

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

January 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on January 29, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:03 pm, Chairperson Roy Probeyahn was excused. Frank Krotzschinsky, Representing County Executive Steven Bellone presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotzschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Marjorie E. Acevedo	Representing Presiding Officer's Horsley's Office
Linda O'Donohoe	S. C. Department of Social Services
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Vinny Cassidy	S.C. Department of Labor
Barbara Falkman	S. C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs

GROUP B

Joseph Delgado	Member
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GROUP C

Carolyn Schick	Member
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GROUP D

Garrett Hulett	Member
Clifford Hymowitz	Member
Douglas King	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Diane Gaines	Member

GUEST SPEAKER: John Gresham, Staff Attorney (DAMI)

GUESTS: Robin Mayr, Brenda DeJong, Patricia Furino, Erin King, Harriet Speigelman, LIHS

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

EXCUSED: Barbara LoMoriello, Rep., Legislator William Spencer, Mike Stoltz, Joani Madarash, Albert Rizzi, Mitch Shapiro, Glenn Campbell, Esq., Kleo King, Esq., Valerie Lewis, Lorena Gonzalez, Michelle Santantonio, Teresa Strum, Roy Probeyahn, Sandy Silver

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2013: Frank asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none, Marjorie made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Douglas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Tabled until next time. Frank announced that today will be Linda O'Donohoe's last day with us because she is retiring this week and we all wish her well.

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Guest Speaker John Gresham from Disability Rights New York spoke about the services they provide. The name of the organization previously was called Disability Advocates, Inc. It's specifically a disability focused, not-for-profit legal advocacy group and all they do is disability rights work. Historically they operated in around Albany, NYC and Hudson Valley and now it's in the process of growing into a statewide organization. They will be quickly increasing their staff between now and the fall and will have 3 offices, one in Albany, Brooklyn/L.I., and in Rochester. John previously ran a clinic for veterans at Turo College so he does have some knowledge of Long Island and Suffolk County. They are in the process of making themselves known and meeting people who they need to know. They have a large amount of programs they receive funding through the federal government and they are all one sort of another so called protection and advocacy organizations. Any person with any kind of disability of any age is potentially their client on an issue that is specially related to their disability. It doesn't matter what type of disability they have because some part of their organization will be able to work with it. Their limitation is their numbers and the amount of money they have to hire people. They will strive to take on and assist individuals with their individual legal problems that are related to their disabilities. They will work hard and take on matters that affect lots of people. They will give individuals advice and the ability to advocate for themselves and/or they will advocate for them or if they can't help them they will help find someone that can. The work they are taking over has previously been done on Long Island by Nassau/Suffolk Law Services and Turo. John handed out his contact information to everyone.

Architectural Barriers - Lew was excused.

Community Partnership - Frank had nothing new to report.

Education - Teresa was excused.

508 ADA Compliance Committee – Albert was excused but asked that his report be read into the minutes. We have not been able to set up an appointment with Commissioner Rogers until February, so there is nothing further to report with regard to the work yet to be done on the county website. We have not had any discussions with the Commissioner about this effort since September 12, 2013.

Housing – Michelle was excused but asked the following report to be included in the minutes.

1-29-14 - Housing Committee Report- submitted by Michelle Santantonio/LIHS. As shared at prior meeting/s, there continues to be some progress toward promoting an amendment to the Suffolk County Human Rights Law. Related to housing, an amended law that will prohibit discrimination based on 'Source of Income' is one that can potentially benefit many people with disabilities and other that rely on subsidy assistance and other than employment income sources to meet housing costs. As the SCDAB has previously indicated its support, I am providing this updated information and may soon be requesting further, specific action to help urge passage of an amended SC Human Rights Law.

I communicated with Jennifer Blaske, SC Human Rights Commission's Executive Director recently who indicated that she is expecting to meet with Assistant County Attorney on 1/29. Part of the discussion will include proposed amendment to the local Human Rights Law to prohibit source of income discrimination in housing.

The current proposed definition in the draft resolution being considered for "Source of Income" is: The term Source of Income includes wages from lawful employment; court-ordered child support; alimony; foster care subsidies; Social Security; or any form of federal, state or local public assistance; housing and rental subsidies

and assistance, including Section 8 vouchers; savings, investment and trust accounts; and any other form of lawful verifiable income.

Long Island Housing Services has also been working together with local (and regional and statewide) private, non-profit organizations in a coalition organized by *Make The Road New York* to support passage of Source of Income as a prohibited basis for discrimination in rental and purchase housing. The organizations involved (listed below) have sent a letter (1/28/14) to County Executive Bellone to ask his support to sponsor legislation.

