

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

May 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on May 28, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:00 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
Lorena Gonzalez	Representing SC Human Rights Commission
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs

GROUP B

Joseph Delgado	Member
Valerie Lewis	Member

GROUP C

GROUP D

Albert Rizzi	Member
Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Douglas King	Member
Garrett Hulett	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Florence Chichester/Rep. Sandy S.	Member
Diane Gaines	Member

GUESTS: Erin King, Brenda deJong, Robin Mayr

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

EXCUSED: Clifford Hymowitz, Joani Madarash, Tim Carew, Teresa Strum, Carolyn Schick, Kleo King, Mike Stoltz, James Kokindo, Bill Seery, Michelle Santantonio, Mitch Shapiro, Glenn Campbell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2014: 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 Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy apologized that he needs to leave early today because OPWDD is having conference at 3:00 pm. Roy reported that the graduating class of 2014 that will be going through front door single point entry will all be treated on a crisis basis. The Commissioner of OPWDD heard first hand that they don't have enough staff to process all of the people. The Commissioner of OPWDD announced electronically that the five year plan is due for renewal and they are looking for input from the field by having people write in.

Roy added that there will be a scat appeal right after today's meeting.

Roy mentioned that the attendance of board members at meetings was brought up. The charter for all boards in the County states that if a board member has 4 consecutive unexcused absences, their seat automatically becomes vacated and can be filled for the balance of the term for that board member. In view of the concerns raised and because of the charter, Roy would like to implement a procedure. The charter states that an excused absence must be approved by a vote of the board at the time of the meeting that the person is absent. An excused absence would be people who have called in prior to the meeting to advise that they will not be able to attend and have a legitimate reason. Then it will be put before the board for a vote to either excuse them or not.

Frank said there have been significant absences on the board and in the Suffolk County Charter there is a section that describes the whole procedure. Frank will be distributing this via email but if you need it in alternate format please let him know.

Albert asked if we could put together a board member manual with protocols and procedures.

Valerie feels that every January this information should be distributed to everyone in accessible format.

Roy said he and Frank will talk this over and they are looking to implement this new procedure in September.

Architectural Barriers - Lew was excused.

Community Partnership - Frank said there was a meeting of the stakeholders with regards to the Emergency response capabilities of Suffolk County. They are still working on developing the registry and they never seem to get beyond 700 registrants.

Education - Teresa was excused.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Albert reported they had their last meeting March 12th and since then they received some documents and files in pdf format. There are some positives but they also have some concerns that need to be addressed. Albert will be able to report more on this once they present their findings to the IT Dept.

Housing – Michelle was excused.

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Legislation - Douglas said on May 20th Attorney General Eric Schneiderman held a meeting at the Suffolk Community College Auditorium on the Brentwood Campus. Douglas said the Van Nostrand Theater is not in ADA compliance because they only have two seats available for wheelchair users.

Transportation - Valerie reported that another transportation meeting is scheduled for June 17th and she will present a report after that meeting.

Employment – Tim was excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities – Frank reported that his office will be busy working on the budget in the coming weeks. Frank also reported that he attended Valerie's Technology Fair and enjoyed it very much.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris had nothing new to report.

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 had nothing new to report.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe said they met with the NYS Department of Drinking Driving Program and the plan is for the D.D.P. to offer classes at SILO once a week. If you are caught driving under the influence the only way you can get your license back is pay the fine and also take the required classes. The classes cost \$75.00 each.

Another one of SILO's initiatives is to help with substance abuse issues going on in the community with the general public and more specifically with people with disabilities.

They also met with the American Red Cross and they are in the beginning stages of becoming a special population's disaster relief center.

ACCES-VR – Florence reported that Acces-VR is restacking and they have achieved their goal again this month.

Talking Book Library – Valerie said they held their "See for Yourself Assistive Technology Resource Fair" on May 17th at the Talking Book Library. They have historically attracted between 300-400 people to this event for the last 20 years and they have it every other year. It was very well attended as always. Valerie said they are starting to branch out to include technology for people with other disabilities as well.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani was excused.

Old Business - None

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New Business – Garrett said the SILO’s yard sale is scheduled for June 21st from 11:00-2:00.

Valerie said if we make an initiative for board members attendance, materials going forward should be made available in alternate formats. Valerie feels it would be inappropriate for a board which is comprised partly of people with disabilities to not have materials in accessible formats. People can’t be held to the expectation of attendance if they can’t get material in accessible formats.

Al is working with Peconic Landing in the town of Southold; they are putting together the very first touch sculpture garden. Al was instrumental in helping them secure \$5,000 from an organization to underwrite and start the ground work. They will be offering audio tours for the visually impaired with braille options. They are having their launch on June 28th. Al will forward information to Heidi.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Albert seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Zeitler