



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Ceylane Meyers-Ruff 

SUBJECT: Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.

DATE: December 2, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed appointments and reappointment of members to New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC).

Reason(s) for Consideration

The 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act require the Board of Regents to appoint members to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its December 2021 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 & 2, and a list of the entire NYSILC is noted in Attachment 3.

Related Regent's Items

April 2021

[Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. \(nysed.gov\)](https://www.nysed.gov)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: that Benjamin Davis be appointed for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.

VOTED: that Yaw Adu Appiadu be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

VOTED: that Beata Karpinska-Prehn be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

VOTED: that Chad Underwood be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

VOTED: that Keith Gurgui be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

VOTED: that Richard Beadon be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Board of Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect January 1, 2022.

Attachments

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(New Appointment for term January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023)**

ACCES is recommending one new appointment, resulting from one member terming off the council.

Benjamin Davis

804 Winterton Road
Middletown, NY 10940

(845) 807-9986

benjamin.j.davis4@gmail.com

- A U.S. veteran with experience as a systems advocate, independent living advocate, and veterans advocate where he worked with the community to identify and develop strategies to address system change issues and provided advocacy and related services to veterans and individuals with disabilities.
- Worked as a Health Care Specialist in the U.S. Army where he supervised a team to facilitate patient care.

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(New Appointment for term January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024)**

ACCES is recommending four new appointments, resulting from four members terming off the council, as well as one reappointment of an existing member.

Yaw Adu Appiadu

922 Main Street. Unit 205
Peekskill NY 10566
(347) 741-2878
appiah222@gmail.com

- Has over six years of experience advocating for individuals with disabilities including experience managing contracts, developing improvement methodologies, managing, and monitoring resources, writing articles for individuals who participate in Independent Living services in the Westchester, NY Region.
- Worked as a Community Health Advocate at Community Service Society.

Keith Gurgui

9 Corwin Place
Lake Katrine, NY 12449
(845) 256-8928
kgurgui@hotmail.com

- Has over seven years of experience working as a Systems Advocate at Resource for Accessible Living, located in Kingston, NY.
- Is a Board member of Resource for Accessible Living, New York State Independent Living Council, and the New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

Beata Karpinska-Prehn

1143 Cumberland Ave
Syracuse. NY 13210
(315) 559-4669
bkarpinska@ariseinc.org

- Has over 25 years of advocacy experience, including 10 years as a housing advocate and 15 years of experience as the Manager of Advocacy at ARISE, an independent living center in Syracuse, NY, where she established core independent living and advocacy services.
- Worked as a lead advocate where she conducted quality assurance audits and organized and conducted local system change activities.

Chad W. Underwood

126 Green Street
Syracuse, New York 13203
(917) 756-1775
chadwunderwood@gmail.com

- Has over 12 years of experience as an Executive Director, Operations Manager, and Program Manager at the independent living center- Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc. where he was responsible for a 300% growth in agency revenue, and a 200% growth in in number of consumers served.
- Worked as a Business Analyst and Principal Consultant where he developed cost/benefit proposals for new projects, assisted in launch of complex project plans to employ new business processes and to implement related operations and information technology changes.

Richard Beadon

32 84 31st Street
Apt. 1D
Astoria, NY 11106
(631) 988-8465
richiebeadon@gmail.com

- Has experience in writing government, foundation, and individual funder proposals and reports in addition to having experience writing and editing grants.
- Worked as a Development Intern at PCI Media Impact and a Grant Writing Intern at the Business Center Outreach Network

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(Term Expirations)**

Representatives from Centers for Independent Living

2023 Yesenia Torres, 215 East 99th Street, Unit 509, New York, NY 10029,
(347) 545-9012
Email: YT-Director@hotmail.com

2023 Clifton Perez, 33 Rankin Avenue, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 396-8347
Email: CPerez@ilchv.org

2022 Aileen Martin, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, 36788 NYS Route 12E,
Clayton, NY 13624, (315) 767-5643
Email: AMartin@NRCIL.Org

2022 Crystal Rivera, New York City Mayor's Office People With Disabilities (MOPWD), 55
Rutgers St. Apt. 11G, New York, NY 10002, (347) 581-8811
Email: cryz313@gmail.com

Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities

2024 Richard Beadon, 32 84 31st Street, Apt. 1D, Astoria, NY 11106, (631) 988-8465
Email: richiebeadon@gmail.com

2024 Beata Karpinska-Prehn, 1143 Cumberland Ave, Syracuse. NY 13210,
(315) 559-4669
Email: bkarpinska@ariseinc.org

2023 Kathryn Carroll, Esquire, 784 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12203, (631) 521-
3018
Email: carroll.kathryn.e@gmail.com

2023 Maria Samuels, 984 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701 (914) 968-4717 X112
Email: Marrias@wdom.org

2023 Jan Lynch, 507 Hayts Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 592.8053
Email: janlynch83@gmail.com

2022 John Zick, 962 W. 1st Street, Elmira, NY 14905 (607) 738-6111
Email: jmzick@yahoo.com

Representatives of Service Organizations for Individuals with Disabilities

- 2024 Keith Gurgui, 9 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449, (845) 256-8928
Email: kgurgui@hotmail.com
- 2023 Chad Eldred, 608 Bull Creek Road, Whitney Point, New York 13862,
(607) 768- 2517
Email: chad.eldred@gmail.com
- 2023 Marcus Johnson, 145 East 126th Street, 4D, New York, NY 10035
(212) 423-9562
Email: Johnsonmarc71@yahoo.com
- 2023 Brodie Enoch, New York, NY 10039, (347) 476-9057
Email: enoch.nysilc@gmail.org
- 2023 Meghan Parker, 22 Buckingham Drive, Albany, NY 12208, (914) 417-8651
Email: mparker@ilny.org
- 2022 Aaron Baier, , 23 Conliss Ave, Cohoes, NY 12047
Email: ABaier@ilchv.org

Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability

- 2023 Lynn Drucker, 1406 Van Nostrand Place, Merrick, NY 11566 (516) 426-0358
Email: lynndrucker1@gmail.com

CIL Representative

- 2022 Douglas Usiak, 3108 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214, (716) 836-0822 ext 117
Email: dusiak@wnyil.org

Other Appropriate Individuals

- 2024 Yaw Adu Appiadu, 922 Main Street. Unit 205, Peekskill NY 10566,
(347) 741-2878
Email: appiah222@gmail.com
- 2024 Chad W. Underwood, 126 Green Street, Syracuse, New York 13203,
(917) 756-1775
Email: chadwunderwood@gmail.com
- 2023 Stephanie Woodward, 110 Wembly Road, Rochester, NY 14616
(585) 269-9184
Email: Stephaniewoodward426@gmail.com

2023 Benjamin Davis, 804 Winterton Road, Middletown, NY 10940, (845) 807-9986
Email: benjamin.j.davis4@gmail.com

2022 Luticha Doucette, 14 Franklin Street Apartment 307, Rochester, NY 14604,
(585) 530-0574
Email: lutichadoucette@gmail.com

2022 Cynthia Alcozer, 382 Meadow Road Kings Park, NY 11754, (516) 974-6692
Email: calcozer@acmenys.org

Native American Representative

2023 Lafayette Williams, 1606 Seneca Road, Lawtons, NY 14091
(716) 245-1412
Email: Lafayette62@hotmail.com

Ex Officio (DSE)

2023 Joseph Tedesco - Manager, Independent Living Unit, New York State Education
Department, ACCES-VR, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234,
(518) 473-6829
Email: Joseph.Tedesco@nysed.gov