This year marks the 52nd year that the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council (SIDDC) members have been supporting the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) community. One would think that after so many years of educating the community regarding the needs of individuals with ID/DD and advocating for and developing services to meet the varied needs of a diverse population of individuals that our work would be done. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The work of the SIDDC is not even close to being accomplished and in fact, it is more important now to continue to advocate to preserve services in variety, quantity, and quality. To the parents who have adult children with ID/DD, you know the struggle, for the younger generations of individuals and parents, you are feeling the unrest of frequent changes in services, and for the very young families, the time is now to get involved because the future of our services is at a critical point.

I hesitate to even type the words, "new normal" but it is what we are facing. I believe that there will be many iterations to what a "new normal" looks like as we negotiate the ups and downs of this pandemic. What I do know is that the only way to conquer the challenges is to work together and that means families/self-advocates/guardians working closely with agencies and vice versa, as well as the agencies working closely with OPWDD, State Ed, DOH, etc., and vice versa. This new normal needs to be realized through the close contact and amicable relationships of all the stakeholders. When navigating this unchartered territory, the word kindness keeps coming to mind. The situation has been challenging for every single person in the world. These have been hard times and we will continue to ride the wave of this pandemic for some time to come especially, I am afraid here on Staten Island where we have experienced unique challenges different from the rest of the city and state.

Our Staten Island community is strong, and I have no doubt that we will conquer all of the challenges presented to us, but I am also completely convinced that to do that we need to come together. To that end, I thank our current members for their support, ask that you increase your involvement as well as help us increase the SIDDC membership by getting the word out and getting new members to join and become active. Yes, that is a lot to ask, but increasing the membership and everyone's involvement gives us the best chance of solving issues. There is strength in numbers not just for advocacy, but on our committees where a more diverse representation of the community will bring more unique ideas for solving the challenges that we face.

There was a shampoo commercial on TV when I was young and the motto was, "you tell two friends, and they tell two friends and so on" -- that is what we are asking. Spread the word, get involved and get others involved. Join the SIDDC as a member, join a committee, attend a rally, write a letter, speak for yourself as a self-advocate or speak for your loved one as their advocate, but now is the time to step up and be part of the solution.

I look forward to working with everyone during the 2021-22 year!
2021-2022 Membership Form

Name: _____________________________________ Date: __________________

Are you a: Self-advocate _____ Parent/Caregiver_____ Professional___ Other_________

Diagnosis of Individual_________________________________ Age of Individual______

Are you a new member? Yes_____ No____

**Agency Please Indicate One Primary and One Alternate Representative**

Agency Name: _______________________________________

Name of Primary Representative: _________________________________

Name of Alternate Representative: _________________________________

E-mail of Alternate Representative: _________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________

Floor: ______ Apt: _________ City/State: ______________________ Zip Code: ____________

Telephone: ___________________________ E-mail:_____________________

**Annual Membership Dues (Make checks payable to SIDDC)**

Select the applicable category of membership below:

_____ $100.00 Agency May have many participating members, but must designate a primary representative and an alternate (votes in primary’s absence)

_____ $25.00 Vendor A non-voting member.

_____ Fee Waived Self-Advocate Entitled to one vote on business

_____ $10.00 Parent/Caregiver Entitled to one vote on business

_____ $10.00 Individual Entitled to one vote on business. To qualify for this category person must demonstrate commitment to SIDDC mission

_____ Fee Waived Associate A non-voting member. (e.g. family member, agency associate)

**Select the committee you would like to serve on:**

_____ Adult Services  _____ Education  _____ Residential Quality of Life

_____ Advocacy  _____ Family Resource & Transition Fair  _____ Self-Directed Supports

_____ Care Management  _____ Family Support Services Advisory Council  _____ Willowbrook Legacy

_____ Community Outreach  _____ Health & Clinical Services

**How did you learn about the SIDDC?**

For Office Use Only: Received:___________________ Entered:___________________
Adult Services:
*Purpose:* To identify and address issues and needs pertaining to adults with developmental disabilities (age 18 years and older).

