



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Kevin G. Smith 

**SUBJECT:** Appointment to the New York State Rehabilitation Council

**DATE:** November 30, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### **Issue for Consent Agenda**

Vacancies have occurred on the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). We are seeking the review and approval of the proposed appointments and reappointments of members to the SRC by the Board of Regents.

### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

The Federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act, requires the Board of Regents to appoint members to the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

### **Proposed Handling**

This item will come before the Full Board at its December 2017 meeting.

### **Procedural History**

Each year, as vacancies occur, the Board of Regents approves recommendations to fill such vacancies.

### **Background Information**

Information on the proposed appointees is noted in Attachment 1 and a list of the entire SRC is noted in Attachment 2.

## **Recommendation**

**VOTED:** that Valerie DeClara be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Joseph Delgado be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Mica Gonzales be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Peter Herring be appointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Susan Scheer be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020

**VOTED:** that Joan Parker be reappointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Tonya Robinson-Mayer be reappointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

**VOTED:** that Michael A. Sherman be reappointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020.

## **Related Regent's Items**

### **[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments February 2017](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/217brca1.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/217brca1.pdf>

### **[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments December 2016](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1216brca1.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1216brca1.pdf>

### **[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments December 2015](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1215brca2.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1215brca2.pdf>

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect January 1, 2018.

Attachments

Attachment 1

**New York State Rehabilitation Council  
(New Appointment for term January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020.)**

**Representative of Community Rehabilitation Service Provider**

Valerie DeClara  
OPWDD-Start Up/Support Broker  
Vision and Choice  
2832 Clark Avenue  
Oceanside, NY 11572

- Assist people with developmental disabilities to self-direct services and supports they receive through the Federally sponsored New York State Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program
- Extensive experience as an education, transition and mental health advocate
- Provide training on the protocol, regulations and process of applying for and navigating OPWDD services

**Representative of Disability Advocacy Group**

Joseph M. Delgado  
Chief Executive Officer  
Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)  
755 Waverly Avenue  
Holtsville, New York 11779

- Assure that SILO has a long-range strategy with which it makes consistent and timely progress toward achieving its mission
- Provide leadership in developing program, organizational and financial plans with the Board of Directors and staff; carry out plans and policies authorized by the Board
- Establish sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with community groups and organizations

**Representative of Disability Advocacy Group**

Mica Gonzales  
Central Regional Youth Partner  
Families Together in NYS (YOUTH POWER!)  
906 Spencer Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204

- Connect local youth-led groups, increasing youth inclusion in government, provide technical assistance and support
- Provide support to individuals with disabilities in their home, communities, and work/school settings
- Mentor and assist participants in meeting their valued outcomes

### **Representative of Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider**

Susan Rona Scheer  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 ICD-Institute for Career Development  
 123 William Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
 New York, New York 10038

- Provide leadership for vocational rehabilitation and workforce development services for over 1,200 individuals with disabilities, youth, veterans and adult career changers
- Founder of New York City's paratransit program and a leader in the movement to obtain accessible taxis
- Organized first conference for small business owners on the Americans with Disability Act
- Worked with college career services to strengthen internship opportunities and permanent job placements for students with disabilities.

### **Representative of the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) Ex-Officio Member**

Peter Herrig  
 Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  
 New York State Commission for the Blind  
 52 Washington Street  
 201 South  
 Rensselaer, NY 12144

- Responsible for the oversight of NYSCB employment initiatives 2015-present
- Member of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Interagency Team
- Ten years' experience providing vocational rehabilitation services to transition age youth who are legally blind
- Providing services to individuals with disabilities since 1999

Attachment 2

**State Rehabilitation Council  
(Term Expirations)**

**Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**

**Representatives of Community Rehabilitation Program Service Providers**

2017 Michael A Sherman, Peer Counselor Coordinator/IL Specialist, North Country Center for Independence, 80 Sharron Ave, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

2017 Joanie Parker, Director of Day and Vocational Initiatives, Heritage Christian Services, 349 West Commercial St, Suite 2795, East Rochester NY 14445

2018 Chad Underwood, COO, Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc., 26 North Main St., Cortland, NY 13045

2018 Michael Godino, Vision Services for the Blind, 104 Tilrose Ave, Malverne, NY 11565

2019 Yvette Goorevitch, Director of Special and Alternative Education, City School District of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10804

**Representative of a Parent Training and Information Center established pursuant to the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA)**

2019 Helene Fallon, Project Coordinator, Long Island Parent Center (LIPC), 720 Northern Blvd. Brookville, NY 11548

**Representatives of Disability Advocacy Groups**

2019 Paul Czech, Esq., Paul Czech & Associates, 107 Ridge Lane, Waltham, MA 02452

**Current or Former Applicant/Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

2018 Jennifer M. Machucki, 1410 Maple Road, Williamsville, New York 14221

**Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor**

2018 Howard Gross, President, E-Biz Docs, 85 Broadway, Menands, NY 12204

2018 Martha Jackson, Disability Employment & Business Relations, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, 100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10038

2019 Melissa Campbell, Owner, Creator, Ultra Hoops and Wellness, Buffalo, NY 14213

**Representative of Transition Educational Services**

2017 Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Partners in Transition Coordinator, Champlain Valley Educational Services, CV-TEC, 194, US Oval, Suite 228, Plattsburgh, NY 12903

**Representative of New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)**

Lindsay Miller, Executive Director, New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL), Albany, NY 12208

**Representative of Native American Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

Melissa Schindler, Director, Seneca Nation Department of Employment and Training, Seneca Nation of Indians, Irving, NY 14801

**Representative of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) (ongoing)**

Erica Molina, Coordinator, NYS Client Assistance Program, Disability Advocates, Inc. 5 Clinton Square, 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12207

**Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board (ongoing)**

Alan Gallagher, Division of Employment & Workforce Solutions, NYS Department of Labor (DOL), State Office Campus, Albany, NY 12240

**Representative of State Agency for Mental Health (ongoing)**

Liam McNabb, Director of the Rehabilitation Services, NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), 44 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12229