



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Kevin G. Smith
SUBJECT: Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
DATE: December 5, 2011
STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 4
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Vacancies have occurred on the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC). Should the Regents approve the proposed appointments and reappointments of members to the NYSILC.

Reason 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. (NYSILC).

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Full Board at its December 2011 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 NYSILC is noted in Attachment 2.

Recommendation

VOTED: that Clinton Brown III, Helen Fang, Luis Gutierrez, Susan Hoger, Maura Kelley, and Susan Ruff be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014.

VOTED: that Kari Cooke and Marc Rosen be appointed for a two year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2013.

VOTED: that Carla Lewis-Irizarry be appointed for a one year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012.

VOTED: that Denise Figueroa, Ralph Giordano, Wendy Strobel-Gower, Michael Peluso, Melanie Shaw, and Kenneth Stewart be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect January 1, 2012.

Attachments

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

ACCES is recommending five new appointments and one reappointment resulting from expiring terms of existing members.

Clinton H. Brown III

22 California Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

(516) 343-3600

cbrown92@optonline.net

- Co-Chaired the Little People of America National Conference in 2009. The conference brought in over 2,600 attendees from 24 different countries. The event was the largest seven-day conference in LPA history.
- Initiated a local sports program for little people in the New York metro area, called the New York Towers basketball group. The basketball group has now branched into motivational speaking and doing awareness assemblies at schools for a program created known as the Beyond The Rim Experience.
- Hosted a 30-minute WPIX documentary called "Walk A Mile In My Shoes", which highlighted a day in the life of 4 students of the Viscardi School. This eye-opening documentary would go on to be shown in classrooms all over the country as an educational tool to introduce people with disabilities to public schools. Clinton won an Emmy award for his performance as Host, in 1993 at the age of 12.

Kari F. Cooke

3657 Broadway (Apt. 8-B)

New York City, NY 10031

(217) 377-3679

KariC10@yahoo.com

- Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Northern Illinois University with a focus on deaf/hard-of-hearing; graduated with Honors
- For the past four years, Kari has been employed by New York State Homes and Community Renewal Office of Rent Administration as a Housing and Community Renewal Specialist.
- While on the Board of Directors for NYC Black Deaf Advocates, she was involved in rebuilding the professional brand of the organization, and developed a schedule of events supporting the financial oversight of the organization. Additionally, Kari lent her knowledge as a lecturer for college classrooms (such as Nyack College), increasing awareness of disability culture.

Helen Fang

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- Tracked new and existing multifamily housing developments, tax credit allocations, unified funding awards, zoning changes and infrastructural developments throughout New York State for the NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Statewide Accessible Housing Registry for people with disabilities – www.nysaccessiblehousing.org, now known as www.nyhousingsearch.gov.
- Developed service plans with consumers that include annual subsidized housing re-certifications, eviction prevention, shelter placement, entitlement assistance, independent living skills training, financial management, vocational rehabilitation and housing search strategies.
- Coordinated the over "**55" Single Room Occupancy Program** (homeless reintegration program) - liaison with funders and over 30 shelter providers, trained and supervised case management aide, assessed new tenants, developed service plans, coordinate recreational activities, provided entitlement assistance, crisis intervention, and advocacy, conducted quarterly fire drills and program reporting.

Luis Gutierrez

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New York City, NY 10002
(347) 614-8221
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- Executive Board-Chair for CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities, conducting meetings throughout CUNY campuses to support students with disabilities and provided counseling. Lobbied in Albany to help generate funds, provided support and organized events throughout CUNY, Facilitated conversations with legislators to help fund programs and resources.
- Youth Leader, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, New York, NY Conducted support group meetings to discuss issues with teens and adolescents, developed creative activities to help the youth discover their talents, provided counseling and resources for the youth.
- Vocational Educational Rehabilitation Counselor: Developed job readiness assessments for individuals who are in the process of recovery, facilitated counseling groups, provided individual counseling to adults in the process of recovery from substance abuse history.

