

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

February 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on February 25, 2015 in the Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:05 pm with Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presiding.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotzschinsky, Esq.	Representing County Executive Steven Bellone
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Lorena Gonzalez	S.C. Human Rights Commission
Tim Carew	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
Michelle Santantonio	Member
Mike Stolz	Member

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member
Carolyn Schick	Member
Joani Madarash	Member

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Douglas King	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Robin Mayr	Member

GUESTS: Erin King, Brenda deJong, Alice Young, Meesha Johnson-Intern at SILO

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

EXCUSED: Valerie Lewis, Albert Rizzi, Marjorie Acevedo, Garrett Hulett, Diane Gaines

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 3, 2014: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the December 3, 2014 minutes as distributed. There were none, Robyn made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Frank seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy reported the Commissioner of OPWDD announced in January that she has established a panel to oversee the transformation agenda, to make sure OPWDD is in compliance with Olmstead. This is being mandated in all 50 states by the federal government. Roy noticed that there were no parents or family members on this panel. Roy sent an email to the Commissioner stating he feels that OPWDD has lost its mission etc.

Joe asked Roy if he knew what is happening with DISCO. Roy said, basically it's an insurance company between the not for profits, individuals and the State office of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Roy spoke about a recent webinar where they announced the time to have written input has been extended from March 14, 2015 to: April 1, 2015 and there will be another webinar on March 14th. The negotiations with CMS and OPWDD have been finalized. You can go on the OPWDD website and follow the links to read the entire proposal.

Architectural Barriers - Vacant. Frank said he did contact DPW Commissioner about filling this vacancy.

Community Partnership - Frank had nothing new to report.

Education - Teresa spoke about the new proposed regulation coming out called, Empowering Parents and Students through Information Act of 2015. This reads exactly like what should have been put in place prior to the decision of doing away with the IEP diploma. Supporters of doing away with the IEP Diploma voiced that they believed parents had an inappropriate understanding of NYS alternate assessment and an inappropriate understanding of what the diploma was. This was one contributing factor for the push to eliminate the IEP Diploma. The goal of this Act is to ensure that CSE committees set guidelines to determine what students should be assessed with the NYS alternate assessment vs regular assessment. Parents must be involved in the decision to determine eligibility and they must be informed of the outcome. The parent needs to understand that their student will be assessed alternately and that will result in the fact that their eligibility upon graduation will be different, and that they will not receive a local diploma but some other credential. If a student is designated to participate in the alternate assessment that should never preclude them from participating in regular education setting and also not preclude them for sitting for any exam in an area of which they have strength. The only thing that was new was that they are proposing that the designation for the student being alternately assessed should be subject by subject, verses global across all academic areas.

Effective July 1st, 2015 all school districts are required to notify every parent or guardian of their rights regarding the referral and evaluation of their child for the purposes of special education services or programs.

Teresa spoke about the Regents waiver which was already attached to the handouts.

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508 ADA Compliance Committee - Albert was excused. Frank spoke with Marc Perez, from the Suffolk County IT Dept. who said the job of making the county website accessible is basically finished. The legislature is working on their website. The continuing emphasis is that there are many people who are able to post info to the website but if they put a pdf on it and they don't make sure it's in accessible format then you can have an accessible website but the information contained on the website isn't. Frank said there will have to be ongoing training for that. Roy said there should be some kind of announcement stating the website was completed.

Housing - Michelle handed out flyers to help promote Fair Housing Accessibility Training which will be held on April 24, 2015 at Touro Law Center in Central Islip. She asked the board to help endorse or sponsor the event.

Douglas made a motion to have SCDAB endorse or co-sponsor the event and Joe 2nd the motion and the motion carried.

Michelle also handed out flyers about housing discrimination.

Legislation – Douglas had nothing new to report.

Transportation - Valerie was excused.

Employment - Tim had nothing new to report.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank said he is involved in a series of meetings to develop and roll out a written countywide ADA policy. The plan is for some of the people involved to give a report on it at a future meeting of the Disabilities Advisory Board.

Frank also reported that at the request of the Transportation Department, Frank spoke to Federation of Organizations and they wanted Frank to do two presentations on SCAT. Frank and a staff member also spoke to the Community Mental Hygiene department regarding SCAT. They explained how and why people should use the public buses as opposed to using SCAT. Frank also asked them to make sure they complete the SCAT applications in detail so our office can make the proper determinations on eligibility.

Frank also participates in meetings with LIRR in regards to ADA. They are talking about making it easier for people with disabilities to qualify for reduced service on the L.I.R.R. Currently the LIRR applications are leaving some disabilities out.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris reported the full fare on the fixed bus routes is set to increase from \$2.00 to \$2.25 system wide on April 1, 2015. This was introduced through the county legislature's budget amending resolution.

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They are going to use all the excess money to increase later evening and Sunday service. It's going to include at least two additional Sunday bus routes and later runs on a few fixed bus routes.

They are in the process of purchasing an additional 44 paratransit buses, 38 of which will be similar to the 1400 series. This will increase our total paratransit fleet to 180 vehicles throughout the county.

They had no capacity denials from July 2014 through today and they serviced just over a half a million paratransit trips.

S.C. Parks - Terry was absent.

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

S.C. Dept. of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs - Barbara reported that they are working on their transition workshops which are for children transitioning out of early intervention and into the preschool program. They offer workshops twice a year to the parents but they are having a hard time getting the parents to come out and participate. They have tried all different times, schedules and also offered the workshop in Spanish but the number of parents has dwindled down significantly.

Clubhouse of Suffolk - Mike said FECS is struggling to stay in business. Office of Mental Health and the County dept. announced transition plans so that the Jewish Board for Community Services in NYC will assume financial management of all their contracts and licenses. There will be Suffolk County presence and RFP's for FECS programs. FECS was a \$300 million dollar agency and now it has a large deficit.

S.C. Human Rights Commission - Lorena said they recently settled a case where a couple was denied a room at a bed and breakfast because they had a guide dog. Their office intervened by educating the owner on the law and it was settled amicably.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant

SILO - Joe said that on March 28, 2015 SILO will be having their Casino night fundraiser.

With the help of Rev. Patty Furino and the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management, SILO has undertaken an initiative to empower consumers to be '*Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare*' by helping consumers to sign up for the JEEP Program and Smart 911.

SILO also has been working with an Independent Living Center in Rochester regarding their registration effort to get more people with disabilities to vote.

SILO has partnered with other independent living centers to acquire; the money follows the person grant. The association asked SILO to be the subcontractor within the region.

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SILO has also partnered with University of Albany School of Excellence by offering diabetes self-management classes. One must register for all 6 classes. These classes are for people who are Medicaid eligible and Medicaid will direct the person to take the classes but if one misses

Any of the 6 classes and ends up in the emergency room there is a good chance Medicaid won't cover the hospital visit.

Alice wanted to let us know that new classes will begin on April 6th for the Type II Diabetes Care and Management Program. They are going to be reaching out to Legislators with the goal of attending health fairs. Alice will send Heidi the flyer to distribute.

SILO is part of the New York Disability Voting network which is made up a large group of people statewide that care about disability issues. The more people that join the better the impact and the goal is for NYS to have 5,000 people register. SILO will be hosting an event at end of April to help encourage people with disabilities to vote.

SILO had a meeting regarding transportation with Suffolk County, Legislators, Suffolk Bus and people with disabilities. They will be meeting monthly and they were able to set aside their differences and they were able to identify issues and negotiate and come to solutions. Suffolk Bus has provided Alice with statistics and are very open to working with SILO. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 11 from 10:00-11:30.

ACCES-VR – Sandy was absent.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani announced that Suffolk Rehab Council will be having their general meeting tomorrow at AHRC 1:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Matt Jerkins.

Old Business - Roy spoke to Marjorie recently and she hasn't been able to attend our board meetings because she is swamped with work. Roy also forgot to mention that the Task Force on Aging Out had a Legislative Brunch on February 6th and they had an excellent turnout.

New Business - Roy has been in touch with Bruce Blower's wife Doris, because Bruce has been in the hospital since September. The goal is to get Bruce home. Heidi said that she already sent a get well card to Bruce from the board.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Beverly seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler