

**Welfare to Work Commission
Of the Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes of the March 9, 2018 Meeting

Present:

Richard Koubek, Chair
Ayesha Alleyne (Wyandanch Homes and Property Development Corporation)
Peggy Boyd (Family Service League);
Christina DeLisi (Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory)
Barbara Egloff (Eastern Suffolk BOCES)
Gabrielle Fasano for Greta Guarton (LI Coalition for the Homeless)
Kim Gierasch (Suffolk County Department of Health)
Charles Fox (EOC-LI)
Michael Haynes (LI Cares/Harry Chapin Food Bank)
Karen Klafter for Legislator Tom Donnelly
Christian Limbach (SC Association of Municipal Employees)
Richard Krebs, (SC Department of Labor)
Michael Stoltz (Association for Mental Health and Wellness)
Luis Valenzuela (LI Council of Churches)

Excused: Barbara DeFina (Suffolk County Community College); Don Friedman (Empire Justice Center); Ellen Krakow (Nassau/Suffolk Law Services); Kathy Liguori, Vice Chair; Commissioner John O'Neill (SC Department of Social Services); Jeffrey Reynolds (Family and Children's Association/LICADD)

Absent:

Sr. Lisa Bergeron (Catholic Charities); Rachel Seiler (Community Development Corporation of LI)

1. **Minutes:** A motion to accept the February minutes, made by Ayesha Alleyne, seconded by Christian Limbach, passed unanimously.
2. **Supportive Housing Work Group:** Richard Koubek reported that the Work Group has finalized its recommendations. The Commission should get a draft report in the spring.
3. **Commission's 2018 Goals:** The Commission reviewed its 2018 goals. Barbara Egloff suggested that Eastern Suffolk BOCES be added to the SWEP pilot. The 2018 goals as amended at the February and March meetings, were adopted unanimously on a motion by Charles Fox, seconded by Barbara Egloff.
4. **Annual Report:** The Commission reviewed the draft annual report to the Legislature and, on a motion by Richard Koubek, seconded by Michael Stoltz, the report was adopted: 13 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstention (Christian Limbach who had concerns about staffing levels at DSS, DOL and DOH not being adequate).
5. **Strategies for Pursuing 2018 Goals:** Mr. Koubek invited discussion about how to pursue the Commission's 2018 goals.
 - a. **IDA Scoring Tool:** Mr. Koubek reported that the IDA tool was sent to Suffolk County Community Planning Director Sarah Lansdale in January who agreed to pass it on to Anthony J. Catapano, IDA Executive Director. Christina DeLisi is the Presiding Officer's liaison to the IDA. Ms. DeLisi reported that she forwarded the IDA tool to Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff to the Presiding Officer who will review the IDA tool and the Commission's request with the Presiding

Officer to see how his office can further assist and determine if a meeting is needed with the IDA and/or the Economic Development and Planning Department.

- b. **Substance-Abuse Crisis:** This discussion was tabled to a meeting at which Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds can participate.
 - c. **Federal Immigration Policies:** A number of issues were raised regarding the impact of federal immigration policies on Suffolk County.
 - i. Peggy Boyd and Mr. Koubek expressed concern that undocumented immigrants are not recertifying their American-born children for programs such as SNAP for fear of leaving a paper trail that could lead to deportation. Mr. Koubek noted that the Department of Homeland Security is considering a policy that would factor use of public benefits like SNAP into decisions to grant legal status, the thinking being that a person's use public benefits might indicate that h/she is not self-sufficient and could become a burden to taxpayers. Ms. Boyd also expressed concern for the health and safety of undocumented children, especially unaccompanied minors who might be homeless, not in school and otherwise unsupervised by adults.
 - ii. There was also some discussion of the degree to which the Suffolk police are working with ICE. Mr. Koubek and Luis Valenzuela pointed out that the SCPD does not cooperate with ICE in that it will not ask people for their immigration documents. However, the SCPD will turn over undocumented immigrants who have been tagged by ICE or SCPD, sometimes for minor offenses, sometimes based on ICE administrative warrants rather than court-ordered judicial warrants that have a much higher level of evidence. New York City's NYPD will not turn over undocumented immigrants to ICE as readily as does the SCPD.
 - iii. Michel Stoltz stated that the Commissions should stay focused on its mission, which is essentially based on public benefits. Mr. Koubek shared with the Commission the Suffolk County analysis of the economic impacts that would result if Salvadoran Temporary Protective Status (TPS) recipients were deported. He stated, and there was consensus, that this kind of economic assessment is an excellent format to defend public policies.
 - iv. Mr. Koubek suggested, and there was agreement, that the author of the report, Seth Forman, should be invited to a future Commission meeting to explain how he secured his data. It was also agreed that two experts on how federal immigration policies are affecting the health and welfare of undocumented immigrants be invited to the April Commission meeting: Carmen Maquilon of Catholic Charities and Patrick Young of CARECEN.
6. **Commission Meeting Calendar:** The Commission agreed to the following meeting calendar for the remainder of 2018: Thursday, April 12
- Friday May 11
 - Friday, June 8
 - Friday, July 13

- Friday, August 10
- Thursday, September 13
- Thursday, October 11
- Friday, November 9
- Thursday, December 13

Announcements:

- a. Mr. Koubek reported that Long Island Jobs with justice and the Jewish Community Relations Council may be hosting an April 15th public forum on federal immigration policies. Cong. Peter King has accepted an invitation to speak. Cong. Suozzi has been invited; his acceptance is pending.
- b. Gabrielle Fasano announced that the annual LI Coalition for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil will be April 10th.

7. **Next meeting:** Thursday, April 12.