Susan J. Hoger

Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc.
727 Ulster Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-0541 ext. 11
shoger@rcal.org

- Serves as the Executive Director of the Resource Center for Accessible Living, an Independent Living Center in Kingston, NY, for the past seven years, and has worked at the center since 1998. Her leadership has led to a dramatic increase in

the center's budget and the services offered. She recently supervised the purchase and complete renovation of a new building to house the center.

- Actively advocated for systemic change in the long term care system in her community. She has worked closely with the local office for the aging and providers to develop innovative collaborative programs to serve people with disabilities of all ages who want to stay in their homes. She opposes the continued operation of the county nursing home, and has provided local policy makers with extensive information about alternatives to institutionalization and the lower costs associated, to guide these critical decisions about spending county resources.
- She is an active member of the board of directors of the New York Association on Independent Living and chairs board finance and membership committees. She is also a member of the government liaison and public policy committees, both of which guide the development of NYAIL's policy positions and strategy to advance those positions to state policy makers.

Carla Lewis-Irizarry

147 5th Avenue, Apt. # 4-A
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(917) 346-7611

Carlalewis34@gmail.com

- Has over a decade of professional experience working in the public sector, as a former social worker with the City of New York Administration for Children's Services where she provided support and advocacy services to foster care children and their families.
- Her efforts have led to the Founding of the Able Forces Club in 1993, a Disability Club for teaching awareness about disability issues to disabled/non-disabled students in the college community, assistance of the MPA Student Association and workshops to address the educational and accommodation needs of individuals with disabilities.
- Credentials include a BA in Forensic Psychology, certificate in Dispute Resolution, and a MPA from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and currently, the pursuit of a Masters of Arts degree in Disabilities Studies at the City University of New York Graduate Center, School of Professional Studies (SPS). Her educational journey does not stop there but continues with the pursuit of her PhD in Disability Studies with an emphasis on public policy and administration.

Maura Kelley, CPRP

3108 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214
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mkelley@wnyil.org

- Currently serves on several Board of Directors and committees representing people with psychiatric disabilities. Committees include the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and the Mental Health Empowerment Project Board of Directors, a member of the Erie County Community Services Board, and

executive member of the Restoration Society, Inc, Spectrum Human Services, and Mental Health Empowerment Board of Directors.

- Runs a large agency program whose primary goal is to address these issues and has been very successful in assisting in these endeavors, serving over 1500 people with disabilities per year. Advocacy includes employment, community living, and de-institutionalization of people with disabilities.
- Provided testimony to the National Council on Disability regarding Restraints and Seclusion. 2000, Publication of Testimony in report to the President of the United States.

Marc Rosen

241 Walnut Road.

Glen Cove, NY 11542.

(516) 458-2161.

marc.rosen88@gmail.com.

- Provides consultant and advocacy services to families of youth with disabilities, lessons in self-advocacy for teenaged clients, and assist in talks at IEP and CSE meetings at schools to ensure better outcomes for students.
- Eight plus years direct advocacy experience, beginning with self-directing own high-school education from age 14 onward in order to minimize an abusive parent's influence. Self-taught education law, and disability law.
- Member of YouthPower! and National Youth Leadership Network.

Susan Ruff

6 Kolb Road.

Binghamton, NY 13905

(607) 761-7557

advocate@stic-cil.org.

- For ten years served as Director of the Supported Employment program (Job Connections) at Southern Tier Independence Center in Binghamton, NY. The program focused on helping persons with the most severe disabilities find jobs they wanted.
- Coordinated the Mid-South Early Childhood Direction Center, working with families of young children. In addition to support for new parents, the ECDC developed a vast cadre of trainers for early childhood educators over a large geographic region and developed partnerships with NYSED staff, local school districts, and preschool providers which have continued to grow.
- Has planned, coordinated, presented, and served as a panelist for numerous workshops, conferences, government hearings, college classes in NY, RI, and Washington, DC on a broad range of topics related to services for people with disabilities.

