



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: January 2, 2025
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Betty M...*

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 January 2025 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 (Attachment A) and a list of the entire NYSILC (Attachment B) are attached.

Related Regent's Items

[March 2024: Appointments to the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/324brca1.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/324brca1.pdf>)

Recommendation

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

VOTED: that Yaw Appiadu be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

VOTED: that Michael Gilberg be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

VOTED: that Keith Gurgui be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

VOTED: that Beata Kaprinska-Prehn be reappointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidate, the appointments will go into effect retroactive to January 1, 2025.

**New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
(New Appointments for the term January 1, 2025, to
December 31, 2027)**

ACCES is recommending four reappointments of existing members.

Yaw Appiadu

- Has over nine years of experience advocating for individuals with disabilities including experience managing contracts, developing improvement methodologies, managing, and monitoring resources, writing articles for individuals who participate in Independent Living services in the Westchester, NY Region.
- Current CEO of Harlem Independent Living Center.

Michael Gilberg

- A solo practicing attorney focused on special education and disability rights law in New York and Connecticut.
- Is a member of 11 professional organizations including; Membership Committee Co-Chair National Association of Attorneys with Disabilities (NAAD), Board Member-PULSES (Parents United Learning the Special Education System of the Mid-Hudson Valley NY), Autism Spectrum News Editorial Board, New York State Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board, Westchester County Advisory Council on People with Disabilities, Disability Rights Bar Association, New York State Bar Association-Committee on Issues Affecting People with Disabilities, and Westchester County Bar Association.

Keith Gurgui

- Has over ten years of experience working as a Systems Advocate at Resource for Accessible Living, located in Kingston, NY.
- Is a Board member of Resource for Accessible Living, New York State Independent Living Council, and the New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

Beata Kaprinska-Prehn

- Has over 28 years of advocacy experience, including 13 years as a housing advocate and 18 years of experience as the Manager of Advocacy at ARISE, an independent living center in Syracuse, NY, where she established core independent living and advocacy services.
- Worked as a lead advocate where she conducted quality assurance audits and organized and conducted local system change activities.

**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 Susan Ruff, 6 Kolb Road, Binghamton, NY 13905

2025 VACANT

2025 Sonam Willow, 1626 Woolsey Street, Schenectady, NY 12303

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities

2027 Michael Gilberg Esq, Post Office Box 26, Granite Springs, NY 10527

2027 Beata Karpinska-Prehn, 1143 Cumberland Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210

2026 Lisa Ackerman-Todt, 178 Currybush Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

2026 Isabelle Alexander-Klaboe, 131 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13503

2025 Rasheta Bunting, 902 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236

2025 John Zick, 962 W. 1st Street, Elmira, NY

Representatives of Service Organizations for Individuals with Disabilities

2027 Keith Gurgui, 9 Corwin Place, Lake Katrine, NY 12449

2026 Leanna Leroy, 328 Milstrip Road, Irving, NY 14081

2026 Brodie Enoch, New York, NY 10039

2026 Marcus Johnson, 145 East 126th Street, 4D, New York, NY 10035

2025 Lindsay Miller, 155 Washington Avenue, Suite 208, Albany, NY 12210

2024 Mariah Sepulveda, Bronx, NY

Parent/Guardian of an Individual with a Disability

2026 Michele Juda, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

CIL Representative

2027 Yaw Appiadu, 922 Main Street. Unit 205, Peekskill NY 10566

Other Appropriate Individuals

2026 Naomi Jones, New York, NY 10025

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

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

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