

## Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

February 27, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Corrected & Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on February 27, 2013 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:04 pm, Chairperson, Roy Probeyahn presided.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **GROUP A**

Frank Krotzchinsky, 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  
Linda O'Donohoe

Representing SCDPW Transportation Division  
S. C. Department of Social Services

#### **GROUP B**

Michelle Santantonio  
Janet Allen

Member  
Rep., Joseph Delgado SILO

#### **GROUP C**

Teresa Strum  
Carolyn Schick

Member  
Member

#### **GROUP D**

Roy Probeyahn  
Beverly Cody  
Garrett Hulett  
Douglas King  
Sandy Silver  
Clifford Hymowitz  
Glenn Campbell, Esq

Member, Chairperson  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member

**GUESTS:** Erin King, Sharon Garcia

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

**EXCUSED:** Beverly Cody, Diane Gaines, Joani Madarash, Valerie Lewis, Kleo King, Esq., Mike Stoltz, Carolyn Bossert, Donna Passin, Terry Maccarrone, James Kokindo, Stephen Astuto, Albert Rizzi, Barbara LoMoriello, Representing Legislator William Spencer, Mitch Shapiro, Diane Gaines

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 30, 2013:** Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none, Douglas made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Cliff seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Roy followed up with the Town of Brookhaven regarding the handicapped parking issue in front of the building. Employees of Town Hall were instructed by the Supervisor's office to use the handicapped parking spots located in the rear of the building so that it could free up the parking spots in front of building. This all came about because an individual contacted O.P.W.D. complaining of receiving notice that he was parked in a handicapped space beyond the allotted time. Putting time constraints on handicapped parking spaces when there are no such limits on spaces for those without disabilities, is a direct violation of the ADA.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Roy sits on the Suffolk County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities committee which advocates for people who are served through the Office for People with Development Disabilities. The Federal government told the governor that they will stop supplying Medicaid funding to the tune of 1.1 billion dollars to the State of New York because they believe payments are inappropriate for the costs. The governor's 30 day amendments has cut 240 million from the original budget that he proposed, and it was a no-cut budget. It will be assessed directly against the not-for-profit agencies throughout the state. Each agency will take a 6% hit this year on top of the 10% hit they received in last year's budget.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Architectural Barriers** - Lew was absent. Cliff reported that the directional signs in the North County Complex will finally be updated and color coded.

**Community Partnership** - Frank reported FEMA assistance has been extended through March 29<sup>th</sup> 2013.

**Education** - Teresa said in the past school districts were required to obtain parental consent every time they needed to access public benefits or insurance for special education students. This is directly related to Medicaid claiming on the part of school districts. The past regulation has put tremendous pressure on school districts and created delays in the claiming process. This regulation will now be changed on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2013. School districts can now gain consent from parents by just having a one-time consent form completed, and annual notification of parental rights related to accessing public benefits including informing parents of the likelihood of sharing student information with these agencies.

Common Course State standards ensure that all students throughout the country receive a quality education. (PARCC) Partnership of Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is looking do away with the Regents Exams and move to a National Assessment in the near future. The problem will be that all state exams will take place electronically, online. This will be a tremendous burden for school districts and the necessary accommodations have to be taken into account for students with disabilities.

**Housing** - Michele asked for housing committee volunteers and would like to see the committee address some of the following issues.

1. Source of Income - Amend Local SC Human Rights Law (e.g. Nassau County; NYC)

2. Design and Construction/Visitability Standards
3. Illegal Discrimination – Special Provisions of Fair Housing Law related to multi-family dwellings and people with disabilities:
  - a.) Reasonable Accommodations
  - b.) Reasonable Modifications
4. Lack of Affordable, Accessible Housing
5. Rental Assistance Programs

Cliff was able to get the Town of Brookhaven to incorporate a universal design building code but the builders aren't aware that it exists. Anyone building new construction on multi-unit dwellings could select certain features that could easily make the home into an accessible housing unit. Cliff volunteered to join the housing committee.

**Legislation** – Vacant

**Transportation** – Valerie was excused but sent the following report: She is working on putting together a sub-committee meeting for March and should have an update for March's SCDAB meeting.

Cliff spoke to a consultant at the Veterans Administration who works with Veterans that have traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. Cliff made them aware that the VA's policy on transportation is counterproductive because they only provide trips to the VA for medical appointments. Cliff was referred to a woman who will be heading a committee on helping veterans reintegrate into the community.

**Employment** – Carolyn & Donna were excused.

#### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities** – Frank said at the last meeting the board voted to send a letter of opposition for the proposed fare increase for SCAT. Figures and cost were discussed but it was pointed out that the board didn't even have the number of riders it would affect and how much money could be raised. The intent was to find out those numbers, but because of the way the way the motion was phrased by asking for the justification, the letter of opposition to the fare increase ultimately was not done. A discussion ensued regarding transportation costs which could help offset the fare increase for SCAT paratransit. It was recommended after much discussion that it would be more effective to write a letter stating the board is opposed to the fare increase instead.

Roy asked for a new motion for the board to write a letter. Garrett made a motion to write a letter to the Suffolk County Legislature and the County Executive objecting to the fare increase for SCAT paratransit and the letter should offer cost alternatives. The letter will be presented at the Public Hearings. Doug seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Garrett said SILO also sent a letter to all the Suffolk County legislators opposing the fare increase for SCAT paratransit.

Garrett asked Chris whatever happened to all the statistics DPW/transportation used to bring to our board meetings. Roy asked for Chris to please include these statistics in his monthly report.

Public Hearings for the proposed SCAT fare increase will be held March 6<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium of the W.H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge and March 7<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building in Riverhead and the times for both will be from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Valerie Lewis helped to put the Hearing notices on CD's, braille and audio so DPW/Transportation could mail that information to SCAT riders who have requested materials in alternate formats.

**S.C. Parks** - Terry was absent.

**S.C. Department of Social Services** - Linda reported that Commissioner Gregory J. Blass retired and John O'Neill, who was the Deputy Commissioner, is now the Acting Commissioner of DSS. Linda said if any statistics are needed just let her know and she can have those reports ready.

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

**S.C. Department of Public Works/Transportation Division** - Chris said had nothing new to report.

**S.C. Human Rights Commission** - James was absent.

**S.C. Community Development** - Vacant.

**S.C. Library System** - Valerie was excused but she sent in the following report, see above Transportation.

**Acces-VR** - Sandy said Suffolk County has the highest number of people entering their system across the state and they also have highest number of people who are successfully rehabilitated. CRS contracts will probably be posted next month and will bring changes to the way they do business as reported in last month's meeting minutes. They are also working on getting an 8 week training program together, something similar to how mailbox.com or UPS is run. They are also re-piloting a program they had last year by placing students into employment directly exiting school and so far 5 students have been hired.

**Old Business** - Glenn made a motion for Roy to contact Legislator Ed Romaine's office regarding the parking issue in front of Town of Brookhaven. Garrett seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Doug reported that he, Joel Vetter-FRES and Valerie Lewis are putting together a presentation which will be given to Community Emergency Response Team members. CERT members help out when a disaster strikes and the presentation will consists of how to deal with a person with a disability during a disaster. The tag line for the show is, it's not about the disability, its about the ability.

Doug also reported that he has done 3 shows so far for WRCN radio. It's called the Wheels in Motion Radio show and Glenn Campbell is going to be Doug's guest next week. The shows air Saturday mornings. The tag line for the show is, it's not about the disability, its about the ability.

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**New Business** - SILO will be hosting a Rider's Educational Forum on Sat., March 16, 2013 from 10:00- 12:00 p.m. located at 2111 Lakeland Ave., Ronkonkoma.

SILO will help answer any questions or concerns SCAT riders might have regarding the fare increase or any other questions they might have.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garrett seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler