



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 Rehabilitation Council  
**DATE:** January 18, 2011  
**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Goal 4  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

### **SUMMARY**

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

Vacancies have occurred on the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Should the Regents approve the proposed appointments and reappointments of members to the SRC?

#### **Reason for Consideration**

The 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, require 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 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 SRC is noted in Attachment 2.

### Recommendation

**VOTED:** that Wendy Strobel, Mira Bowin, LaWanda Cook, and Sophie McDermott be appointed for terms beginning March 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2013 and that Susan Barlow, Lisa Bayer, Joan McGovern and Marianne Murphy be reappointed for terms beginning March 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2013.

### Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will go into effect March 1, 2011.

### Attachments

**New York State Rehabilitation Council  
(New Appointments for the term March 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013)**

**Representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council (NYSILC)**

**Wendy Strobel, MS, CRC, ATP**

Faculty, DBTAC Northeast ADA Center  
203 ILR Extension Bldg  
Ithaca, NY 14853

- Faculty/Director, Cornell University, Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) – Northeast ADA Center. Build and maintain collaborative working relationships between the DBTAC – Northeast ADA Center, the business community and disability agencies including Independent Living Centers, Community Rehabilitation Providers, and other consumer groups. Develop online learning opportunities to promote the knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability rights. Outline and prepare web-based materials and content for the Train-the-Trainer Network, the CNY Business Leadership Network, and the DBTAC-Northeast ADA Center.
- Director of Training, University at Buffalo, Technology Transfer Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center. Design, develop, and conduct training activities for the academic community, industry partners, and technology developers. Conduct market research on product design and emerging technologies. (2003-2007)
- Education Consultant/Assistive Technology Specialist, George Mason University, Kellar Institute, Region IV Training and Technical Assistance Center. Design, development, and implementation of training curricula and provision of technical assistance to school personnel and human service agencies in the areas of assistive technology and transition from school to work for children with disabilities. Perform evaluations and make recommendations for technology devices, hardware, and software programs to maximize education outcomes for students with disabilities. Served on multiple state transition services boards including the Virginia Interagency Transition Council, the Transition Leadership Council and the Transition Practitioners Council. (2002-2003)

**Representatives of community rehabilitation program service providers**

**Mira L. Bowin**

One Columbia Place  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 527-1013

- Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. Provides training and technical assistance to mental health provider agencies operating PROS (Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services) programs including consultation around employment services, economic self-sufficiency, work incentives and benefits, and effective service delivery. (2009-present)
- Vocational Coordinator/Employment Specialist, Gateway Community Industries, Inc., Kingston, NY. Developed and marketed services to the community, clients and clinicians, counseled individuals in treatment on vocational issues, taught job-seeking and other skills, kept daily records and calculated statistics monthly, acted as liaison and worked in partnership with clinic advocate, clinicians, community mental health agencies and clinic administration.
- Job Developer, Gateway Community Industries, Inc., Kingston, NY. Instructed classes and developed a curriculum on work readiness and role identification, developed work opportunities for individuals seeking employment through approaching local employers and networking at community functions, attended conferences and trainings as needed and acted as an agency advocate on occasion. (2008-2010)

### **Certified vocational rehabilitation counselor**

#### **LaWanda H. Cook, M.S., CRC**

317-A Troy Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(217) 840-0935

- Extension Associate/Trainer, Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute, Ithaca, NY. Create and present training about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), employment, and quality of life of persons with disabilities. Customize sessions to meet the needs of various audiences including employers, service providers, and individuals with disabilities. Assist with grant writing, research and scholarly publication. (2010-present)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor/Senior Vocational Counselor, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Hartford, CT. Provided clinical supervision and one-to-one and group training to as many as 12 counselors in five locations throughout the state. Counseled cross disability consumers in the development of fiscally responsible solutions to their long-term employment and independent living needs. Managed a caseload of 85-110 cases with a high percentage of substance abusers and individuals with acquired brain injury. (1992-2006)
- Executive Director, Voluntary Action Center of Southeastern CT, Norwich, CT. Managed \$100,000 budget, identified and secured funding from various sources, supervised clerical staff and college interns, interviewed and matched potential volunteers (with and without disabilities), court-ordered service workers, and college interns with community organizations within the 22 towns of New London

County, and provided management training and technical assistance to non-profit agencies. (1991-1992)

**Representative of the State educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities who are eligible to receive services**

