

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

May 30, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on May 30, 2012 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:08 pm, interim Chairperson, Frank Krottschinsky presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krottschinsky, Esq.
Marjorie E. Acevedo
Barbara Falkman

Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Representing Presiding Officer William Lindsay
S. C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children
with Special Needs

Chris Chatterton
James Kokindo
Terry Maccarrone

Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Representing SC Human Rights Commission
S.C. Department of Parks

GROUP B

Kleo King, Esq.
Debbie Epple
Valerie Lewis

Member, United Spinal Association
Member, S.C. Department of Civil Service/Public Info
Member

GROUP C

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn

Member

GUESTS: Bruce Blower, Robyn Mayr, Garrett Hulett, Paul Lipsky, Juanita Smith

STAFF: Heidi Zeitler-Senior Clerk Typist, Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

EXCUSED: Beverly Cody, Lew Johnson, Barbara LoMoriello/Representing Legislator William Spencer MD, Linda O' Donohoe, Jodi Nicastro, Mitch Shapiro, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Teresa Strum, Clifford Hymowitz, Carolyn Bossert/Donna Passin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2012: Frank 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 James seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Frank received an email from Beverly thanking the board for the get well card and all the well wishes she has received. Beverly said she has a long road ahead and is grateful to be home. She misses everyone and hopes to be at the next meeting in either June or July. Frank spoke to her recently and she seems to be in good spirits.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Architectural Barriers - Lew was excused.

Community Partnership - None

Education - Teresa was excused.

Housing - Vacant.

Legislation - Vacant. Frank said last month the board decided to take a position on the request that was made to delay implementation of the pool regulations. Frank checked into it and unfortunately the Federal Government decided they are going to delay implementation of those requirements. It was supposed to happen March 15 and then it was temporarily extended to May and now it has been extended until Jan 2013.

Chris said legislation is before the Suffolk Legislature to increase the SCAT fare from \$3.00 to \$4.00 and is scheduled to be voted on Tuesday, June 5th. If the bill passes there will be a public hearing on the fares. If anyone wants to speak out about the fare increase they should attend.

Transportation - Vacant. Valerie brought up the ticket pricing of SCAT, she noticed that some people are paying for a ride with 2 tickets which equals \$4.00 and right now it's still a \$3.00 trip. Chris said transportation is aware of it and they are working on it. The same tickets are used for the full fare bus which you would only use 1 ticket and 2 tickets for the SCAT bus. A book cost \$100.00 for 50 tickets.

Employment - Carolyn & Donna were excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank gave a presentation last week to the Ombudsman Program at the John J. Foley Nursing Home. Frank spoke about what services the Office for People with Disabilities offers and he also spoke about transportation.

Suffolk County Parks - Terry asked Frank if there was any new information regarding the parking surcharge monies they had discussed last summer. Frank said unfortunately there hasn't been anything new on it.

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

S.C. Office of Public Information - Debbie said her office recently sent out the J.E.E.P Bulletin.

Old Business - None

New Business - Roy said the Community Board is responsible for preparing the 5 year plan for people with disabilities and at this time they have to renew the plan. They are trying to address the lack of acute care beds for psychiatric patients, in particular newly dually diagnosed people in the county. They only have half the beds the county would require. Roy sits on the (President's Roundtable) of Stony Brook Medicine.

Board and has brought this to their attention and Roy is the process of putting together information from the Division of Mental Health to provide him the data.

The other issue is for the County is to re-enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Mental Health and OPWDD regarding people who have been newly diagnosed, and as to which agency should take the lead in the oversight of those individuals.

Roy also said he noticed in last month's minutes that Sen. Ken LaValle responded to the IEP Diploma letter the board sent out, the Community Board is also in the process of sending a letter. Roy said this will be the last year (non IEP track) special education students will receive a diploma, (next year will be the last year for the IEP).

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

S.C. Department of Public Works/Transportation Division - Chris reported that Transportation is getting ready for the 2nd mailing regarding the late show/cancel changing from the 7 day reservation period to 5 day reservation. This change was a compromise from the County Executive's Office and this policy is set to begin on July 16th. Valerie wanted to know if people are going to be notified of this change in accessible formats because she is visually impaired and recently received a printed letter in the mail which she could not read. Chris said he needs to get information from Frank's office telling them which people are requesting alternate formats.

Terry asked Chris if Transportation will be evaluating the impact of the changed reservation dates. Chris said yes, they will be tracking the results of the changes, adding more service and adding the call back feature.

Bruce asked Chris if DPW Transportation was totally disregarding the board's recommendation of keeping the reservation period at 7 days. Chris answered that it was the County Executive's office that made the decision.

There was further discussion whether or not changing the reservation period from 7 days to 5 days would make any difference in the amount of denials.

Kleo reminded Chris that he was supposed to be looking into optimization and also getting the information from Frank's office so that scat riders can get notices mailed to them in alternate formats.

S.C. Human Rights Commission – James handed out the Commission's Annual Report to everyone and also mentioned that's available on their website.

S.C. Community Development – Vacant.

S.C. Library System – Valerie had nothing new to report.

ADJOURNMENT: Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Terry seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on June 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Zeitler