

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

April 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on April 29, 2015 in the Lavender Classroom of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:08 pm with Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presiding.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky	Rep. County Executive Steven Bellone
Marjorie E. Acevedo	Rep. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Terry Maccarrone	S.C. Department of Parks
Tim Carew	S.C. Department of Labor
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs

GROUP B

Valerie Lewis	Member
Michelle Santantonio	Member

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member
Joseph Delgado	Member
Carolyn Schick	Member
Joani Madarash	Member

GROUP D

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

GUESTS: Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Nicole Ficarra, Leg. Intern, Nichole Dower-PCA, Erin King, Brenda de Jong

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

EXCUSED: Valerie Lewis, Albert Rizzi, Mitch Shapiro, James Kokindo/Lorena Gonzalez, Garrett Hulett, Glenn Campbell, Meesha Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 25, 2015: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the March 25, 2015 minutes as distributed. There were none, Marjorie 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: Roy reported he was involved in two meetings, one was with the L.I. Family Support Consumer Council and the other was the L.I. Task Force on Aging Out. The two issues of concern specifically on Long Island have to do with the Front Door process that the state has put in place. The single point of entry is now being done in the Regional office, where previously it was handled by the not for profit agencies that provided the services.

One concern is that the parents are being given the choice not to bring their son or daughter in for the face to face evaluation and many are opting to choose that.

Also very often parents who do have their children evaluated are given referrals to agencies that provide the kind of services that were agreed to and because of staffing shortages the parents fall off the radar. Not sufficient enough outreach to help the parent with the research.

One bit of good news is that the money OPWDD was provided with, they will now be opening up new group homes. The Transformation Panel that the Governor formed to consolidate all the different pieces of sharing of information with constituency and stakeholders is coming to NYC to have a meeting. Roy said these are very turbulent times so he is very concerned because the Commissioner is not coming out to meet with the people, instead they are relying more on webinars and video conferences.

The Start Project which is for individuals with dual diagnosis is in the wrap up stages for NYC. On June 2nd they will have presentation of the findings of the gap analysis which is to find out what they have and what the needs are. Suffolk County is in a bad situation, per capita we only have 50% of the acute care psychiatric beds for people who are presenting with mental illness and it's almost impossible for individuals that have the dual diagnosis.

Architectural Barriers - Vacant

Community Partnership - Frank reported that FRES in conjunction with the Health Dept. is doing a point of distribution exercise. This is an emergency response exercise based upon the premise that if there was a health emergency that requires distribution of medicines. They will be doing this at the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk Community College on May 14th and they are looking for 30 people with disabilities to sign up. They will have the same system set up as if they were having an actual emergency. Frank will email the link to everyone.

SCDAB

April 29, 2015

Page 3

The second item Frank wanted to report on was that our office (OPWD) also co-sponsored with Long Island Housing Services, a marvelous training and presentation on accessible housing under the Fair Housing Act.

Education - Teresa had nothing new to report.

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory introduced himself and thanked everyone for having him and made note of what an important role our advisory board has in Suffolk County. The Presiding Officer then introduced an intern from the Clerk's office Nicole, who has an important issue to discuss with everyone.

Nicole said she would like to see a change in how tickets for concerts and venues are issued to people with disabilities. Nicole feels Ticket Master has a bad system in place because scalpers are able to click one button and get every disabled persons ticket and then they are in the handicapped sections of the concert which leaves the person with the disability no other place to go. A discussion ensued about all the different problems people have experienced.

Michelle Santantonio said she would be glad to reach out to Jennifer Blaske, Director of S.C. Human Rights Commission.

Roy asked for volunteers to be part of this committee, Douglas said he would be glad to work with the Legislators and Nicole to come up with a resolution. Cliff and Joe also volunteered for the committee too.

Carolyn said one of her biggest pet peeves is when people park in handicapped parking spots that don't have permission too. She said many of the towns issue parking permits that have no expiration dates.

Douglas said that there is an app called the 'Parking Mobility App', and what you do is take 4 different pictures of the vehicle and it automatically sends it to the local police department.

Frank said he would be in touch with Nicole and everyone agreed that Ducks Stadium would be a great starting point.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Albert was excused. Frank said that Doug Miller from IT Dept. reached out to Frank regarding background information on the 508 because the new Commissioner would like to do a roll out of the new website.

Housing - Michelle said they had a great turnout for the Fair Housing Accessibility Training Fair. Michelle thanked our office for co-sponsoring the Fair. Michelle reminded everyone about Talking Book Library's 'SEE FOR YOURSELF' technology fair scheduled for May 15, 2015 and Michelle said Long Island Housing will be exhibiting at the fair as well.

Michelle brought some materials with her today because they updated their fair housing guidebook to incorporate the new provisions of the Suffolk County Human Rights law. They are recruiting for testers as of January, testers are considered per diem employees and they pay \$17.00 per hour. Test training classes will begin shortly so if you are interested contact Michelle.

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 that this Friday, May 1st he will be attending the Abilities Expo in New Jersey which runs through the weekend. This is a trade show for people with disabilities where they showcase the latest technology and services.

Frank also spoke about the boards composition. Board members who are from county agencies, their terms are statutory but members who are in Group D most of those members terms have expired with the exception of a few people.

Resolutions need to be filed and Frank sent all of this information over to the County Executive Office and Frank will be working with them but if some of you don't want to be reappointed please let Frank know.

Robin brought up the fact that it's not fair that some people on the board are consistently absent. Robyn believes that you are allowed 4 absences but people who want to continue with the board should be told they need to come to the board meetings then.

Frank said this was addressed a year ago and Frank passed around the by-laws for Advisory Boards. Marjorie said it's usually if you miss more than 3 meetings that you're off the board unless it's a health issue. Marjorie said they are a little more lenient with the disability board because of weather etc. She also said it's at the discretion of the Chair whether these continued absences are really excused absences.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris had submitted the latest paratransit SCAT statistics before the meeting and Heidi emailed them to everyone. Chris spoke about the restriction of SCAT vehicles on parkways.

Cliff asked Frank if he was invited to the Roll out of the new Medicaid Transportation vehicles on July 1st. Cliff said he will give Frank the contact information.

S.C. Parks - Terry had nothing new to report.

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

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

S.C. Human Rights Commission - James and Lorena were excused.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe said they will be having their NYS Disability Voting Awareness Event at SILO May 7th from 12:00 noon-3pm. Prestigious speaker, lunches provided, ballot marking devices on hand and register to vote on-site.

ACCES-VR - Sandy was absent.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani said on next week May 6th, South Oaks will have their disability Awareness Day, see Joani for more info.

The Suffolk County Rehab Council is putting together a full day training workshop first week in June. The topic will be full inclusion and full citizenship for all. The speaker will probably be Wendy Quarles.

A week ago at their general membership meeting a wonderful person did a presentation, her name was Maria LaMon and she has a music school in Smithtown for people with special needs. Maria showed a video of some of the students and how they were able to express themselves through their music.

Old Business - Douglas asked if there were any updates on Bruce's condition. Frank said he hasn't heard anything new.

Robyn wants to know why people have to reapply for SCAT every 3 years when their disability is permanent. Robyn said it becomes a big expense for many people.

Frank said that procedure is changing; there are certain disabilities that our office is aware of that the disability does change over time. Frank said he agreed with Robyn and it's something that has to be looked into carefully.

Joe doesn't understand why this should take so long, what kind of a policy is it?

Frank said when we implement policies we get input from the public, we discuss it transportation sub-committee. There are things that go into the consideration that he doesn't feel comfortable bringing up right now. Frank said the doctor's affidavits are not always complete or sufficient.

SCDAB
April 29, 2015
Page 6

Marjorie said if there is something the transportation committee wants the legislature to address you can get it to Marjorie or Frank and they will forward it to the Council's office for review.

New Business - None.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Teresa seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The **next meeting will be held on May 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler