





**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Ceylane Meyers-Ruff   
**SUBJECT:** Appointment to the New York State Rehabilitation Council  
**DATE:** January 28, 2021  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Two vacancies have occurred on the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). We are seeking the review and approval of the proposed appointments of members of the SRC by the Board of Regents.

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

The Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the Board of Regents to appoint members to the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

**Proposed Handling**

This item will come before the Full Board at its February 2021 meeting.

**Procedural History**

As vacancies on the SRC occur, the Board of Regents approves recommendations to fill such vacancies.

**Background Information**

Information on the proposed appointees is noted in Attachment 1.

**Related Regent's Items**

[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments November 2020](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1120brca1.pdf)  
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1120brca1.pdf>

## **Recommendation**

**VOTED:** Brenda Shannon, the newly designated Client Assistance Program (CAP) representative, be appointed for an ongoing term beginning upon the approval of the Board of Regents.

**VOTED:** Andrew Sink, newly designated New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) representative, be appointed an ex-officio member for an ongoing term beginning upon the approval of the Board of Regents.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Upon approval by the Board of Regents of the recommended candidates, the appointments will go into effective as of March 1, 2021.

Attachments

## **Attachment 1**

### **New York State Rehabilitation Council**

(New appointment for ongoing term beginning March 1, 2021)

#### **Representative of the Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

Brenda Shannon

Client Assistance Program Advocate

- Advocates and provides technical assistance to individuals with disabilities about their rights and benefits with respect to vocational rehabilitation services
- Assists individuals seeking administrative remedies for their concerns and negotiates solutions with ACCES-VR
- Researches and applies relevant law and policy to an individual's case to ensure that their rights are protected
- Conducts outreach and education for individuals with disabilities

#### **Representative of New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)**

Andrew Sink

New York Employment Services System (NYESS)-Director of Employment Policy

- Responsible for the continuous quality improvement pertaining to the design, functionality, usability, and training of the New York Employment Services Support System (NYESS)
- Director of the Statewide Ticket-to-Work Administrative Employment Network
- Coordination of the NYS PROMISE (Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income) Statewide Steering Committee, including Cornell University and the following New York State agencies: Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Health (DOH), Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), Office for Children and Family Services-Commission for the Blind, and the State Education Department-ACCES-VR
- Ongoing technical assistance for all project partners, including program fidelity, case management, service delivery and utilization of program specific online data tracking, case management and service delivery systems

## **Attachment 2**

### **New York State Rehabilitation Council**

Current Members (Effective January 1, 2021)

**Ellice Switzer**, Chair, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Ithaca, NY*

**Joseph M. Delgado**, Co-Vice Chair, representing Disability Advocacy Group  
*Holtsville, NY*

**Susan Scheer**, Co-Vice Chair, representing Community Rehabilitation Service  
Providers  
*New York, NY*

**Joseph Amodeo**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*New York, NY*

**Naomi Brickel**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Valhalla, NY*

**Megan Brown**, representing the New York State Education Department/Special  
Education (NYSED) responsible for the public education of students with disabilities  
who are eligible to receive services  
*Albany, NY*

**Sebastian Chittilappilly**, representing Disability Advocacy Group  
*Bronx, NY*

**Alan Gallagher**, representing the New York State Department Labor (DOL) State  
Workforce Investment Board  
*Albany, NY*

**Valarie Gambino-Carelli**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Kingston, NY*

**Kathleen Grosvenor**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Nancy Grant**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Canandaigua, NY*

**Miranda Harms**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Rochester, NY*

**Jenny Hutkowski**, representing a Parent Training and Information Center  
*Rochester, NY*

**Gregory Lau**, representing Transition Educational Services  
*Pelham, NY*

**Jennifer M. Machucki**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Williamsville, NY*

**Chana Meir**, representing Current or Former Applicant for, or Recipient of, Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
*Syracuse, NY*

**Anthony Morano**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Syracuse, NY*

**Hillary Nichols**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Kingston, NY*

**Evelyn Pugh**, representing a Parent Training and Information Center and Current or Former Applicant for, or Recipient of, Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Robert Statham**, representing Disability Advocacy Groups A Cross Section of Individuals  
*Rochester, NY*

**Toni Sullivan**, representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers  
*Getzville, NY*

#### **Non-Voting Members, Ex-Officio Members, and State Partners**

**Ceylane Meyers-Ruff**, representing the New York State Education Department - Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

**Melinda Dolezal**, representing the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

**Peter Herrig**, representing the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYCB)

**Lynne Thibdeau**, representing the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)