



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

**FROM:** Ceylane Meyers-Ruff

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to the New York State  
Rehabilitation Council

**DATE:** October 24, 2024

**Authorization(s):**

  
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

The New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) has nine vacancies. ACCES—VR is seeking the Board of Regents' review and approval of the proposed nine appointees for membership on the SRC.

**Reason 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 for action at its November 2024 meeting.

**Procedural History**

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

**Background Information**

Information on the proposed appointees (Attachment A) and a list of current members (Attachment B) are attached.

## **Related Regent's Items**

[December 2023: Appointments to the New York State Rehabilitation Council](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223brca2.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223brca2.pdf>)

## **Recommendation**

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

VOTED: KerryAnn Buchanan, Frank Falatyn, Bin Feng, Emily Fos, Amanda Hladik, Frank Krotchinsky, Adella Lin-Kravitz, Julie Lloyd, and Ryan Lynch be appointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Upon approval by the Board of Regents of the recommended candidates, appointments will be effective December 1, 2024.

**New York State Rehabilitation Council**

(New appointment for term January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027)

**Representative of a Community Rehabilitation Service Provider**

KerryAnn Buchanan  
Operations Coordinator—Adapt Community Network

- Experience as Program Director, Supervisor of Case Management, and Recreational coordinator in the social service field and educational environment providing top-notch case management service.

**Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor**

Frank Falatyn  
President—FALA Technologies Inc.

- Leads FALA's mission to provide contract manufacturing and supply chain services to build custom equipment for the semiconductor, transportation, military, advanced energy, and industrial products sectors.
- Founded the STEM and Technical Exploring Pathways (STEPs) program for pre-apprenticeship opportunities for workforce populations identified by the U.S. Department of Labor, including individuals with disabilities.
- Director of the Ulster County Workforce Development Board.
- Founding Director of the Manufacturers Alliance of New York State.

**Representative of Disability Advocacy Group**

Bin Feng  
Co-Founder and Board Chair—Project READY

- Co-founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy, education, transition services, vocational training, and independent life skill training for teens and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- Member of the New York State Council for Developmental Disabilities.
- Organizes community events to educate the public about drug/substance misuse.
- Documents agency grant progress by crafting mid-year and end-year reports.
- Engages with Suffolk County and New York State mental/behavioral health stakeholders.

**Representative of Community Rehabilitation Service Provider**

Emily Foss  
Coordinator of Employment Services—Heritage Christian Services

- Oversees a team of six job coaches, job developers, and pre-employment

- Specialists; provide guidance and support to team members as needed.
- Oversees a caseload of 60+ individuals receiving supported employment services to ensure their support needs are met.
- Collaborates with other members of the leadership team to ensure smooth daily operations.
- LGBTQ Community Member and Advocate.

### **Representative of the New York State Commission for the Blind**

Amanda Hladik

Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor—Commission for the Blind

- Commission for the Blind liaison to Rehabilitation Services Administration; responsible for submitting required quarterly reports.
- Assists with quality assurance reviews of participant case files and contract agencies.
- Supports the Associate Commissioner on audit requirements through audit and quality control.

### **Representative of Current or Former Applicants for, or Recipients of, Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

Frank Krotschinsky

Director—Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

- Educates families on special education laws and post-secondary specific information.
- Serves individuals with disabilities by connecting them to supports, empowering them to self-advocate, and providing access to resources.
- Engages in grant writing and reporting, curriculum development and implementation, and staff development regarding best practices.
- Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES-VR) Orientation Facilitator.
- Provide support to families and individuals in the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).
- Collaborate with local agencies, school districts, and state systems to develop and implement programs for individuals with disabilities.

### **Representative of Disability Advocacy Group**

Adella Lin-Kravitz

Co-Founder and President—Project READY

- Co-founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy, education, transition services, vocational training, and independent life skill training for teens and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- Member of the New York Developmental Disability Advisory Council (DDAC).

- Member of the Board of Directors of Community Inclusion & Development Alliance (CIDA).
- Member of the Advisory Council for Ability First LifeMap.
- Member of the Advisory Committee for the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS).

### **Representative of New York State Office of Mental Health**

Julie Lloyd

Director of Rehabilitation Services—Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Treatment, & Care Coordination, Office of Mental Health

- Oversees the Rehabilitation Services Unit, including program implementation, oversight, policy development, and technical assistance for an array of licensed, designated, and funded rehabilitation services.
- Supervises the rehabilitation team of 5-6 Mental Health Program Specialists.
- Collaborates with staff from other Office of Mental Health bureaus and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) representatives in program redesign, monitoring, and licensing efforts.
- Assists in managing contracts for technical assistance and training partners.

### **Representative of Community Rehabilitation Service Provider**

Ryan Lynch

Job Development Manager—Constructive Partnerships Unlimited

- Conducts annual ACCES-VR and OPWDD performance review meetings.
- Participates in consortium meetings to network with potential employers.
- Creates community partnerships with local community businesses to assist customers in finding competitive employment.
- Attends life-plan meetings and writes staff action plans with assigned goals to promote independence.
- Networks with the mayor's office to ensure individuals with disabilities receive appropriate employment opportunities.
- Develop vocational training to meet the person-centered needs of individuals with disabilities.

**New York State Rehabilitation Council**  
Current Members (Effective October 1, 2024)

**Marilee Boylan**, representing Institute of Higher Education  
*Rochester, NY*

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

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

**Maryann Donnelly-Sigona**, representing Current or Former Applicant for, or Recipient of, Vocational Rehabilitation  
*Peekskill, NY*

**Devin Fernandez**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*West Islip, NY*

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

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

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

**Talanda Jackson-Franklin**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*New York, NY*

**Meesha Johnson**, representing Current or Former Applicant for, or Recipient of, Vocational Rehabilitation  
*Southampton, NY*

**Dawn Kalleberg**, representing the State Education Agency responsible for the Public Education of Students with Disabilities who are eligible to receive services  
*Albany, NY*

**Kenneth Klassert**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Patchogue, NY*

**Mary LaFrance**, representing American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Service Projects  
*Akwesasne, NY*

**Hillary Nichols**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Kingston, NY*

**Tonya Robinson-Mayer**, representing High School Transition Programs  
*Plattsburgh, NY*

**Brenda Shannon**, representing the Client Assistance Program (CAP)  
*Albany, NY*

**Robert Statham**, representing Disability Advocacy Group- A Cross-section of Individuals  
*Rochester, NY*

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

**Jeffrey Tamburo**, representing Business, Industry, and Labor  
*Ithaca, NY*

**Tonia Weichmann**, representing Parent Training and Information Center  
*Buffalo, NY*

**Stephanie Woodward**, representing the Statewide Independent Living Council (ILC)  
*Rochester, 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 (ACCES)

**Linda Schramm**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES)

**Sheena Bassett**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

**Pam Brehm-Bisailon**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES- VR)

**Lorie Boyd**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES- VR)

**Jumoke Branco**, 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)

**Julia Kelly**, representing the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

**Caitlin Ohlson**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

**Andrew Sink**, representing the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

**Julianne Venneman**, representing the New York State Education Department – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)