Advocacy:
*Purpose:* To actively engage with, and inform, representatives of governing agencies e.g. Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and all elected public officials of the needs, concerns and ongoing issues impacting people with I/DD and their families. The Advocacy committee arranges meetings, and rallies, of all interested stakeholders on a variety of relevant topics, coordinates, and participates in regularly scheduled meetings with provider associations, elected officials, and State agency representatives, develops the SIDDC’s annual position paper and hosts the annual Community Breakfast. Advocacy is a year-round effort.

Care Management:
*Purpose:* To provide an opportunity for Care Managers who are employed by Care Coordination Organizations (CCO’s) and interested parties to network, exchange ideas, share resources and discuss current issues and trends. Topics of relevance to Care Managers are presented to guest and/or committee members at monthly meetings.

Community Outreach:
*Purpose:* To disseminate and publicize council information and other relevant issues to the community through the SIDDC website, social media, flyers, newsletters, local newspapers, and presentations in the community.

Education:
*Purpose:* Identify and address issues pertaining to the education of individuals with developmental disabilities, birth to age 22. Continuous review of educational programs available to students with developmental disabilities and support driven practices to develop school cultures becoming more collaborative through family engagement practices and parent voice.

Family Support Services Advisory Council (FSSAC):
*Purpose:* The FSS Advisory Council (FSSAC) is open to anyone living on Staten Island who has a family member with a developmental disability living in their family home, as well as to individuals with developmental disabilities. A family member may remain a member even if their family member no longer lives in their home or is deceased. The FSSAC represents the needs of local individuals and families and works in partnership with the local OPWDD office, known as the Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO), to plan, develop and monitor Family Support Services (FSS) programs. The Council may also make recommendations about how to improve the quality and effectiveness of FSS programs. The local FSSAC also seeks to increase community outreach and to promote awareness of FSS programs.
Health and Clinical Services:
*Purpose:* To focus on issues concerning all aspects of health services, including medical, rehabilitative, and mental health that impact individuals living with developmental challenges.

Residential Quality of Life:
*Purpose:* To identify and address issues pertaining to the quality of life of I/DD living in residential settings. Discuss all aspects of residential programming, including regulations, role of staff/clinicians and residential opportunities. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and the committee participates in an annual presentation containing various topics in conjunction with the direct support profession and recognition.

Self-Directed Supports:
*Purpose:* Fiscal Intermediary Providers, Support Brokers, Care Managers, Self-hired Support Staff and all other valuable stakeholders to share resources and discuss issues to support people who choose to take direct responsibility to manage their services and lead a self-directed life. Meetings are held several times per year and guest speakers present on a variety of topics at these meetings.

Willowbrook Legacy:
*Purpose:* The Willowbrook Legacy Committee's mission is to develop a sustaining presence of the experience of Willowbrook State School. The committee has developed a collaborative relationship with the College of Staten Island (CSI) and the CTV cable station. These collaborations have created two ongoing projects, “The Willowbrook Mile” and the television series, “Willowbrook Revisited.” Members of the committee serve on the CSI Steering Committee which is planning and implementing The Mile which is a walking trail through the former grounds of Willowbrook. Signs/milestones along the path give insightful perspectives and information about the Willowbrook experience. The "Willowbrook Revisited "show is a retrospective look at the institution including interviews with those who experienced the impact of Willowbrook.
September 2021- June 2022

General Council Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 17, 2021

Friday, October 15, 2021
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Friday, November 19, 2021

December 17, 2021
(Celebrating Achievements)

Friday, January 21, 2022
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

Friday, February 18, 2022

Friday, March 18, 2022
Wednesday, March 23, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Friday, April 15, 2022
(Residential Quality of Life ~DSP Awards)

Friday, May 20, 2022

Friday, June 17, 2022

Other important dates for SIIDDC:

Virtual Family Resource & Transition Fair – TBD
Virtual Annual Community Breakfast – March 4, 2022

Please Note: Meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise indicated. Meetings begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Evening Meetings will be held virtually as well promptly at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.