

## Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

May 29, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on May 29, 2013 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:00 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  
S. C. Department of Social Services

Linda O'Donohoe

#### **GROUP B**

Michelle Santantonio  
Kleo King, Esq.

Member  
Member, United Spinal Association

#### **GROUP C**

Teresa Strum  
Carolyn Schick

Member  
Member

#### **GROUP D**

Roy Probeyahn  
Garrett Hulett  
Douglas King  
Beverly Cody  
Albert Rizzi  
Clifford Hymowitz

Member, Chairperson  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member

**GUESTS:** Robin Mayr

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

**EXCUSED:** Barbara LoMoriello, Rep., Legislator William Spencer, MD, Chris Chatterton, Joseph Delgado, Mike Stoltz, Carolyn Bossert, Donna Passin, Terry Maccarrone, James Kokindo, Joani Madarash, Stephen Astuto, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Sandy Silver, Valerie Lewis, Diane Gaines, Mitch Shapiro, Douglas King

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 24, 2013:** Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none, Albert made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Garrett seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Former SCDAB member Debbie Epple sent the board a note to let us know that she is doing well.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Roy sits on the RFP proposal panel for the Regional Office OPWDD and they will be distributing 1.3 million in new family support service money.

Roy mentioned a Newsday article about a young couple who have development disabilities and recently got married but the respective agencies which were servicing them had policies of no marital cohabitation. The good news is East End Disabilities Associates has worked with the families and the individuals and will be placing the newly married couple together with proper supports.

**SCAT Appeals:** Frank said our office (OPWD) will always be getting appeals for SCAT, but the ones that were on today's agenda have since been resolved. Appeals are received when eligibility for SCAT has been denied and when a person is appealing a no-show and until an appeal is heard they are not sanctioning the rider.

At this time we are looking for volunteers from the board to look over these appeals. Robin Mayr, Albert Rizzi, Cliff Hymowitz, Carolyn Schick all volunteered to review these appeals. Frank said he has to meet with transportation first and then he will meet with everyone who has agreed to volunteer.

**Architectural Barriers** - Lew was excused. Cliff expressed concern that most of the curb ramps in the North County Complex have not been maintained and they are out of compliance. He also reported that he met with Legislator Kennedy's office and asked them to get in touch with DPW regarding the North County Complex directional signs.

**Community Partnership** - Frank said there is a piece of legislation in the Suffolk County Legislature which was signed by County Executive Steve Bellone, which requires nursing homes, long term care facilities and group homes to have plans in place for disasters and also to make those plans known to the Suffolk County government for better coordination of services.

**Education** - Teresa had nothing new to report.

**508 ADA Compliance Committee** - Albert reported that the vote for Resolution #1300 was tabled for now because Leg. J. Schneiderman felt they wanted to do this faster than the timetable allotted. Right now Resolution #1300 is in a holding pattern.

**Housing** - Michelle said HUD & Dept. of Justice information was forwarded to all board members on 5/23/13. It's about Design and Construction requirements of multifamily covered dwellings as well as related to people that use assistance and service animals. Both situations are covered under the Federal Fair Housing Act and related to section 504 Rehabilitation Act. Roy asked Michelle about the survey which was emailed to Frank and Roy and asked Michelle to distribute to the board.

Universal Design Requirements were discussed at length. Frank said there is a County law that states ground floor units should be constructed in such a way that someone in a wheelchair can use the first floor bathroom. Michelle asked if Visitability law could be circulated and Kleo said she could get it for us.

**Legislation** – Vacant. Cliff reached out to Linda at DSS about a new Medicaid buy-in for people with disabilities who work, because he isn't clear on how it works.

Marjorie handed out copies of Chapter 50. Disabilities Advisory Board membership.

**Transportation:** Valerie was excused but asked us to include her report in the minutes.

- I am working on the proposal to have county informational materials transcribed in to accessible formats for people with disabilities.
- I have a transportation sub-committee meeting scheduled for June 11th and will send follow up information about that meeting.
- I attended the SILO Transportation Committee meeting...I can share from my point of view that I am hoping to re-establish a county transportation advisory committee, rather than various groups continuing with a disjointed approach to solving transportation issues in Suffolk County.

Cliff reported that Legislator Kennedy is on the Dept. of Labor Committee and Consumer Affairs now falls under the Dept. of Labor. Consumer of Affairs has a Taxi and Limousine Commission; however they don't have the staff, so Cliff reached out to Legislator Kennedy and suggested they staff the position so they can start collecting licensing from cabs and black cars.

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

#### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities** - Frank is currently working on a county-wide initiative so that people with limited English proficiency can have equal access to county services. Frank spoke about 508 Compliance and websites. Frank had an outreach opportunity sponsored by SILO where he made an appearance at Wading River School District on Awareness Day. Frank spoke about his job and what it's like to have a disability. Frank also informed everyone that another staff member is leaving our office and he was told her position would likely be filled.

Michele said L.I. Housing Services is working with the L.I. Coalition for the Homeless, and they have expressed interest in having a panel workshop at their annual "Keys for the Homeless Conference" being held in October. This panel will be discussing limited English proficiency and 508 Compliance regarding electronic communications. This isn't just a requirement for County agencies but for private agencies as well.

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

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

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**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 was excused.

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

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

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

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - Roy reported that the Task Force on Aging Out meeting will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and it will be the last meeting before the summer break. The location is, 415A Oser Ave., in Hauppauge. Regional Office Director, Jaci Best will be speaking and all are welcome.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Marjorie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Albert seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler