

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board
April 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on April 28, 2010, in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:12 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
Kleo King, Esq.	Member, United Spinal Association

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member, Western Suffolk BOCES
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GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn	Member
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GUESTS: Kevin Darcy, SCDPW Transportation

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

EXCUSED: Leg. Kate Browning, Jack Caffey, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Joseph Sanseverino, Ingo Gloeckner, Mitch Shapiro, Valerie Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 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 Teresa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Beverly read aloud the response we received back from the LIRR regarding the MTA proposed cuts.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Beverly handed out copies of a Newsday article titled, "Warning on defibrillators". The article says there are an estimated 280,000 defective defibrillators that have been distributed worldwide. They mention what brands to look out for because they might have faulty components and fail to deliver a lifesaving electrical jolt.

A while back Beverly mentioned a gentleman named Chuck Adams, who is disabled and is publishing his first book called "Something More". Beverly was able to get him in touch with a member of her church who has already published 3 novels and was willing to introduce Chuck to some good contacts. Chucks' book has since been published and Beverly is enjoying reading it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Architectural Barriers – Lew had nothing new to report.

Community Partnership – Frank had nothing new to report.

Education – Teresa had nothing new to report but the discussion of the IEP diploma came up again. Heidi had forwarded everyone on the board, the two memorandums from Teresa concerning the IEP diplomas so that they would have a chance to read and discuss them today. Roy said the proposal to do away with the IEP diplomas is supposed to be finalized in May so it's critical that as the Disability Advisory Board, we act now. After a lengthy discussion, Roy made a motion for our board to write a letter of support to the Board of Regents, Mr. Robert Bennett and representatives of the Suffolk County Legislature, Assembly and Senators to keep the IEP diploma in place. Teresa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by all to send a letter of support.

Housing – Vacant. Roy said they just completed an RFS (Request for Services) process under the auspices of New State York Cares through the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. There is talk about expanding independent housing arrangements for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental retardation. The bad news Roy said is they don't have a lot of money under the circumstances. Roy said they haven't been approved officially yet, but rather than developing free standing group homes, because of the limited resources and the extraordinary cost that it represents, they are getting more for the money by developing less restrictive community opportunities for people who are already in the group home. As these individuals move out, it will create backfills for the free standing homes. Group homes will continue to be built for those individuals who are in residential schools such as Maryhaven, DDI, etc.

Kleo said she received an e-mail from the NYS Association for Independent Living (NYAIL) regarding the Visitability legislation that has been bouncing around in Albany for awhile. Assembly bill #9409 and Senate bill #1499 have been reintroduced again. Builders and developers who receive government money for their projects would have to comply with Visitability requirements. These requirements include a no step entrance, wide doors, a first floor bathroom wide enough for a wheelchair, and a room which could be converted later to a bedroom. Right now the legislation is in the judiciary committees for both houses. NYAIL is requesting that letters be sent to local representatives to increase support for the bill and United Spinal is sending a support letter as well.

Beverly asked if this might be something the Board needs to get involved with as well by writing a letter. Beverly made a motion that the Suffolk County Disability Advisory Board write a letter to support the bills, Kleo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by all to send a letter in support of the Visitability bills.

Legislation – Vacant.

Transportation - Cliff was absent.

Employment – Alice brought some informational flyers to be distributed in our OHS office on the following topics:

- Federal Bonding Program, which is a unique job placement tool to help secure a job
- Medicaid buy-in information sheet
- Town of Brookhaven Info. sheet which has all the food pantries addresses listed
- Civil Service opportunity information sheet
- ABILITIES, INC. “Quick Take Form”

Alice gave a presentation out East yesterday at One Stop Employment Office in Riverhead for the folks who need to utilize services out East.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

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

Suffolk County Parks - Terry had nothing new to report.

S. C. Department of Social Services - Linda had nothing new to report.

S. C. Office of Public Information - Debbie distributed flyers on an upcoming Girl Scout event. She also distributed brochures developed by the County’s Cancer Awareness Task Force that provide information on possible health hazards in the home, as well as the steps residents can take to minimize these hazards. The brochure can also be downloaded from the County’s Environment & Energy web page.

VESID – Ingo was excused.

Old Business – Alice asked if anything was resolved with SCAT applications being signed off by social workers. Frank said we are seeing a lot of problems with the doctors putting in a diagnosis, which is not good enough. We need to know why the person can’t use the fixed route bus service. Frank said we review the SCAT applications on a case by case basis. Linda mentioned that DSS does the same thing for Medicaid transportation.

New Business – Roy added that OMRDD is processing some additional monies (1.5 million dollars) for the Crisis Respite Waiver Program for both Nassau and Suffolk counties. Another 1.5 million dollars will be for residential rehabilitation.

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 handed out the S.C. Human Rights Commission's 2009 Annual Reports.

United Spinal Association - Kleo brought in some flyers to be distributed for the Independence EXPO hosted by United Spinal, which is being held on 6/25/10 & 6/26/10 at Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Campus.

S.C. Community Development – Joseph was excused.

S.C. Library System – Valerie was excused.

ADJOURNMENT: Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alice seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler