



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Ceylane Meyers-Ruff *Ceylane Meyers-Ruff*

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

**DATE:** February 29, 2024

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Bellamy*

### SUMMARY

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed appointments 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 March 2024 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

Each year, as vacancies occur, the Board of Regents approves recommendations to fill such vacancies.

#### **Background Information**

Information on the proposed appointee (Attachment A) and a list of the entire NYSILC (Attachment B) are attached.

#### **Related Regent's Items**

December 2023: [Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223brca1.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223brca1.pdf>)

## **Recommendation**

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

VOTED: That Lisa Gesson be appointed for a 1 year 9-month unexpired term beginning April 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidate, the appointment will go into effect April 1, 2024.

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.  
(New Appointment for term April 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025)**

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

**Lisa Gesson**

- As the Operations Manager at the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, assisted in fiscal management and development, performed human resource functions throughout hiring, training and management cycles, maintain insurance, leave and other human resource benefits for staff.
- As the National Program Director at the Youth Service Opportunities Project, directed 175 service projects annually with Program Managers, Fellows, and 35 intermittent workers, coordinated volunteer service with 60 faith-based community agencies.

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

**Representatives from Centers for Independent Living**

- 2026 Jennifer Shippee, 28 Sherrick Drive, Lake George, NY 12845
- 2026 Isabelle Alexander-Klaboe, 131 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13503
- 2025 Rasheta Bunting, 902 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236
- 2025 Sonam Willow, 1626 Woolsey Street, Schenectady, NY 12303
- 2025 Lisa Gesson, 110-11 Queens Boulevard #31 E, Forest Hills, NY 11375

**Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities**

- 2026 Lisa Ackerman-Todt, 178 Currybush Road, Schenectady, NY 12306
- 2026 Susan Ruff, 6 Kolb Road, Binghamton, NY 13905
- 2025 Vacant
- 2025 John Zick, 962 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Elmira, NY
- 2024 Michael Gilberg Esq, Post Office Box 26, Granite Springs, NY 10527
- 2024 Beata Karpinska-Prehn, 1143 Cumberland Ave, Syracuse. NY 13210

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

- 2026 Leanna Leroy, 328 Milstrip Road, Irving, NY 14081
- 2026 Brodie Enoch, 247 West 145<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10039
- 2026 Marcus Johnson, 145 East 126<sup>th</sup> Street, 4D, New York, NY 10035
- 2025 Lindsay Miller, 155 Washington Avenue, Suite 208, Albany, NY 12210
- 2024 Mariah Sepulveda, 4419 Third Avenue #2C, Bronx, NY 10457
- 2024 Keith Gurgui, 9 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449

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

2026 Michele Juda, 500 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304

### **Other Appropriate Individuals**

2026 Naomi Jones, 106 West 145<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10039

2026 Louis A Paniccioli, 44 President Street, Staten Island, NY 10314

2026 Yesenia Torres, 215 East 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 509, New York, NY 10029

2026 Stephanie Woodward, 110 Wembly Road, Rochester, NY 14616

2025 Barbara Goldstein, 64 Elsmere Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054

2025 Cynthia Alcozer, 382 Meadow Road Kings Park, NY 11754

2024 Yaw Adu Appiadu, 922 Main Street. Unit 205, Peekskill NY 10566

### **American Indian/Indigenous Person Representative**

2026 Jacqueline John, 313 Jamestown Street, Gowanda, NY 14070

### **Ex Officio (DSE)**

2026 Joseph Tedesco - Manager, Independent Living Unit, New York State Education Department, ACCES-VR, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234