

# Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

June 25, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on June 25, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:06 pm, Frank Krotschinsky, Esq. presided.

## **PRESENT:**

### **GROUP A**

Frank Krotschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
James Kokindo	Representing SC Human Rights Commission
Terry Maccarrone	S.C. Department of Parks
Tim Carew	S.C. Dept. of Labor

### **GROUP B**

Joseph Delgado	Member
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### **GROUP C**

Teresa Strum	Member
Joani Madarash	Member

### **GROUP D**

Albert Rizzi	Member
Douglas King	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Glenn Campbell, Esq.	Member
Mitch Shapiro	Member

**GUESTS:** Ken Klassert, SCDOL, James Eddings, SCDOL, Erin King, Brenda deJong

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

**EXCUSED:** Clifford Hymowitz, Roy Probeyahn, Michelle Santantonio, Robin Mayr, Carolyn Schick, Kleo King, Valerie Lewis, Mike Stoltz, Bill Seery, Sandy Silver, Traci Barnes, Diane Gaines, Garrett Hulett, Marjorie Acevedo, Barbara Falkman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2014:** Frank 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 Albert seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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Joe Delgado announced that Douglas and Erin King have joined SILO's staff. Douglas will be SILO's government and community liaison. Douglas will also be working to secure grant monies and will be the chairperson for the transportation committee.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Frank had nothing new to report.

**Architectural Barriers** - Lew was absent but Terry reported that the Parks Dept. had received a complaint about the lack of handicapped accessibility at Meschutt Beach in Hampton Bays and also complaints that it's very difficult for people with disabilities to be able to go down the dune because it's very steep. The board spoke about how Mobi mats could be part of the solution. Mobi mats can be rolled out onto the sand so that it makes a more stable surface to navigate but they are very expensive to purchase. Joe said the west side slope at Meschutt Beach doesn't have a drastic incline so it might be possible to put a Mobi mat on that side of the beach.

Cupsogue Beach has handicapped access from the boardwalk to the beach but they don't have handicapped access from the parking lot up to the boardwalk. The ramps that were installed a long time ago on both sides of the pavilion to get up to the boardwalk are very steep and not ADA compliant. This is something the Parks Dept. has had on its radar to revamp for a while. Mitch added that Cupsogue beach does not have enough handicapped parking spots available for people with disabilities.

Albert asked Terry if the Parks Dept. could supply a list of all the parks and recreational areas in Suffolk County that are not accessible, are accessible and those that are halfway there. Can we also get this information in accessible format? Terry said he will scan the information he has and forward it to Frank. Terry also suggested that board members attend board of trustee meetings and also speak in front of the legislature regarding their concerns. Albert also asked Terry to supply numbers for which recreational areas in Suffolk County produce the highest revenue for Suffolk County.

**Community Partnership** - Frank had nothing new to report.

**Education** - Teresa said she just came from the James E. Allen Elementary School's moving up ceremony and it was wonderful.

**508 ADA Compliance Committee** - Albert submitted his report and it was distributed. Albert also reported that the Suffolk County Executive invited Sid Nathaniel to participate in the 508 committee. The information that was assessed and audited for the acting IT Commissioner has been set aside for the moment and they are re-working their template due to the changes within the IT Department with the departure of Rodgers. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the N. County Complex. Douglas will share info at the next meeting about some legislative efforts to extend the time by which IR 1300 is supposed to be completed by.

Albert suggested a team be put in place to assess and audit things that go up on the site so that there won't be problems down the road. Albert made a motion to change our vocabulary from using the word handicapped and change it to disabled. Mitch seconded the motion.

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**Housing** - Michelle was excused.

**Legislation** - Douglas reported Resolution IR 1509 will extend the 508 Committee time line an additional 2 months because of staffing problems in the IT Dept. Suffolk County wants to start their own TLC and will be spending \$300,000 on IR1540 which is the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

**Transportation** - Valerie was excused.

**Employment** - Tim Carew introduced James Eddings and Ken Klassert from Dept. of Labor; they help people with disabilities at the DOL and also work on the Ticket to Work Program. Tim also reported that the DOL participated in Valerie's Assistive Technology Fair.

### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities** - Frank reported that he participated in a program last week at Tuoro Law School where he spoke about Aging and Disability as well as transportation. As Frank previously reported there is an initiative in the county called "Age Friendly Communities." These are communities that would be usable by people of all ages. Frank spoke about independent living philosophy and how the medical model can be adjusted for people and how it needs to be more open to communication. It's actually a two part seminar, and it's going to be continuing on September 8<sup>th</sup>, when I get the notices about that I'll distribute them to anyone who's interested. Our office had its budget hearing today. It was a very quick meeting so I hope that it's a positive sign that our budget request will be approved. The budget request came in at less than half of one million dollars a year and 96% of that is staffing, and we've been very short staffed.

**S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation** - Chris distributed the paratransit statistics report.

**S.C. Parks** - Terry's reported was included in the Architectural Barriers report.

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

**S.C. Dept. of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs** - Barbara was excused.

**S.C. Human Rights Commission** - James reported a new law has been laid on the table with the legislature and will be going before a committee meeting next month. I can get more information as to when that date is if anyone wants to go there and speak before the committee. The law has basically been rewritten. All the definitions have been modified and strengthened. There now will be coverage for fire departments, conviction records, credit as a protected category, domestic workers, discrimination based on service animals will now be covered under the law if it's voted in by the legislature. It requires reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities and pregnant females. It's something that they've been working on for a while to get the law improved, and they've put a lot of work into it, so hopefully it'll get voted in in the fall.

Housing will also now have a source of income as a protected category. Frank said he had a brief conversation with Michelle Santantonio and she was delighted that the source of income got included in the law.

Michelle sent out a link on the legislature's website. IR 1620 category is Public Safety.

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

**SILO** - Joe announced SILO will be having an ADA Celebration on July 26th and will be a full day affair both inside and outside. There will be food and games for the children. A political forum will be set up for anyone that wants to get in front of a mic, in front of a recording camera and explain in either 3 minutes or 5 minutes what the ADA has done for you and/or what we need to do to strengthen to make the ADA work better for us. On August 4th SILO will be starting up BINGO again like we used to have. We will have tighter control on the fiscal management part of it and of course on the cash part but it will be held on August 5th, at 10am and ends around 1:00 pm. I'm already being told that the 200 slots, tables and chairs are going to be sold out but if we need more chairs, the room accommodates 400 people so I can always bring in more. Hopefully that'll prove we'll get SILO back strong again financially so that we don't have to depend on these grants that are just withering away, or are just becoming so difficult to maintain because of the regulations that are being put behind them. I want to continue the advocacy and all the good work we do for people with disabilities. The last thing I want to let you know about is on September 29th, 2014 we are going to be having a dinner in the dark at the Sea Basin Inn, which is in Rocky Point. Dinner in the dark is not really dinner in the dark, for liability purposes the restaurant brings down the lights so that the waiters and waitresses can get around with the food, but the idea is to give a person the experience of what it's like to be blind and actually go to a restaurant and eat. So were going to provide blindfolds and were also going to provide a huge bib for those of us who will be wearing nice clothes. I would appreciate that, were also going to be recognizing four people who have worked with the blind and disabled community. We need sponsors so let me know, it will cost \$50 dollars per person and it's a very good dinner.

**ACCES-VR** - Sandy was excused.

**Talking Book Library** - Valerie was excused.

**Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council** - Joani had nothing new to report.

**Old Business** - Frank read all the names of all the people who were excused from today's meeting either because of health issues or prior commitments. I think one of the statutes that I passed around through the email actually tells the advisory boards that they should have a vote on whether to excuse the people who are absent from the meetings, and the last time that we were here Roy had indicated that he'd like to start new and get people to regularly attend our advisory board. So I would like to make a motion, at least for the purpose of this meeting to excuse the absences of the people who called and requested an excuse. Al made a motion, Doug seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**New Business** - Mitch announced that on July 25<sup>th</sup> he will be performing again at McGuire's Comedy Club.

Albert reported that "My blind Spot" has been working with Peconic landing out in Southold, and Heidi was nice enough to send out the information I think a week ago. Working with Peconic landing and the Mattituck lions to create Suffolk's first accessible sculpture garden. It's very first phase effort, we've made audio descriptions downloadable onto ipods and different podcasts, I don't even know these terminologies, but they've invited a bunch of people from the community and all the different advocacy groups across the county, the island and in NYC, and

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it's happening this Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. I will be there at 10, there's going to be shuttles back and forth. There's going to be guides, sighted guides, and golf carts to drive us to and from the different artwork because presently the artwork is out in the garden and they haven't laid the brick path at the moment. But all of that has been slated for a 5 year plan and I helped them get a \$5,000 grant from the Lions so if anyone's not doing anything on Saturday come out to see the artwork. Peconic Landing is a senior residence and it goes from independent living all the way up to tremendous assisted living and it has a land mark building on its property that is used for weddings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mitch made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Zeitler

