

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

August 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on August 8, 2012 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:00 pm, Chairperson, Roy Probeyahn presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky, 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
S. C. Department of Social Services
S.C. Department of Public Works, Design & Construction
Division

Linda O' Donohoe
Stephen Astuto

GROUP B

Kleo King, Esq.
Beverly Cody

Member, United Spinal Association
Member

GROUP C

Teresa Strum

Member, Western Suffolk BOCES

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn
Clifford Hymowitz
Sandy Silver

Member, Chairperson
Member
Member - District Manager, ACCES-VR Adult
Career & Continuing Education Services
(formerly known as VESID)

GUESTS: Robyn Mayr, Judy & Harold Weiber, Bruce Blower, Garrett Hulett, Erik Hines, L.I. Housing Services, Jodi Nicastro, ACCES-VR, Mike Stoltz, Clubhouse of Suffolk

STAFF: Heidi Zeitler-Sr., Typist, Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

EXCUSED: Carolyn Bossert/Donna Passin, Valerie Lewis, Terry Maccarrone, Al Rizzi, Barbara LoMoriello, Rep. Legislator William Spencer, MD, James Kokindo, Chris Chatterton, Mitch Shapiro, Glenn Campbell, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2012: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none Cliff made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Teresa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Frank said the board received correspondence back from Assembly members Joseph Saladino and Robert K. Sweeney, stating they support the change in the law to allow mobility dealers to be viewed in affect, as new car dealers.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy said he met with Senator LaValle regarding the special education diploma topic which was discussed at last month's meeting. There is a bill that has been filed in both the House and in the Assembly that is extending the time that the State Education Dept. will act. If this bill were to pass, the ruling of doing away with the local diploma and IEP diploma for children who were in special education, and or special education in the alternate assessment track, would be put off until 2015/2016. Senator LaValle agreed to try and have legislation to reestablish a diploma for these special education students, specifically the ones who would have previously gotten an IEP diploma.

Roy also reported that he attended the Stony Brook Medicine President's Round Table meeting and spoke to Dr. Zanga regarding the unavailability of acute care beds for people with the dual diagnosis of mental health or psychiatric issues, coupled with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Roy said this is a very chronic problem in Suffolk County because we only have about 50% of the amount of beds that we should have. There will be a new president coming in as well as a new director of psychiatric medicine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Architectural Barriers – Stephen had nothing new to report.

Cliff mentioned that he has been in touch with the Commissioner's office regarding the issue of signage in the North County Complex in Hauppauge.

Community Partnership – Frank had nothing new to report.

Education – Teresa reported that Western Suffolk BOCES currently has a program at Sagamore Children's Hospital called the Intensive Day Treatment Program, and it's for students who need acute care. Western Suffolk BOCES has 3 classrooms in the Intensive Day Treatment portion and students attend the outpatient facility 6 days week, including Saturday. It's a blending of education and diagnostic therapeutic intervention. The program is a 30 day model where students come for 30 days in order to make a determination on what their psychiatric needs are and what their best placement would be. They are opening up a fourth class this September at the request of Sagamore, because they have a number of referrals for students they can't accept into the program, generally students on the spectrum. Western Suffolk BOCES will be providing the education and support to those students and it will be changed from a 30 day model to a 45 day model.

Housing – Vacant.

Mike Stoltz said he was disturbed to read in the June 27, 2012 SCDAB minutes, that Fairfield Properties has been getting a lot of complaints.

Kleo said United Spinal Association worked with the State Attorney General's office, and the State Attorney General went after Fairfield.

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The Coram and Port Jefferson projects weren't constructed according to the code. They had a schedule of apartments they needed to modify, as well as common areas. Every quarter the NYS Attorney General gets a report on their progress, and so far Fairfield has been making their deadlines.

Legislation – Vacant.

Cliff said Map 21 is the re-authorization of transition funding for when the current one runs out, and it's done on a yearly basis. The New Freedom Grant and 5310 are now going to be combined, and this will have a significant impact on people with special needs when they combine the two programs. We have to make sure that when the guidance comes out, that the intentions of both grants are met.

Marjorie wanted to let everyone know that last night a resolution was passed that would give veterans a discounted rate on Suffolk County buses. She will bring in more information about the bill to our next meeting.

Transportation – Chris was excused.

Employment – Carolyn & Donna were excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities – Frank said O.P.W.D. is very short staff and even more so right now, because the staff member who handles the scat determinations is currently out on family sick leave. Heidi has been filling in for this staff member in addition to her own workload.

Frank said he has been working on filling board vacancies and these appointments will be going before the Health Committee on August 16th at 2:00 p.m., Bldg. #20. Marjorie explained that new members have to appear before the committee, otherwise you will have to appear before the legislature in order to be approved. However, if you have been on this committee for some time and you really can't make it, you should let us know and we will run it past the committee chairperson. Please let Frank know either way.

Suffolk County Parks – Terry was excused.

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

Old Business – None.

New Business – Robin Mayr asked Roy if there was a chance the SCDAB meeting dates could be moved to another day, because it's difficult for her to attend on Wednesdays and she would really like to be involved. Cliff said he also has difficulties with Wednesdays because his Task Force meetings are scheduled every other Wednesday.

Roy said he is sorry that Wednesdays are difficult for some people but he doesn't have any intention of changing the meeting dates because the mass majority of board members can attend, plus the board meetings have always been scheduled on Wednesdays.

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Robyn asked if it would be possible to then have a teleconference set up for those who can't make it. Roy and Frank said they would look into it.

Sandy Silver, District Manager from Acces-VR reported that they are one of the few programs in the State that are being allowed to hire. They are making some changes to their orientation process, end process and job placement.

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 was excused.

S.C. Human Rights Commission – James was excused.

S.C. Community Development – Vacant.

S.C. Library System – Valerie was excused.

ADJOURNMENT: Marjorie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Stephen seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler