

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

May 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on May 27, 2015 in the Lavender Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:30 pm with Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presiding.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky
Marjorie E. Acevedo
Chris Chatterton
Robert Hardie

Rep. County Executive Steven Bellone
Rep. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Representing SC Department of Public Works,
Design & Construction Division
Representing SC Commission on Human Rights
S.C. Department of Parks
S.C. Department of Labor
S.C. Dept. of Health Services/Div.
Services for Children with Special Needs

Lorena Gonzalez
Terry Maccarrone
Tim Carew
Barbara Falkman

GROUP B

Michelle Santantonio

Member

GROUP C

Carolyn Schick

Member

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson
Douglas King
Beverly Cody

Member
Member
Member

GUESTS: Brenda deJong. Erin King

STAFF: Wendy Hendler Rep., Heidi Zeitler/Principal Clerk, Office for People with Disabilities

EXCUSED: Valerie Lewis, Albert Rizzi, Joani Madarash, Diane Gaines, Robin Mayr, Glenn Campbell, Clifford Hymowitz, Teresa Strum, Joseph Delgado

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 29, 2015: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the April 29, 2015 minutes as distributed. There were none, Doug King made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Marjorie Acevedo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy reported that he visited with Bruce Blower and he is doing better and should be going home soon. Roy participated in the first public meeting from the transition panel that was appointed by the Commissioner at OPWDD, regarding the Transformational Judicial Agenda. This is a recently formed group and they call themselves the NYC Fair and they are predominantly parents. IAC (Interagency Council) is a not for profit agency that provides people with IDS and IDD services. Their role is to find out where everything is and what's going on.

The Regional office is still under staffed and they are trying to get approval of additional persons to handle Front Door process which is the single point of entry. Task Force on Aging Out will be having another meeting on June 17th in the Regional office and everyone is invited to come. On the horizon, DISCO, insurance companies intermediators that will be coming in between the individuals and the families rather than the state office being directly involved with the agencies and the families. Managed care-Medicaid thinks along the lines of curing but you can't cure Cerebral Palsy, Autism, and Spinal Bifida. All we're trying to do is make quality of life the best it can be, and keep them comfortable. Remediation is not in the cards for some individuals.

Architectural Barriers - Robert Hardie reported accessible access and curb cuts are being addressed. Current project is at the Labor Dept/Consumer Affairs where they will be putting in an accessible entrance and 1000 lobbies are being renovated. Roy asked if Robert has anything to do with the Ronkonkoma LIRR. Robert is not familiar with it right now. Marjorie responded they won't get federal money unless everything is handicapped accessible, it's a stipulation. Frank and Robert spoke before the meeting. It's been quite a while since we have had an architect here. He spoke to the Commissioner of DPW about sending somebody at least a few times a year so we have a point of contact. One of the things Frank has been asked about, what are they doing with the board of elections and are they doing anything with that building in terms of reconfiguring or renovating? There was a concern expressed to Frank about the accessible bathroom or lack thereof. There was one bathroom there that might be accessible and it was a woman's bathroom, there has been some talk about turning it into a unisex bathroom. Robert has not heard of anything right now. Frank said it was in the old part of the building. Robert will look into it. Frank could not recall the contact person. Frank spoke to the Commissioner about the curb cuts in the North County Complex, some are brand new and perfect and others are deplorable. If you try to negotiate them in a wheelchair you could dump yourself out onto the pavement. Frank offered to go around pointing out the problems. The handicapped spots need to be repainted as well. Robert said that they are aware; funds are limited and being addressed on a case by case basis. Michele suggested exploring Federal assistance to fund the improvements to speed things up. Frank said that a survey was done by ADA in the 90's and asked if there are any intentions to update it. Robert was unaware of any upcoming report.

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Community Partnership - Frank said there was a P.O.D. (Point of Distribution) event which was an emergency response exercise held at the Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. FEMA requires the county to do these. The emergency was what if there was an Anthrax attack, how would you get medication to people. They had a centralized location with volunteers, questions to ask for medical screening. FEMA uses the term “vulnerable” to identify the aging and people with disabilities. It was a successful exercise. No one had any questions.

Education - Carolyn reported that we have a new Commissioner who was fired from Florida and we hired her. She was one of the top superintendents. Tense time in education right now, unfortunately our children hang in limbo. There are wrapping up the year with regents. Carolyn is going to help with the problem in William Floyd with special education students who have to meet common core demands. Marjorie discussed an email she received from a parent of a student in a 15:1 program who is a good student, works hard and passes tests in class but can't pass the regents. He has to take 5 regents. There is no bending in the new rule guidelines.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Valerie was excused. Roy reported that they had some discussions, hoping to talk to the legislators involved and setting up a meeting in June or this summer. The last meeting was in November. It's a work in progress.

Housing - Michelle reported June is a major month for fair housing advocates. She discussed discrimination. Multiple zoning law of New York has a section that requires interactive buzzer and intercom systems in buildings with the landlord's burden to maintain. There is a case now, where a woman who has lived there all her life no longer has access as they decided to shut down that system.

Legislation - Douglas reported he is a coordinator for board of elections, approximately 3 weeks ago and there is a training they need to go through once a year. They were talking about the BMD machine that is used for people with disabilities. They need to fill out a challenge report for people who require assistance. One question required to ask is the nature of the disability which they are not supposed to do. In the process of changing the column to “Reason for Accommodation” through legislation. Nicole, an intern with the legislature reported at the April SCDAB meeting that she was having problems getting disabled tickets for an event. Douglas will speak with committee within a couple of weeks. He spoke to owner of L.I. Ducks, Frank Bolton and he agreed it was also a good idea. Douglas also went to the POD exercise that Frank went to. He will be working with the Department of Health on different issue they are having for people with disabilities when it comes to a POD exercise. Handouts were not in braille or large print and he felt spouses shouldn't have been split during the exercise.

Transportation - Valerie was excused.

Employment - Tim had nothing to report.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank reported it is Budget time and it doesn't look like we have to make any major cuts.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris reported putting in a grant application to expand SCAT service beyond the ¾ mile area and looking to expand Sunday routes. He should know at the end of July. He will reach out to Frank if there is room on the application for his input and support.

S.C. Parks - Terry said they are getting ready to rebuild after the fire in Cupsogue. The new pavilion should be complete in 2018 and the temporary restrooms are accessible.

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

S.C. Dept. of Health/Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs - Barbara handed out a document pertaining to child development birth to 5 years.

S.C. Human Rights Commission – James/Lorena reported receiving complaints with regards to lawful loss of income discrimination. Trying to educate property managers/owners in regard to the law.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe was excused

ACCES-VR - Sandy was excused.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani was excused.

Old Business - None

New Business - Town of Islip will be voting to start a disability advisory board and has asked Doug to Chair. Marjorie will retire on June 29th and does not know who will replace her.

ADJOURNMENT: Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Beverly seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:45p.m. The **next meeting will be held on June 24, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Hender