



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: Kevin G. Smith 

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

DATE: December 7, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S):



SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Vacancies have occurred on the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC). We are seeking the review and approval of the proposed appointments and reappointments of members to NYSILC by the Board of Regents.

Reason(s) for Consideration

The Rehabilitation Act requires 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 2015 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 Denise DiNoto be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

VOTED: that Robert Meek be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

VOTED: that Ann Scherff be appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

VOTED: that Clifton Perez be appointed to fill a two-year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2017.

VOTED: that Edith Prentiss be appointed to fill a two-year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2017.

VOTED: that Keith Gurgui be appointed to fill a two-year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2017.

VOTED: that Douglas Usiak be appointed to fill a one-year unexpired term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016.

VOTED: that Roger Benn be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect January 1, 2016.

Attachments

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

ACCES is recommending four new appointments and one reappointment resulting from unexpired terms of existing members. ACCES is recommending three new appointments resulting from expired terms of existing members.

Denise DiNoto

202 Fairfax Row
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 694-6744
mwny01@gmail.com

- Has extensive experience in the development of more inclusive public health policies and programs through employment at the New York State Department of Health's Disability and Health Program.
- Currently works for a fiscal intermediary of consumer directed personal assistance services in the Capital region.

Robert Meek

7980 Co. Rd. 153
Interlaken, NY 14847
(607) 532-8559
robert.w.meek50@gmail.com

- Has over 25 years as an attorney specializing in protection and advocacy for people with all disabilities in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- Has litigated numerous cases on behalf of citizens with disabilities to improve access to community life and community based service delivery.

Ann Scherff

8319 East Main Road
LeRoy, NY 14482
(585) 768 2759
alscherff@aol.com

- A parent of three sons with disabilities.
- Serves as a support service broker and as Board President of the Independent Living Center of the Genesee Region.
- Also serves as Chair of the Western New York Family Support Service Advisory Council and as regional representative on the New York State Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Family Support Service Advisory Council.

Clifton Perez

33 Rankin Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 396-8347
cperez@ilchv.org

- 30 years of work as an advocate for persons with disabilities including over ten years as a Systems Advocate at the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley and eleven years at the Capital District Center for Independence as the Client Assistance Program representative.
- Currently serves as representative for the National Council for Independent Living's Region II representing New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Edith Prentiss

739 W 186 St, 4E
New York, NY 10033
(917) 733-3794
edith@disabledinaction.org

- Has diverse leadership experience throughout New York City in emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, transportation access including serving as the Chair of the New York City Taxis for All Campaign and as Vice Chair of the New York City Chapter of Disabled in Action.
- Recently involved in organization and promotion of New York City's Disability Pride Parade Committee to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Keith Gurgui

9 Corwin Place
Lake Katrine, NY 12449
(845) 532-7076
kgurgui@rcal.org

- Served as a regional Systems Advocate in the Ulster County area for the past four years bringing public awareness to legislation and other issues affecting full integration of people with disabilities.
- Has been a public speaker about spinal cord injury, a peer mentor for Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Center for newly spinal cord injured individuals and was recently awarded advocate of the year for Region II by the National Council on Independent Living.

Douglas Usiak

3108 Main St

Buffalo, NY 14214

(716) 836-0822 ext 117

dusiak@wnyil.org

- Executive Director of Western New York Independent Living since 1983 with vast experience in independent living research, evaluation, focus group facilitation, organizational development and knowledge transfer.
- Served as Principal for the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research's Research and Training Center on Independent Living Management from 2000 – 2007.

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

Center for Independent Living Director Chosen by Other Directors

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

Representatives from Centers for Independent Living

2016 Brett Eisenberg Executive Director, Bronx Independent Living Services, Inc.,
4419 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457, (718) 515-2800 ext. 116
Email: brett@bils.org

2017 Clifton Perez 33 Rankin Avenue, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 396-8347
Email: cperez@ilchv.org

Advocates for Individuals with Disabilities

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

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

2017 Susan Ruff Advocacy Director, Southern Tier Independence Center, 135 East
Frederick Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, (607) 724-2111
Email: advocate@stic-cil.org

2017 Helen Fang 240 State Street, # 2192, Albany, NY 12220, (917) 957-1871
Email: hfang888@gmail.com

2018 Carla Lewis-Irizarry M.P.A. M.A. 147 5th Avenue, Apt. # 4A, Brooklyn, NY 11217
Email: Carlalewis34@gmail.com

2017 Keith Gurgui 9 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449, (845) 532-7076
Email: kgurgui@rcal.org

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

2017 Lindsey Miller 64 Hollywood Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, (646) 641-8930
Email: miller@ilny.org

2017 George Hoehmann 5 Lake Shore Drive, Nanuet, NY 10954, (845) 624-1366
Email: ghoehmann@rilc.org

2017 Luis Gutierrez 670 Water Street, Apt. 5A, New York, NY 10002, (347) 614-8221
Email: lui3185@aol.com

2018 Denise DiNoto 202 Fairfax Row, Waterford, NY 12188, (518) 694-6744
Email: mwny01@gmail.com

Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability

2018 Ann Scherff 8319 East Main Road , LeRoy, NY 14482, (585) 768 2759
Email: alscherff@aol.com

Native American Program Representative

2016 Douglas Usiak 3108 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214, (716) 836-0822 ext 117
Email: dusiak@wnyil.org

Youth Representative

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

Other Appropriate Individuals

2016 Zachery Garafalo 737 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, (518) 708-9930
E-mail: zgarafalo@youthpowerny.org

2017 Henry Nixon 1791 Bruckner Boulevard, Apt. # 1-G, Bronx, NY 10472,
(917) 450-3634
E-mail: mrhenrynixon@aol.com

2017 Martin Abril 450 Windmill Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704, (631) 661-2354
E-mail: gonmancia@gmail.com

2017 Edith Prentiss 739 W 186 St, 4E, New York, NY 10033, (917) 733-3794
Email: edith@disabledinaction.org

2018 Robert Meek 7980 Co. Rd. 153, Interlaken, NY 14847, (607) 532-8559

Email: robert.w.meek50@gmail.com

Business

2018 Roger Benn 55 Farnham Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 569-3654
E-mail: rogerbenn1@gmail.com

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: robert.Gumson@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, 2nd Floor, Suite 200, New Windsor, NY 12553, (646) 660-1789
Email: julie.cardone@ocfs.ny.us