

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

October 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on October 28, 2015 in the Large Conference Room of Building 158, William B. Lindsay Complex, Hauppauge at 2:05 pm with Roy Probeyahn presiding.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Frank Krotschinsky	Rep. County Executive Steven Bellone
Valerie Smith	Rep. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Chris Chatterton	Rep. SC DPW Transportation Division
Timothy Carew	Rep. SC Department of Labor
Mary Porter, Esq.	Rep. SC Human Rights Commission
Barbara Falkman	Rep. SC Dept. of Health Services/Division for Children with Special Needs
Robert Hardie	Rep. SC Dept. of Public Works, Design & Construction Division

GROUP B

GROUP C

Teresa Strum	Member
Joani Madarash	Member

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Douglas King	Member
Robin Mayr	Member

GUESTS: Roberta Rosenberg & Fran Bogal from Destination Accessible, Erin King, Devin Fernandez

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

EXCUSED: Michelle Santantonio, Valerie Lewis, Carolyn Schick, Sandy Silver, Beverly Cody, Diane Gaines

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the September 30, 2015 minutes as distributed. Robin said she believes SILO should be stated under Group C as the member not Joe Delgado and Alice Young.

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Frank said he believes the statute reads SILO or Access-VR will send a representative. Frank said he will bring a copy of the statute to the next meeting.

Robin made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Douglas seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Roy mentioned the article in today's handouts about Suffolk Bus cuts. Roy also said that in Newsday today there was an article about a ¾ million dollar settlement for a false arrest and discrimination based on a deaf person because the police that arrested her did not obtain a translator for her.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy reported they had their Family Support Services Advisory Council 23rd Annual Legislative Breakfast last Friday which Roy is a charter member of. It was well attended by over 500 people. Twenty-Six elected representatives and the Suffolk County Executive sent Frank as his rep. Art Flescher, Director of Suffolk County Mental Health was there, the Governor sent a representative and the Commissioner of OPWDD attended too.

Roy had a chance to visit with Bruce Blower who was the past Director of Office for People with Disabilities. Bruce is doing well and is very happy to be out of the hospital and back home again.

Task Force on Aging Out will be having their liaison meeting November 18th at 1:30 p.m. at their regional OPWDD office, located at Oser Ave., Hauppauge. Meetings are open to everyone.

NYS Assemblywoman Gunther, Chair of Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities standing committee in the NY Assembly, had a public hearing up in Albany on OPWDD. Roy was not able to attend but did submit testimony and received positive feedback from it. Roy sent his testimony to the Governor as well.

Roberta and Fran spoke about their website called Destination: Accessible which lists about 200 venues online that they have personally visited to see if they are accessible for mobility impaired people. The venues include restaurants, museums, theaters, parks and kid friendly establishments. Some of the information they list on their website is: how many handicapped parking spaces, is lot paved, how far is the entrance, handicapped ramp and what will you find when you get inside. Their goal is not tell people where to go but see online if the venue is accessible before they go. They only put the restaurants that are handicapped friendly online. Long Island, NY Metro Area and Manhattan are some of the areas that have venues listed. Please visit their website at www.destinationaccessible.com. Comments online are welcome.

Architectural Barriers - Bob said they are working on plans in this Complex to fix the sidewalks, make improvements to front of the building and make some accessible parking spaces under the carport. They will also be upgrading two bathrooms in Bldg. #17 and making them

ADA compliant. Roy asked Frank to look into what part of County government would be involved with the Ronkonkoma Hub.

Community Partnership - Frank said he went to a FEMA presentation post Sandy issues. Recovery is not complete and they are doing a series of seminars with regard to raising homes and what do you do if the person that needs that home has mobility issues. You can install elevators, lifts, ramps. They talked about accessibility equipment being a reimbursable item for homes that are required to be raised, subject to certain limits.

Education - Teresa reported that every year Western and Eastern Suffolk BOCES get together and go Albany and meet with Legislators and talk about special education issues. This past week their school superintendent Maureen Whitley reached out to Suffolk County legislators and invited Senator Boyle and Assemblywoman Pierre for a tour so they can see the programs they offer.

Teresa said their facility director informed her that they need to change all of their signage because of new regulations. Signage can't say handicapped parking anymore it should be a symbol.

