

Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board

January 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved

A meeting of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board was held on January 27, 2016 in the Large Conference Room of Building 158, North County Complex, Hauppauge at 2:05 pm with Chairperson Roy Probeyahn presiding.

PRESENT:

GROUP A

Chris Chatterton	Representing SCDPW Transportation Division
Terry Maccarrone	S.C. Department of Parks
Timothy Carew	S.C. Department of Labor
Barbara Falkman	S.C. Dept. of Health Services/Div. Services for Children with Special Needs
Lorena Gonzalez	S.C. Human Rights Commission
Robert Hardie	Rep. SC Dept. of Public Works, Design & Construction Division
Traci Barnes	Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services

GROUP B

Michelle Santantonio	Member
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GROUP C

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

GROUP D

Roy Probeyahn, Chairperson	Member
Devin Fernandez	Member
Douglas King	Member
Robin Mayr	Member
Beverly Cody	Member
Sandy Silver	Member

GUESTS: Erin King, Brenda deJong, Stephanie Baldwin

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

EXCUSED: Frank Krotschinsky, Diane Gaines, Valerie Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 2, 2015: Roy asked if there were any changes to be made to the December 2, 2015 minutes as distributed. There were none, Douglas King made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed and Robin Mayr seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Roy mentioned the article in the handouts about the facelift at Kalers Pond Park in Center Moriches and an article that an investigation finds that most NYC Elementary Schools are Violating Disabilities Act. Paratransit statistics are in handouts and were emailed as well.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Roy reported that the government's budget just came out and OPWDD will be receiving an additional \$10 million statewide support from a \$6 billion budget. At last month's meeting Roy reported participating in a respite forum and that report has just come out but they are not allowed to discuss it at this point. Long Island Task Force on Aging Out will be having their 25th Silver Anniversary Legislative brunch and it will be held on February 5, 2016 at the Regional office located at 415A Oser Ave., Hauppauge at 11:00 a.m. The governor also recommended in his budget that the state set a minimum wage of \$15.00 an hour to be implemented over time. This is something that the community and constituency in the Intellectual Development Disability world have been advocating strongly for, for direct service professionals. However, the governor has not put any money in the budget for the not for profit providers for people with intellectual disabilities.

Architectural Barriers - Bob said in regards to Frank's question from the last meeting, if there is an existing pedestrian signal it will be brought up to specifications. According to the county all intersection/pedestrian generators will be evaluated when they are upgrading any roads. If there is not a need for it, it will not be put in. The bathrooms in Building #17 have been upgraded and are fully ADA compliant. Going up for bid is the FRES/Probation building in Yaphank where they will be upgrading the bathrooms sometime this spring.

Community Partnership - Frank was excused.

Education - Teresa spoke about the common core assessments and how the governor set out a task force to look at the common core because of the backlash. The task force came back with about 21 recommendations and was to take a thorough look at the common core and a phase in that is appropriate over multiple years. One of the biggest things for education with respect to the annual professional performance reviews is they have said you should not be using the common core assessments 3-8 standards to factor in to teachers ratings. The testing is not going away but they will be looking at the results and will be using the same tools they used in the past to manage the results. There will be a four year transition before they leave the current APPR plan and go into the new APPR plan and they have to have a plan in place for next September. Scores will still be generated and used for informational purposes and teachers will still get a

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score but then will also get a transition score. The one score that is based on the regents exam cannot be used against a teacher for grading their performance. There is a proposal that if you don't have 95% of your students taking the assessments this year they're going to look at taking away support.

508 ADA Compliance Committee - Valerie was excused. Robin said the next transportation meeting is scheduled for this 1/29/16. Valerie would like to combine the SCDAB Transportation Sub-Committee and the Section 508 Sub-Committee into one because they have many of the issues.

Housing - Michelle said they are working on a number of disability related cases. One was filed in Federal court and was related to a condominium complex which had a number accessibility concerns for someone that had chronic mobility issues. They are hopeful that it will settle before a trial begins.

L.I. Housing Services is part of the Housing for All Coalition which consists of the L.I. Housing Partnership which is a nonprofit that builds affordable housing, Make the Road NY and L.I. Communities for Change. The coalition works on number issues related to immigration and legalization and will be providing legal representation in Suffolk County. Being part of the coalition had to do with promoting passage of the amended human rights law particularly with respect to source of income and they have handled a few of those case right now.