**Sophie McDermott**

New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

- Assistant in the Education of Children with Disabilities, NYS Education Department, Albany, New York. Within the Program Development and Support Services Unit, responsible for contract management of several projects funded by IDEA dollars. Collaborate with federally funded national centers to develop and receive technical assistance on secondary transition and accessible instructional materials. (2007 - Present)
- School Psychologist, Clover Patch Preschool, Center for Disability Services, Albany, NY. Responsible for the psycho-educational evaluations of children ages birth through five and served as evaluation and program representative to the local area Committees on Preschool Special Education. Consulted with teachers on classroom management techniques, conducted functional behavioral assessments and created behavior intervention plans. Trained administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals on topics and issues related to preschool special education. (2000 – 2007)
- School Psychologist, New Meadow Saratoga School, Malta, NY. Responsible for the psycho-educational evaluations of children ages birth through five. Created an informational package for families that explained the evaluation and Committee on Preschool Special Education process. Consulted with teachers on classroom management techniques, with a focus on working with children with autism. Part of a planning and implementation team designed specifically for children with autism to address progress both at home and at school. (1998 – 2000)

**State Rehabilitation Council  
(Term Expirations)**

**Representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council (NYSILC)**

2013 Wendy Strobel, Faculty, DBTAC Northeast ADA Center, 203 ILR Extension Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853

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

2012 Lisa Rosano, Coordinator, NYS Client Assistance Program, 401 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305

**Representative of a Parent Training and Information Center established pursuant to the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA)**

2013 Susan Barlow, Director of Parent Training, Parent Network of WNY, 5 Frontenac Avenue, Buffalo NY, 14216

**Certified vocational rehabilitation counselors**

2011 Tamar Asedo Sherman, Employment Specialist, Nassau BOCES, 24 Fransal Court, Northport, NY 11768-2901

2013 LaWanda H. Cook, M.S., CRC, 317-A Troy Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850

**Representatives of community rehabilitation program service providers**

2013 Lisa Bayer, Deputy Director of Community Services, LDA Life and Learning Services, 339 East Avenue, Suite 420, Rochester, NY 14625

2011 Tina Conneely, Associate Director of Epilepsy Life Links, Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group, 390 Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY 10941

2012 Scott Ebner, Director of Operations, Onondaga Case Management Services, Inc., 220 Herald Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202

2011 Patricia McKay, Assistant Executive Director, New York State Association of Retarded Citizens, 99 Pine Street, Albany, NY 12207

2011 Ernestine Daniels McElvene, Rehabilitation Service Coordinator, Northeast Career Planning, PO Box 2375, Malta, NY 12020

2012 Francine Tishman, Employment Consultant, 83 Glendale Road, Southhampton, MA 01073

2013 Mira L. Bowin, One Columbia Place, Albany, NY 12207

### **Representatives of business, industry, and labor**

2011 John DeCamilla, Jr., President of The Academy for Career Development, Inc., 1349 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

2011 Kyle Goodridge, Vice President, Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Manager, Citigroup, 77-11 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 1R, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

2013 Joan McGovern, Vice President, JP Morgan Chase, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, 20th floor, New York, NY 10005

2013 Marianne Murphy, Sr. Associate, Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute, Industrial and Labor Relations, 71 Onondaga St., Skaneateles, NY 13152

### **Representatives of disability advocacy groups**

2011 Gregory Bell, Executive Director, Insight for New Housing, 905 Eagle Avenue, Apt. #4M, Bronx, NY 10456

2011 Susan Dooha, J.D., Executive Director, Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York, 841 Broadway, New York, NY 10003

2012 Patricia Dowse, Chief Operating Officer, New York State Rehabilitation Association, 203 Shereen Court, Schenectady, NY 12304

2012 Kathy Hoffman, Coordinator of Special Services, Erie Community College, 4041 Southwestern Blvd, Orchard Park, NY 14127

2012 Kevin Kenney, Systems Advocate, Genesee Region Independent Living Center, 5241 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020

2011 Cynthia C. Printup-Harms, Program Director, Native American Independent Living Services (NAILS), c/o Western New York Independent Living Project, Inc. 2253 Mount Hope Road, Sanborn, NY 14132

2011 Jeanne Ricigliano, Parent Representative, Midwestern Transition Coordination Site, Monroe BOCES, Midwestern Transition Coordination Site, 41 O'Connor Road, Fairport, NY 14450

**Current or former applicants for, or recipients of, vocational rehabilitation services**

2012 Brett Eisenberg, Executive Director, Bronx Independent Living Services, 2600 Netherland Avenue, Apartment 202, Bronx, NY 10463

**Representative of Native American Projects (Section 121)**

2011 Jason McDonald, Project Director, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Box 412, State Route 37, Hogansburg, NY 13655

**Representative of the State educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities who are eligible to receive services**

2013 Sophie McDermott, New York State Education Department, Special Education, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234

**Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board**

Vacant