

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

March 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on March 26, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:11 pm, Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Marjorie E. Acevedo	Representing Presiding Officer Gregory's Office
Bill Seery	Representing Legislator William Spencer, MD
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Lorena Gonzalez	S.C. Human Rights Commission
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs

GROUP B

Joseph Delgado	Member
Michelle Santantonio	Member
Valerie Lewis	Member
Mike Stolz	Member

GROUP C

Carolyn Schick	Member
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GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Douglas King	Member
Garrett Hulett	Member
Glenn Campbell, Esq.	Member

GUESTS: Brenda deJong, Patty Furino, Erin King, Robin Mayr, Judy Wieber, Juanita Smith, Maria Garcia

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

EXCUSED: Clifford Hymowitz, Joani Madarash, Albert Rizzi, Mitch Shapiro, Traci Barnes, Diane Gaines, Vinny Cassidy, Kleo King, Esq., Teresa Strum, Beverly Cody, Sandy Silver

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2014: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes as distributed. There were none, Garrett 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: As Chair of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities of the Community Board in Suffolk County Roy reported they are advocating a 2% COLA for the direct care workers in the not for profit agency sector.

Roy sits on the Rate Regulation and Rationalization Committee of the waiver board of O.P.W.D.D. and there is nothing new to report because CMS has not gotten back to them on the state proposal for rate rationalization and regulation.

Roy participated in an O.P.W.D.D. statewide video conference on the waiver boards Transformation Project. Roy spoke about the Front Door Initiative which was already discussed in earlier minutes. Roy also mentioned that Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center may stay open for another year and there is talk of possibly relocating to Pilgrim State.

Architectural Barriers - Lew was absent.

Community Partnership - Frank had nothing new to report.

Education - Teresa was excused. Roy mentioned that this will be the first graduating class in NYS that will be graduating with a credential instead of a special education diploma.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Albert was excused. Roy reported that a schedule of follow-up meetings were arranged but no sample pages have been developed yet.

Valerie provided IT with multiple resources and she was also asked for feedback on some web pages they sent her so she can test the technology.

Housing - Michelle reported that the Coalition, which has named itself ***Housing for All*** is working on proposed legislation to include source of income. A meeting was held yesterday and legislation might be introduced April 29th but they are still grappling with the definition of source of income. On the Federal level a Washington DC Civil Rights Case: A motion to dismiss by the Washington DC Housing Authority was denied by the judge and this pertains to Access for people in subsidized housing that need ASL interpretation. This has been a requirement under Rehabilitation, ADA and Fair Housing Act. They are hoping to participate in the Talking Book SEE FOR YOURSELF 2014 Assistive Technology and Resource Fair in May. Michelle also reported they are having their next Fair Housing tester training program on April 2nd. This is where people are trained to help them in their investigations to collect evidence by posing as renters or purchasers of housing.

Legislation - Douglas reported that starting in 2015 the smoking age has changed to 21.

Bill Seery introduced himself as representing Legislator Spencer and has worked with his office for about a year. Bill acquired a rare condition known as transverse myelitis about 2 years ago which affects about one in a million people. Bill gave kudos to SILO because they are a great resource to people with disabilities.

Transportation: Valerie reported that a transportation sub-committee meeting was held on 3/11/14. Valerie will email the meeting summary to Heidi so she can forward to all board members but the main focus discussed was how to make SCAT a better more efficient service.

Valerie also reported that on May 17th they will be having their SEE FOR YOURSELF 2014 Assistive Technology and Resource Fair at Suffolk Cooperative Library System in Bellport. They have additional space this year so they have reached out to other agencies to see if they would like to participate.

Employment - Vinny was excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank reported that Lisa Janusz from Civil Service has joined our office but only on a temporary basis because of staffing shortages. Frank also reported that our office has for the first time in a couple of years received a contract with an outside agency.

Our office will also be working to develop a program on the Olmstead decision which is the decision that people with developmental disabilities be placed in the least restrictive environment as possible. This is the 15th Anniversary of the Olmstead decision and they will be doing a conference probably in October at Turo law School. Frank and some police officers from Yaphank will be making a brief appearance at SILO to speak about fraud and identity theft and how it affects people with disabilities. There is an imitative going on right now for the county to be accessible to people with limited English proficiency but another issue that is just as important is to have accessible formats for people who are blind, visually impaired and cognitively impaired.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris supplied SCAT paratransit monthly statistics for February 2014 (See attached email).

S.C. Parks - Terry was excused.

S.C. Department of Social Services - Traci Barnes was excused.

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

S.C. Human Rights Commission - Lorena said they had a case where a legally blind man bought a sofa from a furniture store and he was concerned that the sofa might not fit in his apartment but the salesman insisted it would. When the sofa arrived it didn't fit and the store wanted to charge him to disassemble and reassemble it for him. Human Rights Commission intervened and the furniture store ended up reimbursing him.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe reported that SILO had a good turn out on March 19th for their Annual Assistive Technology Fair. Joe said he and Mike have been asked to serve on a committee in support of County Executive Steve Bellone's request to the governor for ten million dollars for public transportation. They met and did some letter writing to the L.I. delegation asking them to support this effort and also had a news conference. SILO developed a program for students graduating from High School to help them transition into receiving adult services and they already have contracts with 4-5 school districts already. They will have the transition workshop this Saturday, March 29th, 2014 at SILO, 8:30-12:00 and there is a \$25.00 fee.

Joe reported that SILO is partnering with Helen Keller to bring some of the supportive groups they run to SILO and if it works well they plan on having a satellite in the Southold Community Center and they are also working on a project in Southampton. Joe also added that SILO has an assistive technology program that provides training for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Acces-VR - Sandy was excused.

United Spinal Association - Kleo was excused.

Clubhouse of Suffolk/Suffolk County United Veterans/Mental Health Association of Suffolk - Mike reported that under the Mental Health Association they run a peer specialist training program called Careers, Recovery and Wellness and they will be graduating 11 peers next week. Right now there is a new credential process at the state level for credentialing peers and beyond that will be one of the new Medicaid waivers which would provide reimbursement for peer services. They are working on a partnership right now with Nassau County so that they can have a continuous flow of classes. Michele DelMonte contacted Mike a couple weeks ago about the Lucero Commission, following up with the Department of Justice work with the police Department, on the death of Marcello Lucero. They had an excellent meeting this morning with the team who are following up with new police training and the development of a community liaison officer for each precinct to be able to work with people who are in acute distress and have psychiatric disabilities and also veterans in distress.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani was excused.

Old Business - None

New Business - Marjorie wanted to know if we heard anything about the Disability Employment Initiative grant from Department of Labor and if any of the new hires has a disability. Frank said he has been informed that they did hire people and they receiving the training right now but Frank isn't aware if anyone with a disability was hired.

ADJOURNMENT: Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Garrett seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on April 30, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Zeitler & Lisa Janusz