

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board  
June 30, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on June 30, 2010, in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:05 pm. Chairwoman Beverly Cody presided.

**PRESENT:**

**GROUP A**

Frank Krotschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steve Levy
Jack Caffey	Rep. Legislature Presiding Officer William Lindsay
Alice Young & Carolyn Bossert	Suffolk County Dept. 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

**GROUP B**

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

**GROUP C**

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

Jodi Nicaastro	Rep., Ingo Gloeckner, Member, VESID
Roy Probeyahn	Member
Glenn Campbell, Esq.,	Member

**GUESTS:** Kevin Darcy, SCDPW Transportation  
Doug & Erin King

**STAFF:** Gina Grassi, Neighborhood Aide, Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services

**EXCUSED:** Leg. Kate Browning, Joseph Sanseverino, Valerie Lewis, Linda O'Donohoe, Tedd Godek, Mitch Shapiro, Kleo King, Esq.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 25, 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:** At the last SCDAB meeting a motion was passed to send a letter to Legislator Kate Browning to request VESID to be present at the next legislative committee meeting regarding the IEP diploma issue. (The letter was sent on June 23, 2010).

The board discussed why long standing vacancies haven't been filled yet. Frank said he would make some phone calls to advise that our committee is thinking of writing a letter to the County Executive in regard to filling these important vacancies, some of which have been empty for a year.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Beverly said she went to the United Spinal Independence Expo on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Suffolk Community College. Beverly tried out 2 voting machines while she was there, one was for people with disabilities and other one wasn't. Beverly said there was an extremely long waiting time to vote and it was difficult to use these machines. Glenn said it took him 45 minutes to vote last year at the Centereach library and privacy was an issue for him. Douglas King is now an inspector for the Suffolk County Board of Elections and said he would keep us informed regarding these issues.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Architectural Barriers** – Tedd was excused.

**Community Partnership** – Frank had nothing new to report.

**Education** – Teresa had nothing new to report.

**Housing** – Vacant.

**Legislation** – Jack explained how the working committee's of the legislature work. Jack explained that there are different categories like Public Service, Handicapped Services, Health & Welfare, etc. and there are 5 people on each committee. When testimony is given, the legislature takes a look at the testimony and passes those minutes onto all the other legislators. When the legislation comes up it is voted on by all of the legislators. Jack said he can bring in a breakdown of the various committees for us but you can also access it on the legislature's website. Jack said citizens should get involved because that's how issues become known.

**Transportation** – Kevin from SCDPW went to Independence Expo also and was asked to speak at one of the workshops to discuss Suffolk County Transit and SCAT.

Kevin mentioned that a resolution was passed giving SCDPW directive to hold public hearings regarding possible fare increases for SCAT and public transportation. Kevin said the hearing is open to anyone and comments are encouraged. One public hearing was already held on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Riverhead and the other one is being held today at the H. Lee Dennison building in Hauppauge from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Our board expressed to Kevin that many people were not aware of the potential fare increases. Kevin said that a recording was placed on the reservation line regarding this matter and there were also notices posted on the buses in English and Spanish.

Beverly asked Kevin to bring a summary of what comments and concerns people had at the public hearings regarding the possible fare increases and additional Sunday service.

SCDPW also advertised the public hearing in Newsday and two other official papers. Beverly said she noticed that there wasn't any information in last months minutes regarding the public hearings and was curious as to why. Kevin apologized for not mentioning it at last months meeting, it was an oversight.

The fares would go up as follows: from \$3.00 to \$3.75 each way for SCAT and from \$1.50 to \$2.25 for the fixed route buses. This will result in a \$ .75 increase. This increase would help provide Sunday service to all riders. Beverly asked if there were any exceptions to the increase for people with low income. Kevin responded by stating that some people think this is a good idea and some don't, after the hearings we will have a better idea as to how people feel about the increase.

SILO is concerned that the increase would be a hardship for many individuals. Glenn feels \$.75 increase is too much, 25 routes will be affected.

Frank said someone riding the fixed route bus with a Suffolk County Handicapped Identification card is currently charged \$.50. Many individuals might revert to taking the public bus transportation since they are equipped with wheelchair lifts and are cheaper. However, it is not a curb to curb service and is not always suitable for handicapped individuals.

**Employment** – Alice Young explained that VESID orientations are being cut back and are being taken away chiefly because of the youth programs which went down from 700 to 400. Alice brought papers for a one stop meeting which is taking place on July 20th. It has to do with seniors starting their own businesses, life insurance, franchising and entrepreneurship. Alice made us aware of another job fair in August in West Babylon. She also explained that this was going to be her last meeting because her grant was not approved. Caroline B. will be the person to attend the meetings from now on. Alice still plans on helping out and visiting from time to time.

#### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

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

**Suffolk County Parks** - Terry explained that they have a ten week project planned for an accessible fishing pond which will be located on the bay side near Smith's Point Beach.

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

**S. C. Office of Public Information** - Debbie added that the County Executive is holding Stand-up for the Homeless on the same day as the senior citizens picnic.

**Old Business** – Funding OMRDD- the last budget was approved. OMRDD has a name change. It is now called Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

**New Business** – SILO is concerned that the increase in price for Sunday service will impose hardships on many individuals. Glenn feels \$.75 is too much, 25 routes will be affected.

Roy made a motion in support of Sunday transportation service however, objects to the sizeable fare increase, especially for low income individuals. Glenn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by all to send a letter to Legislator Kate Browning, Chair of the Health Committee referencing the above issue.

**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** – Human Rights settled two cases. One of these cases was regarding motored scooters and ramp. The apartment complex wanted to have them pay for them so Human Rights ended up settling the case for these individuals.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Frank seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Gina Grassi*