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

Center for Independent Living Director

2014 Denise A. Figueroa (Chair), 1064 New Loudon Road, Cohoes, NY 12047, (518) 785-8295 V, E-mail: dfigueroa@ilchv.org

Representatives from Centers for Independent Living

2013 Chad Underwood (Treasurer), Access to Independence of Cortland County, 26 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-7363 V & TTY, (607) 756-4884 Fax, Email: cwunderwood@aticortland.org

2014 Susan Hoger, Resource Center for Accessible Living, 727 Ulster Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401, (845) 331-0541 V, (845) 331-2076 Fax, E-mail: shoger@rcal.org

2014 Susan Ruff, Advocacy Director, Southern Tier Independence Center, 135 East Frederick Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, (607) 724-2111 V & TTY, (607) 722-3600 Fax, Email: advocate@stic-cil.org

Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities

2014 Kenneth L. Stewart, 34 Points of View, Warwick, NY 10990, (845) 986-2955 V, E-mail: cclvi@yahoo.com

2013 Brett Eisenberg, Executive Director, Bronx Independent Living Services, Inc, 4419 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, (718) 515-2800 ext 116 V, Email: brett@bils.org

2014 Helen Fang, PO Box 980, New York, NY 10013, (917) 957-1871 V, Email: hfang88@gmail.com

2014 Maura Kelley, Western New York Independent Living, 3108 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214, (716) 836-0822 ext 162 V, Email: mkelley@wnyil.org

2013 Shelley Klein, PhD, 227 Norman Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804, (914) 632-4916 V, Email: accwest@aol.com

2012 Carla Lewis-Irizarry, 147 Fifth Avenue, Apt 4A, Brooklyn, NY 11217, (917) 346-7611 V, Email: carlalewis34@gmail.com

Representatives of Service Organizations for Individuals with Disabilities

2013 Kari Cooke, 739 West 186th Street, 4E, New York, NY 10033-8527, Phone: (212) 781-8309, E-mail: emprentiss@juno.com

2014 Wendy Strobel (Member-at-Large), MS, CRC, ATP, Faculty, DBTAC Northeast ADA Center, 203 ILR Extension Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853, Phone: (716) 713-6038, E-mail: ws283@cornell.edu

2012 Susan (Storms) Gray (Vice Chair), 2765 Green Street, Weedsport, NY 13166, (315) 834-6241 V, Email: sstorms1@bci.net

2014 Luis Gutierrez, 670 Water Street, Apt 5A, New York, NY 10002, (347) 614-8221 V, Email: lui3185@aol.com

Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability

2012 Lynn Drucker, Director of Development, Winthrop University Hospital, 1406 Van Nostrand Place Merrick, New York 11566, (516) 426-0358 V, Email: lynndrucker@verizon.net

2012 David Whalen, Disability Awareness Trainer/Consultant, 74 Fleetwood, Williamsville, NY 14221, (716) 565-9338 V, E-mail: davidvwhalen@yahoo.com

Native American Section 121 Project Representative

VACANT

Youth Representative

2013 Marc Rosen, 241 Walnut Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542, (516) 458-2161 V, marc.rosen88@gmail.com

Other appropriate individuals

2013 Capt. Luis Carlos Montalvan, 512 W. 112th Street, Apt 2A, New York, NY 10025, (719) 291-2540 V, Email: luiscarlosmontalvan@hotmail.com

2014 Ralph Giordano, 51 Creekside Circle, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033-3206, Phone: (518) 477-7235, E-mail: rgiordan@webtv.net

2014 Melanie Shaw, Executive Director, New York Association for Independent Living, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 806A, Albany, NY 12210, Phone: (518) 465-4650, E-mail: mshaw@ilny.org

2014 Clinton Brown III, 22 California Street, Hicksville, NY 11801, (516) 343-3600, E-mail: cbrown92@optonline.net

Business

2012 Jerrie Gamble-Henderson, 400 Brunswick Drive, 10-6, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 326-1228 V, Email: jgamble@nycap.rr.com

Ex Officio (DSU)

- 2014 Michael Peluso, Coordinator of Interagency, Legislative & Community Relations, NYS Education Department ACCES-VR, 99 Washington Avenue, Rm.1605, Albany, New York 12234, (518) 474-2925 V, (518) 473-6073 Fax, Email: mpeluso@mail.nysed.gov
- 2013 Julie Cardone, CRC-Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH), 445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 503, White Plains, NY 10601, (914) 993-5370 V, (914) 993-0238 Fax, Email: julie.cardone@ocfs.state.ny.us