

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on September 17, 2014 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:06 pm, Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presided.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
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
Michelle Santantonio	Member

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member
Joani Madarash	Member
Carolyn Schick	Member

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Douglas King	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Laura Hartmann (Rep. Sandy Silver)	Member
Glenn Campbell, Esq.	Member
Garrett Hulett	Member
Clifford Hymowitz	Member

GUESTS: Erin King, Brenda deJong, Robin Mayr, Marc Perez-DOIT, Debra Seminario, DOIT, Vanessa Pugh, DOL

STAFF: Laura Brothers-Disabilities Services Aide, Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

EXCUSED: Tim Carew, Mitch Shapiro, Marjorie Acevedo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF June 25, 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 Garrett seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy reported OPWDD continues moving forward to a managed care system. They are completely redesigning their delivery services to individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state. Some of the projects will be initiated on October 1st and the "Front Door" policy has already been implemented.

OPWDD is developing the New York Systemic Therapeutic Assessment, Respite and Treatment (NY START) program, a new initiative to address the need for available community-based crisis prevention and intervention services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and co-occurring behavioral health needs.

Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Hospital will remain open for now but is running on a smaller staff.

Architectural Barriers - Lew was absent. Garrett found out that Lew no longer works in the Architecture Dept. and was told we should contact the Commissioner to find a replacement for him on the board. Frank said he would contact Commissioner Anderson.

Cliff mentioned that he has been working for a long time with the County to improve the signage here in the North County Complex. There was money allocated to help fix the signage but for some reason it's just not getting taken care of. Cliff wants the support of the board to follow through with new signage for the front entrance. Frank said he will speak to Commissioner Anderson about this as well.

Community Partnership - Frank had nothing new to report.

Education - Teresa had nothing new to report.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Roy introduced Suffolk County IT guests, Marc Perez and Debra Seminario who are helping to make Suffolk County websites ADA compliant. They are about 98% there and hope to reach the Sept. 30th deadline. The next phase will be to redesign the website to make it easier to navigate.

Debra said Suffolk Community College will be having training classes which will include all departments to make them more aware of the issues. Also someone from County Executive's

office will be in charge of reviewing all modifications going forward to help keep the websites in compliance.

Cliff made a motion for the Chair to write a letter to the County Executive, to recognize what a great job the IT Dept. has done to help make our County websites 508 compliant. Beverly seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Roy wanted to acknowledge the County Executive Steven Bellone and Legislator Jay Schneiderman for all their help and support with this project.

Roy mentioned the emails from earlier in the day regarding the 508 Committee. Cliff had asked Albert why his organization's name was on top of the tester application which people will use when they are applying to make their websites accessible. Roy discussed with the board, the tone and tenor of the earlier e-mail responses from Albert as being contentious and dismissive toward Cliff, the Compliance Committee and the Board as far as the work that had been accomplished by the Committee. Garrett and Douglas King spoke about having similar responses from him as well. Roy said this accomplishment was achieved as a board not just by an individual.

Roy wrote to Albert earlier that day upon receipt of his e-mail to Cliff and said, "You have a choice, resign your position as Chair of the Committee, or respond in writing your commitment to acknowledge and follow the guidelines that have been established by the Board and the Committee, as well as the ultimate authority of the Board in the functions and work of the Committee. Your failure to respond as to which is your choice, will leave me no choice but to call for a vote of the Board at today's meeting to remove you from the committee." Albert answered he would not respond at this time and declined to come to the meeting.

In view of this, Roy asked for a motion to remove Albert as Chairperson from the 508 Compliance Committee. Garrett made a motion and Douglas seconded the motion, the motion carried by a majority vote, there were 3 abstentions and 1 vote by proxy in favor. There were no nay votes and the motion carried.

Cliff made a motion to make Glenn the new Chairman of the 508 Compliance Committee. Garrett seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Garrett explained that the reason it was decided to have the Beta testing done at SILO was because IT Dept. didn't really have the room or the equipment to do the testing. The tentative date for testing was set-up for October 10th.

Housing - Michelle reported that on Sept. 9th 2014 the Suffolk County Legislature unanimously voted in the amendments for the Suffolk County Human Rights law. Michelle handout copies of the proposed amendments and also a copy of the new bill. Michelle will send it out electronically as well.

Michelle also reported that the Town of Babylon is having its public hearing tomorrow related to the use of their Community Development Block grant funds. Their requirement is also to develop a new 5 year consolidated plan and required analysis of impediments to fair housing

choice as well an annual action plan to overcome impediments to fair housing choice as a component for all of the municipalities that are entitlement agencies that receive those federal dollars. There has been a law suit filed by Frontier Park Association against the Town of Babylon and Frontier Park related to a number of tenants that will be dislocated from their homes with no alternative housing. The comment period ends the end of September.

Legislation - Douglas reported that the resolution that Michelle spoke about will be signed by the County Executive on September 24, 2014. The Legislative Breakfast for Family Support Services Advisory Council will be held on October 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the L.I. Hilton in Melville.

Transportation - Valerie had to leave early.

Employment - Tim Carew was excused.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank reported that October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month and announced that his office will be working with the S.C. Dept. of Labor to put on a Job Fair, scheduled for October 27th and will be held at the Dept. of Labor in the North County Complex in Hauppauge.

On December 19th our office will be putting on a program at Touro Law School with the Opportunity Disability Fund and it will focus on Olmstead Decision. The Olmstead Decision requires people as much as they are able to come out of institutions and live under the least restrictive environment in the communities again. The Olmstead decision is 15 years old this year.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris reported that testing for the automated vehicle locator system was installed on 4 of the buses and its working well so they will begin installation on the rest of the paratransit buses. They are also in the process obtaining an on-line reservation system to add to the SCAT program. Capacity denials were zero for July and August.

On Tuesday they will be meeting with representatives with Able Ride and NICE bus service to talk about coordination issues with the SCAT paratransit buses.

S.C. Parks - Terry was absent.

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

S.C. Dept. of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs - Barbara said they are having transition workshops for children who will be transitioning into preschool services. Sept. 29th – Oct 20th. Three workshops will be in Spanish and three workshops will be in English.

They are also working a conference on social and emotional development of young children; it is for preschool and early intervention providers that are providing services to early intervention or preschool kids. It will be held on October 21, 2014 at 9:00-3:15 p.m. Upsky L.I. Hotel.

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

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe apologized to the board for sending the letter he wrote on July 7, 2014 which helped to stir up some of the controversy that was discussed earlier. SILO had been receiving many complaints from people with disabilities not being able to access Suffolk County websites. Joe said it was only done with the best intentions.

ACCES-VR - Laura reported that their office started a mandate to provide technical assistance to schools about transition services.

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

Old Business - None

New Business – Douglas reported that SILO will be doing a Town Hall meeting on October 14th & October 15th with politicians Tim Bishop vs. Lee Zeldin on the 10/14. All of the questions they will be disability related. The second forum will be held on 10/15 and will be Tom Croci vs Adrienne Esposito. (Both events will be from 1:00-3:00). This will lead into the Legislative Breakfast.

Roy said Legislative Breakfast for Family Support and Advisory Council is a very important event, which about 100 people attend. Task Force on Aging Out will have their first liaison meeting on October 1st at 9:30 at the Regional Office located on Oser Ave.

SSI has changed the method of payment, it will still be the same benefit but if you are getting a check from both the state and federal government they will come separately.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on October 29, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler