



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Ceylane Meyers-Ruff 
SUBJECT: Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
DATE: December 29, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Decisions (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed appointments and reappointment of members to the 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 January 2023 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 (Attachments A, B and C) and a list of the entire NYSILC (Attachment D) are attached.

Related Regents Items

December 2021: [Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1221brca1.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1221brca1.pdf>)

Recommendation

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

VOTED: that Naomi Jones be appointed for a one-year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023.

VOTED: that Michael Gilberg, Esq., be appointed for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.

VOTED: that Emily Ladau be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

VOTED: that Lindsay Miller be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

VOTED: that Sonam Willow be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

VOTED: that Barbara Goldstein be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

VOTED: that John Zick be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

VOTED: that Cynthia Alcozer be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect retroactive to January 1, 2023.

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

ACCES is recommending one new appointment, resulting from one vacancy on the council.

Naomi Jones

New York, NY 10025

917-751-3329

- Has over 22 years of civil rights, human rights, and youth advocacy experience in both private and public employment capacities.
- As an independent contractor, works as an advisor and community organizer for public interests through government, social, and private entities.

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(New Appointment for term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024)**

ACCES is recommending one new appointment, resulting from one vacancy on the council.

Michael Gilberg, Esq.

Post Office Box 26
Granite Springs, New York 10527
(914) 589-5107

- A solo practicing attorney focused on special education and disability rights law in New York and Connecticut.
- Is a member of 11 professional organizations including; Membership Committee Co-Chair National Association of Attorneys with Disabilities (NAAD), Board Member- PULSES (Parents United Learning the Special Education System of the Mid-Hudson Valley NY), Autism Spectrum News Editorial Board, New York State Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board, Westchester County Advisory Council on People with Disabilities, Disability Rights Bar Association, New York State Bar Association-Committee on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities, and Westchester County Bar Association.

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(New Appointment for term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025)**

ACCES is recommending four new appointments, resulting from four members terming off the council, as well as two reappointments of existing members.

Emily Ladau

1603 2nd Street
West Babylon, NY 11704
631-943-8822

- A strong communicator, writer, and public speaker with a decade of professional experience in disability movement-related work and a lifetime of personal experience as a physically disabled person.
- Has extensively advised on and supported strategic outreach to promote awareness and engagement about key issues pertaining to disabled people.
- A widely published writer and an editor with a keen eye for work that sparks dialogue and promotes positive change for the disability community.

Lindsay Miller

155 Washington Avenue
Suite 208
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 465-4650

- Over 14 years of experience as the Executive Director of New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) providing financial and programmatic oversight for statewide membership association of 30 Independent Living Centers.
- Develops NYAIL's annual Disability Priority Agenda (DPA) legislative and budget priorities in conjunction with NYAIL's public policy subcommittees for election reform, employment, health/long term care, housing, inclusive education, and transportation.

Sonam Willow

1626 Woolsey Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12303
518-377-6622

- Advises and advocates for individuals with disabilities to successfully receive SSI/SSDI and other health insurances.
- Has over 15 years of experience as a School-to-Work Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) guiding individuals in the development of their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Barbara Goldstein

64 Elsmere Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054
(518) 366-7662

- Has over 20 years of experience as an educator in a variety of capacities including Special Education Teacher and Director, Elementary School Principal, and Transition Services Specialist.
- Strong ability to read and evaluate research, chair meetings, develop budgets, and write grants.

John Zick

962 W. 1st Street
Elmira, NY 14905
(607) 738-6111

- Has personal and professional experience working with individuals with disabilities, with extensive familiarity in the areas of safeguards and barriers.
- Has over nine years of experience as the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government and Public Affairs at AIM Independent Living Center, a nonprofit organization that serves individuals with disabilities.

Cynthia Alcozer

382 Meadow Road
Kings Park NY 11754
(516) 974-6692

- Has over 28 years of experience advocating for individuals with disabilities including 23 years of experience developing, assessing, recruiting, supervising and approving services for individuals with developmental disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI).
- Worked as Family Service Coordinator at LiveOnNY, INC. and as Assistant Director of TBI In-Home Services at CFS, INC.

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

Representatives from Centers for Independent Living

2025 Sonam Willow, 1626 Woolsey Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12303 518-377-6622

2023 Clifton Perez, 33 Rankin Avenue, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 396-8347

Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities

2025 Emily Ladau, 1603 2nd Street, West Babylon, NY 11704
631-943-8822

2025 John Zick, 962 W. 1st Street, Elmira, NY 14905 (607) 738-6111

2024 Michael Gilberg Esq, Post Office Box 26, Granite Springs, New York 10527,
(914) 589-5107

2024 Beata Karpinska-Prehn, 1143 Cumberland Ave, Syracuse. NY 13210,
(315) 559-4669

2023 Kathryn Carroll, Esquire, 784 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12203, (631) 521-
3018

2023 Maria Samuels, 984 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701 (914) 968-4717 X112

2023 Jan Lynch, 507 Hayts Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 592.8053

Representatives of Service Organizations for Individuals with Disabilities

2025 Lindsay Miller, 155 Washington Avenue, Suite 208, Albany, NY 12210,
(518) 465-4650

2024 Keith Gurgui, 9 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449, (845) 256-8928

2023 Chad Eldred, 608 Bull Creek Road, Whitney Point, New York 13862,
(607) 768- 2517

2023 Marcus Johnson, 145 East 126th Street, 4D, New York, NY 10035
(212) 423-9562

2023 Brodie Enoch, New York, NY 10039, (347) 476-9057

2023 Vacant

Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability

Vacant

Other Appropriate Individuals

2025 Barbara Goldstein, 64 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054, (518) 366-7662

2025 Cynthia Alcozer, 382 Meadow Road Kings Park, NY 11754, (516) 974-6692

2024 Yaw Adu Appiadu, 922 Main Street. Unit 205, Peekskill NY 10566,
(347) 741-2878

2024 Chad W. Underwood, 126 Green Street, Syracuse, New York 13203,
(917) 756-1775

2023 Naomi Jones, New York, NY 10025, 917-751-3329

2023 Stephanie Woodward, 110 Wembly Road, Rochester, NY 14616
(585) 269-9184

2023 Benjamin Davis, 804 Winterton Road, Middletown, NY 10940, (845) 807-9986

2023 Yesenia Torres, 215 East 99th Street, Unit 509, New York, NY 10029,
(347) 545-9012

Native American Representative

2023 Vacant

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