Community Housing Innovations
Empire Justice Center
ERASE Racism
Long Island Coalition for the Homeless
Long Island Housing Services, Inc. (LIHS)
New York Civil Liberties Union-Suffolk Chapter
New York Communities For Change
Make the Road New York
Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic
SEPA Mujer
Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)
United Veterans Beacon House

Resources for people with auditory disabilities: I shared information with Roy, Frank and Heidi through email on 1-28-14 which may be circulated to Committee members related to a HUD-sponsored special video series to educate about Fair Housing/Fair Lending rights in an effort to promote communication with those that are disabled with deafness or other hearing impairments. The topics of the videos are listed below. You can link to the resources through:

<http://www.fairhousingdeafvideos.com/>

They come with transcripts- topics are:

- Video 1: Obtaining a Fair Mortgage Loan
- Video 2: What is Lending Discrimination?
- Video 3: Homeowners Insurance Rights
- Video 4: Your Right to Effective Communication in Lending Transactions
- Video 5: HUD Housing Discrimination Complaint Form 903
- Video 6: Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for All
- Video 7: How to Complain about Housing Discrimination
- Video 8: Your right to effective communication in buying or renting a home
- Video 9: Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the Deaf
- Video 10: The Federal Fair Housing Act and Reasonable Accommodations
- Video 11: The Federal Fair Housing Act and Reasonable Modifications
- Video 12: Local Fair Housing Organizations

- See more at: <http://www.fairhousingdeafvideos.com/Videos.html#sthash.oYDiTtzo.dpuf>

Legislation – Vacant. Frank was informed by Roy that Douglas King was interested in chairing a sub-committee for legislation. Garrett made a motion to appoint Douglas as chair of the sub-committee and Marjorie seconded the motion and the motion carried. Marjorie said she will be glad to help him out with any new legislation.

Transportation: Valerie was excused.

Employment – Vinny reported at a previous meeting Suffolk County Dept. of Labor applied for a Disability Employment Initiative Grant-Phase Four and they have since been awarded that grant. They are making the final decision on who on their staff will head up delivery of services. They will be relying on Acces-VR to help with training of their staff.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank had a several meetings this past week and one of those meetings was the Age Friendly Committee. County Executive Bellone is very interested in Long Term Development and building communities that make the best use of transportation and other resources we have on Long Island. Some of the projects in the works are Wyandanch Rising and Ronkonkoma Hub. This is a worldwide initiative to develop communities that are friendly towards all ages and provide opportunities that are convenient to people and Suffolk County has joined that initiative. The first part is finding out by completing surveys what the needs and desires are. AARP is a major participant in this. The disability Community sometimes refer to people who don't have a disability as TABS (Temporarily Able Bodied), since unfortunately as we age we develop problems with our bodies that become disabilities. In the AARP survey requests a lot of information that is of interest to people with disabilities such as transportation, accessible housing, accessibility of parks and streets. Frank also mentioned that this Friday he will be attending a meeting with the LIRR's ADA Compliance Committee.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation – Chris supplied SCAT paratransit monthly statistics for 2013. (see attached email). Chris announced that Legislator Krupski is the new Head of the Public Works/Transportation and Energy committee of the legislature. Transportation Committees now meet on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. Chris also announced that they will be having a Tri-Annual review done in August. Chris was asked by Frank in the future to have these SCAT statistics done in electronic format as an excel spreadsheet so that it will be more accessible for people that have screen readers. Chris also reported that Sunday service for SCAT has been going well so far. Garrett said since the denial rate went from 7 to 5 days doesn't look like it made much of a difference. As a Division Chris said they are looking to push it back down to either 4 or 3 days. Garrett proposed doing an experiment to days. Chris said any temporary change would be costly and confusing to the ridership.

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 shared the following Transition Workshop Information. These workshops are for families whose children are going to be aging out of the Early Intervention Program, birth-3 years of age and moving onto the preschool program.

Transition Workshop 1 on 2/13/14, 6:30 pm, in English at New York Therapy Placement Services, P.J.S., NY
Transition Workshop 2 on 2/25/14, 6:30 pm, in English held at Alternatives for Children, Southampton, NY
Transition Workshop 3 on 2/25/14, 6:30 pm, in en Espanol held at Alternatives for Children, Southampton, NY
Transition Workshop 4 on 3/3/14, 6:30 pm, in English held at Alternatives for Children, Aquebogue, NY
Transition Workshop 5 on 3/3/14, 6:30 pm, in Espanol held at Alternatives for Children, Aquebogue, NY
Transition Workshop 6 on 3/17/14, 9:30 am, in English held at Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Hauppauge, NY
Transition Workshop 7 on 3/17/14, 9:30 am, in Espanol held at Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Hauppauge, NY
Transition Workshop 8 on 3/17/14, 6:30 pm, in English held at Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Hauppauge, NY
Transition Workshop 9 on 3/17/14, 6:30 pm, in Espanol held at Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Hauppauge, NY

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

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO – Joe wanted to announce that SILO will be having their Consumer Valentine's day Party on February 14, 2014. Joe will send the information to Heidi so she can forward to everyone. FREE players will be performing. In March they will be having the Assistive Technology Fair.

Acces-VR – Sandy was excused.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani was excused.

Old Business – None

New Business – Marjorie announced that Legislator DuWayne Gregory is the new Presiding Officer and he has appointed Marjorie back to this committee. If you have any constituent issues at all give Marjorie a call.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garrett seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler

