

## Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

April 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on April 24, 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.  
Marjorie E. Acevedo  
Barbara LoMoriello  
Barbara Falkman

Representing County Executive Steven Bellone  
Representing Presiding Officer William Lindsay  
Representing Legislator William Spencer, MD  
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  
Joseph Delgado  
Valerie Lewis

Member  
Member  
Member

#### **GROUP C**

Joani Madarash  
Teresa Strum  
Carolyn Schick

Member  
Member  
Member

#### **GROUP D**

Roy Probeyahn  
Garrett Hulett  
Douglas King  
Albert Rizzi  
Diane Gaines  
Mitch Shapiro  
Clifford Hymowitz

Member, Chairperson  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member

**GUESTS:** Erin King, Juanita Smith

**STAFF:** Jessica Love, Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

**EXCUSED:** Kleo King, Esq., Mike Stoltz, Carolyn Bossert, Donna Passin, Terry Maccarrone, James Kokindo, Stephen Astuto, Beverly Cody, Michelle Santantonio, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Sandy Silver

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 27, 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 Valerie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Roy reported that Jim Moran, Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal Affairs of OPWDD is retiring. Roy also reported that despite all the advocacy work, OPWDD sustained 180 million in budget cuts. The financial impact on the not for profit agencies may be as little as 14 million dollars, but that's the gross cut, including state and federal dollars. The Commissioner also had a video conference statewide to talk about the implementation of the waiver and negotiations with the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). The sheltered workshops in New York will no longer be able to accept new participants after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Roy also attended a presentation called Project Search, this is where BOCES receives students from the school districts, the districts pay the tuition, and then students intern for free at the Medford Center for Living. SILO provides job coaching and all other services and helps build them up through Access VR or OPWDD. Their hope is that all 12 students are able to get jobs through this search. [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

Roy also mentioned that this will be the last year students will be given an IEP diploma.

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

**Community Partnership** - Frank mentioned that FEMA is currently working on an initiative to involve agencies that serve people with disabilities in the planning for future disasters and also with emergency planning and recovery. The County Executive's office requested that Frank be the point person to get this coalition set up in Suffolk County but most of that work has already been done by Joel Vetter/FRES and Bob Delagi/Health Dept. Frank attended one of the meetings in Yaphank and there were a number of other County agencies also in attendance.

Frank attended a FEMA meeting in Forest Hills where they are still dealing with Sandy related issues. The area around New York City was hit pretty hard by the hurricane. They discussed statistics and the number of people with disabilities that were affected by FEMA. Surprisingly there were not many people with disabilities that filled out the FEMA application requesting help.

JEEP will be changing its name, because the registry has now been opened up to everyone, not just people with disabilities.

Valerie said many people are still not aware of this registry, because it's not available in alternate formats.

Douglas said he is the only member of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that has a physical disability. He is working with Joel Vetter to get about 30 people together for a CERT team to help educate the community about the registry.

**Education** - Teresa spoke about the PARCC Accommodation Manual which is the partnership for assessment in the readiness for college. They were trying to gather data on what types of Accommodations would be available for students with disabilities. For more information regarding this topic you can follow the attached link.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/04/24/29parcc.h32.html?tkn=VVRFOBSRAnE L H J 0 9 i 2 s E T 8 v X 4 G 9 r / l e t q 0 5 3>

**508 ADA Compliance Committee** - Albert said they have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with the IT Department's representatives from the Commissioner's office. Leg. Schneiderman has already introduced a bill to help make county websites accessible for people with disabilities. He is trying to bring the county into conformance with both state and federal laws.

**Housing** - Michelle was excused but requested her report be submitted and distributed in her absence. (see last page)

**Legislation** - Vacant. Barbara LoMoriello said Leg. Schneiderman has put in a bill to make county websites accessible for people with disabilities and the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board is expected to come up with the recommendations.

Marge said Legislator Schneiderman laid two pieces of legislation on the table, IR#1295 utilizing state funds to expand bus service in Suffolk County and IR#1306 moderating the fare increase for paratransit bus service.

**Transportation** - Valerie announced that a transportation sub-committee has been scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> and they will be discussing SCAT policies and communication issues. Valerie also wanted everyone to know that Suffolk Cooperative Library has an assistive technology center where they can demonstrate technology for people with learning disabilities, visually impaired or blind and it's by appointment only. Valerie brought information about the technology center for everyone in accessible formats.

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

#### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities** - Frank had a meeting with the Commissioner of IT a couple of weeks ago and the Commissioner agrees that it's important to make county websites accessible. The second meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow.

**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 new to report.

**S.C. Department of Public Works/Transportation Division** - Chris referred to Legislator Schneiderman's resolution IR#1306, which is to moderate the fare increase for the SCAT bus service. Chris explained that this resolution is the proposal our Disabilities Advisory Board put forth to only have a half fare increase of .50 on SCAT and increase the Handicapped Identification card fare by a .25 cents, otherwise the fare increase is set to go up to \$4.00 each way on May 15, 2013.

