



**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 8, 2014

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**   
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for 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 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 item will come before the Full Board at its December 2014 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 Joseph Bravo be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that Jose Gonzalez be appointed for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that Lindsay Miller be appointed for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that Suzanne Peters be appointed for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that Melba Torres be appointed for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that George Hoehmann be appointed for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** Helen Fang, Robert Gumson, Julie Cardone, Luis Gutierrez, Sue Hoger, Maura Kelley, and Sue Ruff be reappointed for a second three-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

**VOTED:** that Henry Nixon, Jr., be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2017.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect January 1, 2015.

Attachments

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

ACCES is recommending six new appointments and eight reappointments resulting from expiring terms of existing members.

**Joe Bravo**

P.O. Box 6  
Central Valley, NY 10917  
(914) 980-1699  
[jbravo297@aol.com](mailto:jbravo297@aol.com)

- Executive Director of the Westchester Independent Living Center, from 1981 to present. This organization provides a community-based, consumer-directed advocacy and resource center that services people of all ages with all types of disabilities.
- Responsible for establishing a free standing Mental Health Consumer Empowerment Center in Westchester County.
- Served as the chairperson of the New York Association on Independent Living.

**Jose Gonzalez**

450 Windmill Avenue  
West Babylon, NY 11704  
(631) 661-2354  
[gonmancia@gmail.com](mailto:gonmancia@gmail.com)

- Served as an intern for NYS Assemblyman Rafael L. Espinal, Jr., and for NYS Assemblywoman Joan Millman, gaining a deeper understanding of advocacy, through council work and state politics, helping to coordinate and advocate for a technology center which aided in making senior citizens technologically savvy.
- Served as an advocate for United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk, volunteering to help further awareness of Cerebral Palsy, and tried to expand funding to fulfill the needs of this segment of the community.

**Lindsay A. Miller**

64 Hollywood Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208  
(646) 641-8930  
[lmiller@ilny.org](mailto:lmiller@ilny.org)

- Executive Director of the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL), a membership organization representing Independent Living Centers in New York State.
- Has provided coordination and oversight of NYAIL's public policy subcommittees for election reform, employment, health/long term care, housing, inclusive education, and transportation, working with issue area experts in and outside of

the IL network to develop priorities and determine action steps to meet the committee's legislative and administrative goals.

- Serves as a member of the Medicaid Redesign Team's Affordable Housing workgroup, assisting the State in its efforts to increase housing options for New Yorkers with disabilities.

**Suzanne Peters**

459 Columbus Avenue, #135  
New York City, NY 10024  
(917) 328-2758  
[sdp5@caa.columbia.edu](mailto:sdp5@caa.columbia.edu)

- Has been an advocate for children with special needs and families for ten years.
- Has served on several crisis management teams (Red Cross, Delta Airlines) and has worked in operations and compliance for 15 years.
- Is a member of the ARISE Coalition – an organization that strives to compel systemic reform to improve special education, promote greater transparency and accountability of the education system, and assure positive outcomes and options for all students.

**Melba Torres**

40 Avenue D, Apt. 8-A  
New York City, NY 10009  
(212) 979-0913  
[No email address]

- President of Uniquely Able Consulting Corp, a for-profit corporation to serve as a liaison between corporate entities and those with disabilities.
- Former Executive Director of Nuestras Familias, a social service that serves Hispanic families of school age children with disabilities. Networked with other agencies, parents and school district personnel to guarantee student access to entitlements, physical, speech and occupational therapy, academic support, family intervention and counseling and any other necessary service.

**George Hoehmann**

5 Lake Shore Drive  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
(845) 624-1366  
[ghoehmann@rilc.org](mailto:ghoehmann@rilc.org)

- Executive Director of Rockland Independent Living Center, a cross disability consumer directed not-for-profit agency serving persons with various disabilities. Responsible for all aspects of agency and program operations including; Board development, capacity building, program development and expansion. Oversees and administers an annual budget of \$8.6 million with 280 employees.
- Former Chief Operating Officer of Camp Venture, an organization facilitating care of emotionally and developmentally disadvantaged individuals.