There is another new coalition group that has to do with affordable housing and recently the L.I. Regional Planning Board/Newsday highlighted some results related to the L.I. Workforce Housing Act noted several municipalities had been in violation. If you would like further information on any of the above you can email Michelle at Michelle@lifairhousing.org Michelle wanted to know if anyone knew if there was any monetary help available for housing accessibility access. Stephanie suggested she get in the touch the Opportunity Disability Fund. Barbara said town also offers low interest loans and also suggested an organization called Contractor for Kids. Joe Delgado suggested she contact Justin at SILO who is working on something called Barrier Busters.

Joe said the ability of a homeowner or renter to build is a major problem and Joe says he has a meeting set up with construction carpenters union to see if they can get a group together that can donate their time to assist some of these people.

Legislation - Douglas reported the Suffolk County Legislature had their organizational meeting on January 4, 2016 and DuWayne Gregory is still the Presiding Officer and the Deputy Supervisor is Rob Calarco because Jay Schneiderman is the Town Supervisor in Southampton. Dr. Spencer is still the Chair of the Health Committee which is what this board falls under.

RFP's went out for the media room within the legislature so now they are going to be soundproofing the room and will have closed captioning for the website. If a disabled person needs accommodations for any meeting you need to notify Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature 3 days in advance.

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Transportation - Valerie was excused.

Employment - Tim handed out flyers for a Job Expo being held this Friday, January 29, 2016 at Farmingdale State College - Roosevelt Hall. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Any questions please contact Patrice Radowitz at (516) 870-1621.

Devin asked Tim if a private contractor does business with the state are they obligated to hire someone who is disabled. Tim said he isn't in the department of state compliance but did say it would be in their best interest to hire someone who is disabled but he doesn't know if they are required to.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities - Frank was excused.

S.C.D.P.W./Division Transportation - Chris said the paratransit statistics for 2015 are in the handouts and was emailed as well. In 2015 they provided over 531,000 trips which is a 5 ¼ percent increase over 2014's number and a new record for the service. Chris was happy to report that paratransit service is now offered throughout the county and not just limited to ¾ mile within a public bus route. This was implemented on January 1, 2016 and includes full service on Sundays too. Chris said there will be a lot of improvements coming with the trapeze and paratransit system with regards to being able to make online reservations, subscription service and cancel appointments. Riders will eventually be able to see where their bus is and when it should be arriving.

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

S.C. Department of Social Services - Traci Barnes had nothing new to report.

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

S.C. Human Rights Commission - Lorena announced Mary Porter will be leaving the Commission and they will be looking for a new Executive Director.

S.C. Community Development - Vacant.

SILO - Joe had nothing new to report.

ACCES-VR - Sandy reported that their numbers to continue to increase with a large emphasis on transition, mostly with school to work. They have redefined what transition is, it means age 25 and below. They go into the high schools and help them to transition but there are a number of people who are out of high school age 23 and this still falls under the category of transition. They are trying to find different ways of reaching them and providing service to them. Sandy said there is a lot going on with ex-offenders and there is a correctional facility that deals with juveniles. They are going to assist them pre-release in order to get them prepared to go into employment upon release. There is one program dealing with women, mostly DWI offenders and another is a vocational department.

Sandy also reached out to Valerie Lewis to network with the library system and also to Suffolk Community college.

Sandy spoke about the ongoing problems with office space and future renovations.

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Sandy announced that on March 11th, Acces-VR will be doing a presentation called Transition Summit and it will be held at Farmingdale State University. Time: 8:30am-2:30pm. It's Free but please register in advance. Sandy will email Heidi so she can forward the information.

Suffolk County Rehabilitation Council - Joani said she had the honor to be part of a hearing aid mission that Mitch's organization, Foundation for Sight and Sound, their Help American Hear Program offered. It was held at Maguire's Audiological Services in Patchogue and they provided hearing aids to people that meet certain financial qualifications. It was truly heartwarming to see 3 people receive the gift of hearing.

The next general membership meeting for the Rehab Council will be held on 2/26/16 and is open to everyone. It will be held at AHRC in Bohemia at 1:30 pm.

Old Business - Roy asked Sandy about Project Search. Sandy said they are in their 3rd year. Ten students from I.C.C. participated in a Nursing Home setting, placement etc. Model came out of Children's Cincinnati Hospital and SILO coordinated all of it here and it's a pretty successful program.

New Business - Brenda said JARC portion of the Moving Forward Project will be ending next month so this will be her second to last meeting here.

ADJOURNMENT: Douglas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joani seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. **The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference room, Building 158, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Zeitler