Legislator Schneiderman also put in a bill for Sunday service, to use 2 million dollars in additional state operating assistance funds that transportation received in 2013 and ear mark those towards improving transit services.

Garrett said a few people have made complaints that SCAT bus drivers are already charging \$4.00 fares for a one way SCAT trip. Chris said Suffolk Bus is well aware that the fare is still \$3.00 but Chris will let the supervisors know about these complaints.

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

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

**Acces-VR** - Sandy was absent.

**Old Business** - None.

**New Business** - Joani Madarash handed out flyers for Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference May 31<sup>st</sup>, and it's being held at South Oaks Hospital.

Mitch reported that on June 18<sup>th</sup> the Suffolk County Legislature and their aides will be treated to a free hearing screenings in Riverhead.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garrett seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on May 29, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler/Jessica Love

To: Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson      From: Michelle Santantonio  
Re: Housing Committee Notes for SC Disabilities Advisory Board 4-24-13

Michelle did meet with Jennifer Blaske, Executive Director for Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (SCHRC) as per March meeting discussion. I advised her of my appointment to SC Disabilities Advisory Board and interest raised to promote outlawing "Source of Income" discrimination in housing under local law, such as NYC, Nassau County and many municipalities and some states have achieved. She indicated she is wholly in favor of helping (and receiving help) to amend the local County Human Rights Law to include Source of Income. She anticipates meeting with County Attorney's Office related to draft for amending legislation- as the SCHRC also is interested in revising their local law related to employment discrimination so there could be some revenue source for the County to support needed staff (currently- staff now consists of Director, 2 Investigators and Secretary. 95% of their cases are employment and currently operate under a work sharing agreement with NYS Division of Human Rights- so when the County's investigation

and recommendation for probable cause and ultimate settlements result- the state benefits from penalties assessed- but not the County. SCHRC receives very few housing cases. LIHS recently received results of FOIL request revealing only 5 cases/fewer resolutions over a 5 year period ending 12/13/12. I offered assistance with draft language related to Source of Income/housing provisions. She will get back to me after meeting with County Attorney (the SCHRC used to be independent agency, but was placed under umbrella of County Attorney several years ago). We both are in agreement that there are some Legislators that would back this effort (notably Leg. Montano, a former SCHRC Director in the 1980s during time Michelle worked there as an Investigator). Jennifer indicated that if the resolution to amend law includes some hope of revenue for County, to fund some work /more staff of SCHRC, this would likely be well received by majority.

REMINDER: ALL INVITED- Advance Notice required!

Long Island Housing Services OPEN HOUSE highlighting 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act is 4/30/13. Admission Free- presentations @ 5:30 and there will be Buffet. Please register no later than 4/26!- Call 631-567-5111, ext. 316 for Myrsa or email [Michelle@LIFairHousing.org](mailto:Michelle@LIFairHousing.org). Link to Announcement to view details: [www.LIFairHousing.org](http://www.LIFairHousing.org) .

Related to Universal Design/visitability standards and related issues raised as per Feb. meeting: There was no opportunity to meet/further plan with Cliff H. this past month.

Nationally – a major protest organized by ADAPT was ongoing, protest now ended. ADAPT received a written promise from HUD that it would issue its Olmstead policy on May 27, 2013. See Press Release below.

CONTACT: Daniese McMullin-Powell, [302-507-7546](tel:302-507-7546) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Adam Ballard, [708-945-3893](tel:708-945-3893); Janine Bertram, [503-915-5247](tel:503-915-5247) or [janinebk@mac.com](mailto:janinebk@mac.com)

## **HUD HEADQUARTERS LOCKED DOWN BY ACTIVISTS DEMANDING HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

### **ADAPT Urges Obama Administration to Keep Its Promises on Community Living for People with Disabilities**

Washington, DC -- ADAPT, the national disability rights group, has hundreds of activists barricaded at the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) right now. They are demanding that HUD do more to open housing for people with disabilities trying to move out of nursing facilities and institutions.

"It's a complete scandal that thousands and thousands of people with disabilities are waiting to get out of institutional settings, and HUD is moving at only a glacial pace to address this need," said Bruce Darling of Rochester ADAPT. "Everyone thinks the housing crisis in America is only about foreclosures. While that is huge, there is another housing crisis that is going vastly unaddressed."

Several class action lawsuits across the country have resulted in court agreements for states to

move people living in nursing homes and institutions into the community. The difficulty is that most of these class members have little to no income and therefore need subsidized as well as accessible housing.

"We are here today because HUD has told us that they promised to issue agency-wide policy on this problem," said Daniese McMullin-Powell of Delaware ADAPT. "I was there when they made this promise to us in January. They even showed us a draft. Why hasn't it been issued? Is HUD backpedaling on progress?"

To be added to our press list for daily press updates, please email Janine Bertram at [janinebk@mac.com](mailto:janinebk@mac.com).

More information about ADAPT can be found at <http://www.adapt.org/http://www.adapt.org/freeourpeople/2013/> and <http://www.doloffmybody.org>. # # \_\_\_\_\_

Report Submitted by Michelle Santantonio, Long  
Island Housing Services