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

**Center for Independent Living Director**

2017 Joe Bravo, P.O. Box 6, Central Valley, NY 10917, (914) 980-1699  
Email: [jbravo297@aol.com](mailto:jbravo297@aol.com)

**Representatives from Centers for Independent Living**

2016 Brett Eisenberg, Executive Director, Bronx Independent Living Services, Inc.,  
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2017 Maura Kelley, Western New York Independent Living, 3108 Main Street, Buffalo,  
NY 14214, (716) 836-0822 ext. 162, Email: [mkelley@wnyil.org](mailto:mkelley@wnyil.org)

**Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities**

2014 Melba Torres, 40 Avenue D, Apt. 8-A, New York City, NY 10009, (212) 979-  
0913 E-mail: [No email address]

2017 Susan Hoger (Treasurer), Resource Center for Accessible Living, 727 Ulster  
Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401, (845) 331-0541, E-mail: [shoger@rcal.org](mailto:shoger@rcal.org)

2017 Susan Ruff, Advocacy Director, Southern Tier Independence Center, 135 East  
Frederick Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, (607) 724-2111  
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2017 Helen Fang, PO Box 980, New York, NY 10013, (917) 957-1871,  
Email: [hfang88@gmail.com](mailto:hfang88@gmail.com)

2016 Shelley Klein, Ph.D. (Vice Chair), 227 Norman Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804,  
(914) 632-4916, Email: [accwest@aol.com](mailto:accwest@aol.com)

2015 Carla Lewis-Irizarry, 147 Fifth Avenue, Apt. 4-A, Brooklyn, NY 11217, (917) 346-  
7611, Email: [carlalewis34@gmail.com](mailto:carlalewis34@gmail.com)

## **Representatives of Service Organizations for Individuals with Disabilities**

- 2016 Chad Underwood (Chair), Access to Independence of Cortland County, 26 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045, (607) 753-7363  
Email: [cwunderwood@aticortland.org](mailto:cwunderwood@aticortland.org)
- 2017 Lindsey Miller 64 Hollywood Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, (646) 641-8930  
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- 2017 George Hoehmann 5 Lake Shore Drive, Nanuet, NY 10954, (845) 624-1366  
Email: [ghoehmann@rilc.org](mailto:ghoehmann@rilc.org)
- 2015 Susan Gray, 8135 Shepherd Road, Weedsport, NY 13166, (315) 730-6845  
Email: [scsrcg09@gmail.com](mailto:scsrcg09@gmail.com)
- 2017 Luis Gutierrez, 670 Water Street, Apt. 5A, New York, NY 10002, (347) 614-8221  
Email: [luis3185@aol.com](mailto:luis3185@aol.com)

## **Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability**

- 2015 Lynn Drucker, Director of Development, Winthrop University Hospital, 1406 Van Nostrand Place Merrick, NY 11566, (516) 426-0358  
Email: [lynndrucker@verizon.net](mailto:lynndrucker@verizon.net)
- 2015 David Whalen, Disability Awareness Trainer/Consultant, 74 Fleetwood, Williamsville, NY 14221, (716) 565-9338, E-mail: [davidvwhalen@yahoo.com](mailto:davidvwhalen@yahoo.com)

## **Native American Section 121 Project Representative**

- 2015 Nicole David, PO Box 362, Rooseveltown, NY 13683, (518) 358-6176  
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## **Youth Representative**

- 2016 Marc Rosen, 241 Walnut Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542, (516) 458-2161  
E-mail: [marc.rosen88@gmail.com](mailto:marc.rosen88@gmail.com)

## **Other Appropriate Individuals**

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(917) 328-2758 E-mail: [sdp5@caa.columbia.edu](mailto:sdp5@caa.columbia.edu)
- 2017 Henry Nixon, 1791 Bruckner Boulevard, Apt. # 1-G, Bronx, NY 10472,  
(917) 450-3634, E-mail: [mrhenrynixon@aol.com](mailto:mrhenrynixon@aol.com)

2017 Jose Gonzalez, 450 Windmill Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704, (631) 661-2354  
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2016 Zachery Garafalo, 737 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, (518) 708-9930  
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### **Business**

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### **Ex Officio (DSU)**

2017 Robert Gumson, Manager, Independent Living Program, New York State Education Department, ACCES-VR, 89 Washington Avenue, EBA Rm. 580, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-2925 Email: [rgumson@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:rgumson@mail.nysed.gov)

2017 Julie Cardone CRC, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, New York State Commission for the Blind, 843 Union Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 200, New Windsor, NY 12553, (646) 660-1789, Email: [julie.cardone@ocfs.ny.us](mailto:julie.cardone@ocfs.ny.us)