



STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

The Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center
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August 2020

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Dear SIDDC members,

The Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council is beginning their 51st year and as an organization, the goals have always been to help plan, promote and develop services for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD). A half a century of making a difference is quite an accomplishment. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have come before us as self-advocates, families, friends, and community members who worked tirelessly to bring us to where we are today. It would be a great pleasure to say that the job is done and that we are at a place in time when we could rest. That is not the case. There is more work to be done and I am sure that our members are up to the challenges of today's reality. One of our goals for this year as a council is to grow our membership. It takes a village has more meaning than ever before and we need to build our village.

As we move into this new year, we are still unsure of a lot of things, but the one thing we are sure of is the unwavering dedication of membership and the ability to make a difference. Advocacy has once again moved to the forefront of our efforts this year, securing the funding that supports the programs that support individuals and families will be a focus.

We still find ourselves in uncharted territory striving to make the best decisions with the information we have to help us walk safely into the future. Reimagining the future of all of the services our predecessors worked so hard to establish, whether they be Educational Services, Residential Services, Day Habilitation, Employment Services, Clinical Services, or Family Support Services, we will focus all of our efforts this coming year with thoughtfulness and understanding that services should not come in, "one size fits all" options.

As we transition back to our "new normal," whatever that might look like, we reflect on the past 50 years and find strength to "fight the good fight" and come together to achieve our goals. Here's to the next 50 years and reimagining the future together.

I am happy to introduce you to the new officers of the SIDDC Board. Diane Peruggia, First Vice Chair, Jason Harr, Second Vice Chair, Maryalice Fegeley, Secretary, and Dina Klein, Treasurer. We look forward to working with all of you as we strive to accomplish our goals this year.

Irene Cavanagh, Ed.D.
Chairperson, SIDDC