sanseverino, Ingo Gloeckner, Mitch Shapiro, Jim Sorrentino

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010: Beverly asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none. James made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Teresa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Frank mentioned that we received several letters back in response to the letter SCDAB sent regarding the MTA cuts. Frank also read the letter at the public hearing which was held on March 8, 2010.

Roy asked that in his absence today, if either Frank or Beverly could make a motion to send another letter of support to keep the IEP diploma in place.

The SCDAB board members discussed the issue of sending another letter. Teresa added, that since the December 23, 2009 memo, people are still saying that the goal is to **not to do away with the IEP diploma**. After a lengthy discussion, Barbara made a motion for Heidi to resend the information to everyone again from Teresa. Beverly seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by all. Everyone on the board was asked to please read the VESID memo again after Heidi resends it and come to the next SCDAB meeting scheduled for 4/28/10 to discuss it more thoroughly.

Post meeting: *Heidi resent the information to all SCDAB members on 4/8/2010.*

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Beverly said during the last bad storm in which Long Island experienced many downed trees and power outages; she was contacted by a member of her church whose husband is 80 years old and on oxygen. They were able to move the gentleman to a family member's house to take care of him properly. For several day's they couldn't get a human voice at LIPA but when they finally got through they were made no promises as to when the power would be restored so they could go back home. They were told later that if they had a doctor's note on file they would have been alerted before the storm and would have been better prepared. Barbara said there is program for people who are in those types of circumstances; it's called the Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (JEEP). JEEP is for disabled individuals who are on oxygen or who need lifesaving electricity. Another thing people in those circumstances can do before a storm comes is to get a back up generator in place. JEEP also helps people after the storm as well. Frank said right now they are trying to increase the number of registrants for the JEEP program. They are revising the application to make it easier and no longer asking for a doctor's note. They are also going to go through agencies that work with people who have disabilities to encourage them to register with JEEP. Barbara said she will bring the information from LIPA regarding storms to our next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Architectural Barriers – Lew had nothing new to report.

Community Partnership – Frank gave testimony about the proposed MTA cuts at the LIRR Public Hearing which was held on March 8, 2010. Frank said he read in Newsday that service cuts to East of Ronkonkoma were off the table but today the Newsday website indicated the MTA had a meeting this morning and the board voted to impose the cuts. Beverly said she heard today that they were restoring cuts, so it's very confusing and we will have to wait and see.

Frank is on the ADA Task Force for the MTA, so on St. Patrick's Day Frank was invited to a meeting to discuss the height of a new platform with regard to the height of the train above the tracks is appropriate. Frank thought it was an interesting meeting and it's good to know that the MTA is seeking input from the community of people with disabilities.

Valerie said that the New Jersey transit trains are significantly higher than the platforms, which makes it difficult for people with disabilities to navigate.

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Frank added that under the ADA standards and regulations, the height difference should not be more than 5/8". Frank found this interesting since the horizontal gap allowed is 3", which from personal experience is enough room to trap the front wheels of a wheelchair.

Frank said he went to JEEP meeting over in the Suffolk County IT Dept. They are taking steps to put the revised JEEP application onto our website in an accessible format.

Education – Teresa had nothing more to report.

Housing – Vacant.

Legislation – Vacant.

Transportation - Cliff was absent. Beverly asked Kevin if he and Glenn were able to meet about the SCAT issues discussed at the last meeting. Kevin D. said he called Glenn/SILO and left a voice mail for a return call.

Employment – Alice brought an updated One Stop Employment Center Job Fair schedule because of a few date changes. Alice also brought some copies of the One Stop Employment Center's April Career calendar dates. The One-Stop Employment Center is still testing for short term employment with the United States Census Bureau. It could be a minimum of 6 weeks of employment or as much as 6 months of employment and the minimum hourly wage is \$18.00 to start. They have door-to-door canvassing positions available but also have job opportunities in the office. You must score a 90 or above on the test to be considered for employment but you can take the test as many times as you need to. Alice also handed out information about Suffolk County Department of Social Services extending their evening hours. Linda explained that each DSS Center now opens late one Wednesday a month. Another information sheet Alice brought with her was titled, "10 Tips for smart 2010" and it deals with skills matching and referral technology and is offered through NYS Dept. of Labor. Customers can register at the One Stop Employment Center by putting their resume on this system called smart 2010 and job leads will automatically be emailed to you.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services – Frank mentioned SCOHS will be helping to promote the United Spinal EXPO which is scheduled for June 25th & 26th at Suffolk Community College Sports & Exhibition Center, Brentwood Campus. There will be vendors, seminars, workshops and presentations at the EXPO. The EXPO flyer is included in the handouts today and Frank asked everyone to help promote the EXPO as well by distributing these flyers at their workplace. Kevin D. from SCDOT has also been in touch with United Spinal to help promote the EXPO.

Valerie asked what formats they will have for people who are blind. Kevin said they can work on that too. Frank said he will contact Ms. Perkins to discuss that accessible formats are needed as well.

Frank also announced that another staff member from SCOHS has retired, Michele DelMonte. Michelle was very knowledgeable in her position and will be sincerely missed in our office.

Suffolk County Parks - Terry had nothing new to report.

S. C. Department of Social Services - Linda reported 409 CDPAP cases and the present Medicaid caseloads are 97,905 which is an all time record high. The number of individuals on Medicaid are 154, 218 in Suffolk County.

S. C. Office of Public Information - Debbie reminded everyone that the County Health Department is holding a public hearing on April 21, 2010 at 3:00-5:00 at the Administrative Offices on 225 Rabro in Hauppauge – if you didn't get a copy of the bulletin please let Debbie know and she will send you one.

Health Dept. is still administering free H1N1 flu vaccines. Debbie also reported that the Long Island Senior Games will be held May 26 – June 13 at the Western Campus of Suffolk Community College. Debbie will email everyone the bulletin with all the details.

VESID – Ingo was excused.

Old Business – The topic of scheduling the SCDAB board meetings to an earlier time was discussed. Beverly made a motion to keep it at 2:00 p.m. and James 2nd the motion and all were in favor of keeping the time at 2:00 p.m.

New Business – None

S.C. Department of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs – Barbara had nothing new to report.

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 wanted everyone to know that if anyone has information they would like to distribute you can always forward them to the public libraries to post.

Valerie wanted to also remind everyone that as member of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board for Suffolk County, there needs to be a concerted effort made to make all materials available in a format for people who cannot read print. Valerie also mentioned that as we move forward in 2010 we should be bringing information or distributing information in formats that are accessible to all members.

ADJOURNMENT: James made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Frank seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler