

# Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

June 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on June 24, 2015 in the Large Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:12 pm with Frank Krotschinsky presiding.

## **PRESENT:**

### **GROUP A**

Frank Krotschinsky	Rep. County Executive Steven Bellone
Ann Marie Farrell	Representing S.C. Commission on Human Rights
Terry Maccarrone	S.C. Department of Parks
Timothy Carew	S.C. Department of Labor

### **GROUP B**

Michelle Santantonio	Member
----------------------	--------

### **GROUP C**

Joseph Delgado	Member
Teresa Strum	Member

### **GROUP D**

Douglas King	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Robin Mayr	Member
Clifford Hymowitz	Member
Sandy Silver	Member

**GUESTS:** Stephanie Baldwin-FREE, Brenda deJong, Erin King

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

**EXCUSED:** Valerie Lewis, Albert Rizzi, Joani Madarash, Diane Gaines, Clifford Hymowitz, Chris Chatterton, Roy Probeyahn, Robert Hardie, Barbara Falkman, Carolyn Schick, Mitch Shapiro

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2015:** We haven't approved the minutes of May 27, 2015 yet because they were distributed after the last meeting. Roy is excused today because he had a conflict of schedules.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

SCDAB

June 24, 2015

Page 2

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Frank reported that he just came back from a budget meeting across the street which is a process every county department goes through this time of year.

**Architectural Barriers** - Robert was excused.

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

**Education** - Teresa reported that the state is looking to revamp the Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR Plans). This is used to evaluate the schools professional staff and principals and it included a method to measure student growth and student achievement which in turn influenced the score that the teacher received. After reviewing the results for the past few years the state determined to many people were doing too well. The feeling is that the results did not accurately portray the actual performance of all teachers and therefore the system is being revised in order to ensure that the system is more prescriptive and leaves less room for subjectivity.

**508 ADA Compliance Committee** - Valerie was excused

**Housing** - Michelle has been in touch with Don Friedman, Senior Managing Attorney for Empire Justice Center. He has been working on a committee related to Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance by Suffolk County. They wanted to know if they could come to the next meeting and be on the Agenda and asked for board support and involvement with the work they are doing.

Michelle has been working with a client that has multiple chemical sensitivities. There was some talk about the possibility of initiating a peer support group or an educational campaign to develop some educational materials and provide support.

**Legislation** - Douglas reported that a one million dollar resolution was recently passed in regards to ADA Compliance. Douglas said at the same meeting transportation was also discussed and several members from SILO who are hearing impaired were there. There was no translator present even though a translator was requested beforehand and they were told by the county that it would be taken care of. Douglas also reported that the podium at the meeting is also not in compliance.

Frank said he will look into what happened.

Directional signs in North County Complex were discussed. Cliff said that the signs that were finally put up in this complex don't even meet state DMV guidelines.

**Transportation** - Chris was excused. Cliff said he has a meeting with LogistiCare on July 15, 2015. Beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> LogistiCare will be the new Medicaid Transportation provider. Cliff will make sure there is more accountability with this new provider.

Joe said that SILO will be having a meeting tomorrow with Legislator Al Krupski and Commissioner Gil Anderson where they will continue their conversation regarding the SCAT Paratransit System. Specifically they want to address the topic of the new SCAT buses that were recently added to the fleet and how consumers feel they aren't safe or adequate. SILO feels that before the county makes a commitment to buying new buses there should be stakeholder input. Joe said their research has indicated that animals have been hurt and major modifications had to be made to the new buses.

Cliff said it should be brought up under state contract. Cliff said they state needs to change their guidelines.

Cliff reported that Brookhaven has the least amount of Sunday service out of all the towns. Cliff said his Task Force is going to make a recommendation to expand the 3/4 miles to 1 mile. Cliff is hoping the board supports this recommendation.

Robin said she has been having very serious issues with the SCAT bus. Four times in the last month the bus driver didn't show up at the manifest address that he was supposed to be at and dispatch was telling her the bus was right in front of her. One of her appointments was inadvertently cancelled and no one notified her but luckily she was able to find the fixed route buses and make it home.

Because many problems have been reported to SILO and to our board regarding the SCAT service, Michelle made a motion for the board to write a letter asking for a review of the contract for SCAT, to see if it can be modified to provide either sanctions or incentives to improve the service. Robin seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

**Employment** - Tim had nothing new to report.

#### **COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

**Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities** - Frank had nothing new to report.

**S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation** – Chris was excused.

**S.C. Parks** - Terry said the Parks Department is rebuilding the Pavilion at Cupsogue and once that is finished they will install the handicapped ramps. They are operating right now with temporary measures.

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

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

**S.C. Human Rights Commission** - Anne Marie had nothing new to report.

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

**SILO** - Joe announced that SILO will be moving from its current location to the Holtsville area with a 65% decrease in overhead cost. The move is being donated and they are hoping to make the move on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ACCES-VR** - Sandy said they are working on a new project called the Albany Community Employment Specialists which is grant funded by Albany. Basically it's a bridge between school administrators and the community to deal the student transitioning issues. It goes beyond the schooling to get the kids the services they need.

**Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council** - Joani was excused.

**Old Business** - Frank reminded everyone to please send him their updated resumes for their positions on this board.

**New Business** - Douglas reported that the Community Emergency Response team is meeting tonight in Yaphank. They are doing a study on the Emergency Operations Center and Douglas will be looking into how they handle things for people with disabilities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on September 30, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi Zeitler*