

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

March 27, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on March 27, 2013 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:06 pm, Chairperson, Roy Probeyahn presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Marjorie E. Acevedo	Representing Presiding Officer William Lindsay
Barbara LoMoriello	Representing Legislator William Spencer, MD
Barbara Falkman	S. C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Linda O'Donohoe	S. C. Department of Social Services

GROUP B

Michelle Santantonio	Member
Joseph Delgado	Member
Valerie Lewis	Member

GROUP C

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn	Member, Chairperson
Beverly Cody	Member
Garrett Hulett	Member
Douglas King	Member
Sandy Silver	Member
Glenn Campbell, Esq.	Member
Albert Rizzi	Member

GUESTS: Presentations by: Dr. Karen Martin - Project Hope
Elliot Harkavy & Kathleen Madigan - FEMA
Erin King, Sharon Garcia, Patty Furino and Juanita Smith

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

EXCUSED: Diane Gaines, Joani Madarash, Kleo King, Esq., Mike Stoltz, Carolyn Bossert, Donna Passin, Terry Maccarrone, James Kokindo, Stephen Astuto, Mitch Shapiro, Diane Gaines, Teresa Strum, Carolyn Schick, Clifford Hymowitz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 27, 2013: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. Roy said he had a correction on page 2 of his report. It should read the governor's 30 day amendments has cut 240 million from the original budget, not 246 million. Doug made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Barbara L. seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy had a meeting with the Supervisor's office in the Town of Brookhaven regarding the handicapped parking in front of Town Hall. The town attorney came too and he is willing to consider or comply with whatever we as a board decide to do. This problem goes back several years with employees filling up the parking spots in front of the building in the morning and then there are none available to the public. There are some handicapped parking spots in the back but those are for the employees only. Roy was under the impression that employees were told to stop parking in the front of the building but that wasn't the case because there might be an ordinance preventing a public entity from making such a direction to public employees. The Town Supervisor asked the Town Attorney to research it further. If we definitively know it's a direct violation of the ADA and direct them to take the signs away, employees will no longer be able to park in the front of the building. For several years it has been working fine, one violation was recently issued but was dismissed. Roy asked for a motion to table further discussion until we get a ruling from the Town Attorney on his findings. Barbara L. made a motion to table until we hear from Town Attorney and Marjorie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The main question is can they direct employees to park in an employee parking area only?

As reported in last month's minutes regarding the governor's budget and the proposed 30 day amendments to reduce state funding, the governor proposed a \$120 million dollars which will directly impact OPWDD and will affect all the not-for-profit agencies throughout the state. Huge advocacy rallies were held state wide against the budget cuts, with phone calls and letter campaigns. The governor has since revised the cut to 90 million and said it will have to come out of administration costs and not cut any services. It was voted in this morning and approved by the Senate.

Karen Martin, Ph.D., Suffolk County Coordinator explained that Project HOPE offers free confidential supportive counseling, public education and information and referral services to survivors of Hurricane Sandy. Project Hope is funded through FEMA and is jointly overseen by FEMA and the Office of Mental Health. They can provide one-on-one or group crisis counseling services and will provide it wherever you wish. The staff helps you to think about options and to find people or agencies that can assist with any disaster-related problems. For more information in Suffolk County please call Karen at (631) 853-3129 or LIFENET at 1-800-543-3638.

Elliot and Kathleen explained what FEMA's responsibilities are when a disaster strikes. FEMA anticipates the person's needs through guidance and they help coordinate disaster relief assistance. They explained that it's imperative that the person complete the SBA form in order to receive benefits. The number of disabled people registering for help in Suffolk County alone has doubled from 700 to 1600 within the last month and a half. For more information you can contact Elliot.Harkavy@FEMA.DHS.gov or Kathleen.Madigan@FEMA.DHS.gov.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Architectural Barriers - Lew was absent.

Community Partnership - Frank had nothing new to report.

Education - Teresa was excused.

Housing – Michele reported that she has contacted Cliff and has a meeting scheduled with Suffolk County Human Rights Commission and they are hoping to raise and push the issue of the source of income legislation, and get the read on how to proceed.

April is Fair Housing Month; the 45th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act! OPEN HOUSE- APRIL 30th. Admission FREE, but Registration required by 4/23/13. Details available at: www.LIFairHousing.org

Legislation – Vacant.

Transportation – Valerie had a meeting this morning to see who would be interested in getting involved with transportation issues. Looking to possibly meet 3 or 4 times a year and focus on one or two issues.

Employment – Carolyn & Donna were excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities – Frank said as a board we need to get disaster assistance information out to people and then get this information communicated to the federal government.

Frank attended housing program at SILO today called Single Point Access, this is for people with a mental health diagnosis. Frank also attended SILO's trade fair last week which had a lot of useful technology for people with disabilities.

S.C. Parks - Terry was excused.

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

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

S.C. Department of Public Works/Transportation Division - Roy reported that he testified at the hearing held by DPW/Division of Transportation with regard to the SCAT fare increase and to make sure the boards letter was read into the record.

Chris reported that DPW/Division of Transportation held public hearings on March 6th & 7th regarding the SCAT fare increase. The Commissioner is now speaking with County Executive's office to decide on what fare increase if any should be put in place. Chris should get an update within a week or so.

Joseph Delgado SILO feels that all the legislators should have been given copies of all testimony that was submitted to DPW/Transportation regarding the SCAT fare increase.

Chris said he will bring this request back to his office.

Chris reported the following statistics for the SCAT paratransit service for 2012:

Total SCAT Requests were: 631,863
Approved: 611,515
Denied because of capacity: 13,476 (2.1 % of all the trip requests)
Late cancellations: 18,521 (less than 2 hours before the trip time)
Advanced cancellations: 114,669 (1-5 days in advance)
Passenger no-shows: 17,209 (which includes cancelled at the door)

Valerie said the passenger no-shows/cancelled at the door should be two separate totals because they are two totally different things.

Total Trips provided: 456,617 (10.4% increase over 2011)

Company No-Shows: 21, 056 arrived outside the 15 min. window (3.4% of all trips)

It was requested by the board for Chris to send everyone on the board these statistics. Roy also asked that these numbers be brought to the board meetings quarterly.

Beverly asked what the total number of registered scat riders was. Frank said that number changes constantly but that he would get that number to her.

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

S.C. Community Development - Vacant

Acces-VR - Sandy reported their new contact was approved, CORE Services - Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Persons with a disability. A bidder's conference will be held on April 15th.

Old Business - Al reported that Frank is waiting to hear back from IT regarding the meeting they requested. Since Frank is busy with many other issues Al offered to remind IT about the meeting. Garrett, Frank and Glen have all volunteered to be on this committee.

Valerie announced that a Autism Resource Fair will be held on April 14th at the Huntington Hilton. This is an all-day event with 50 different service providers and/or vendors. Families are encouraged to attend.

New Business - Sharon Garcia announced that there will be an East End Mental Health Awareness Day held on Saturday, April 6th, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Also on April 13th & 14th the 3rd Annual Riverfront 24 hour Endurance Run & Fun Walk will begin. Event starts at 2pm on April 13th and ends at 2pm April 14th at Riverhead Waterfront with proceeds benefiting the Suffolk County United Veterans.

ADJOURNMENT: Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Doug seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Zeitler