Douglas said that on the Anniversary of the ADA last year the Governor removed the word handicapped from all handicapped parking signs and now they should say accessible parking.

Bob said the wheelchair sign has not been accepted or adopted by the Federal Access Board. Any signs DPW puts up in this complex will have the international sign.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Valerie was excused.

Housing - Michelle was excused.

Legislation - Douglas said that at the last legislative meeting it was decided to keep the public portion open on Resol. IR1660 on whether or not the Foley Nursing Home should be sold. At the legislative breakfast Douglas spoke to Leg. William Lindsay and Sen. Flanagan in regards to transportation issues and budgeting to see if the state could help. Douglas will be working with the legislature and state senator to try and find more funding for transportation.

Douglas wanted to let the board know that he hasn't been able to get in touch with Nicole who was an intern in Leg. DuWayne Gregory's office. Nicole came to one of our meetings because she was having problems with accessible seating at venues. Roy said the committee should stand down since we cannot get in touch with Nicole.

Transportation - Valerie was excused. Robin said they had a transportation meeting last Friday and they spoke about safety issues and the ¾ mile rule. Robin said that SILO is trying to get SCAT to expand to later hours.

Employment - Tim reported that Suffolk County Dept. of Labor in conjunction with the Office for People with Disabilities will be having a Job Fair on October 30, 2015 in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It will be from 10:00-1:00 at the One Stop located in the North County Complex. Other companies will be involved as well as Support services.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank brought up issue regarding materials being distributed in accessible format. If anyone asks Heidi to distribute information please make sure it's a word document/office format because it's much easier for people with screen readers to read. PDF's are generally hard for people with visual impairments to read. There are options on your computer to check for access issues, under file menu and then click on "*check for issues*".

Last month some members said they had problems opening word documents that Heidi emailed to them in word. Something came up on their mobile phones saying it wanted to open it up Win.Mail. Frank doesn't think that's a true accessibility issue. Frank mentioned that we have a new copier that has optical character recognition capabilities software installed will hopefully make documents more accessible.

Barbara said she has one page directions on how to make documents accessible. Barbara said she will resend this information to Frank and Heidi.

Robin and Teresa just wanted to thank Heidi for making documents accessible for her.

Frank suggested if you have a detailed report for SCDAB and if you want to send it to us we can attach it to the minutes otherwise Heidi will just summarize your report for the minutes. Roy added that if members want to distribute information to board members instead of forwarding to Heidi they can make their own contact group and distribute it themselves.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris said a grant fund to expand SCAT services beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ mile was approved by the legislature and the County Executive. It looks like it will begin next year and it will expand service to all areas in the county and it will include Sunday service.

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 had nothing new to report.

S.C. Human Rights Commission - Mary Porter reported that a couple of disability cases were resolved and both centered on service animals in private and a public organizations and what their obligations were. They clarified that if there are issues with the service animal they can ask the service animal to leave but under no circumstances can they ask the person to leave. If you say you need an emotional support animal you are granted an emotional support animal.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant

SILO - Joe was absent

ACCES-VR - Sandy was excused

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani Madarash was absent

Old Business - None

New Business - When Robin votes she uses the absentee ballot because the ballot marking devices don't work for her. The ballots are still not accessible, no options for braille or large print. Robin put in a call with the Board of Elections to set up a meeting with the Commissioner and she would like this board to get behind her. How can we make this easier for people with visual disabilities?

Douglas said he is an inspector with the Board of Elections and inside the polling booth to complete ballot there is a magnifier. Robin said that wouldn't help her and someone who is blind.

Roy appointed Robin to Chair Accessibility for Absentee ballots at polling places. Douglas said he will help Robin. Roy said the board isn't ready to take a position at this time. Robin is to look into what the problems are and report the information back to this board.

Douglas reported that on October 20, 2015 the Town of Islip approved Islip Disability Advisory Board. If anyone would like to submit their resumes you can send them to Supervisor Carpenter's office until November 15th. Douglas was appointed the Commissioner of the Office of People with Disabilities in the Town of Islip.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Robin seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The November and December meetings are combined into one so the **next meeting will be held on December 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler