



STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

The Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center
930 Willowbrook Road – Building 41A
Staten Island, New York 10314
(718) 983-5276

August 2024

JASON HARR
Chair
(917) 528-2662

DINA KLEIN
First Vice-Chair
(718) 987-1234 ext. 1038

FIDAIJE NESIMI
Second Vice-Chair
(917) 254-3309

MELISSA D'ACCORDO
Treasurer
(718) 447-8205 ext. 1246

MARYANN VIRGA
Recording Secretary
(718) 981-5981

Dear Friend,

As we begin our 54th year at the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council (SIDDC) it is important more than ever that we continue to advocate for State dollars to preserve vital supports and services for the rising numbers of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on Staten Island. The SIDDC is the official advisory body to the New York Department of Mental Hygiene and Department of Health, to the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), and to the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Field Office (SIDDFO).

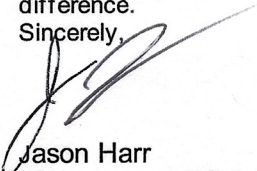
We work tirelessly to **advise** the City and State about present priorities and gaps in services in addition to **recommending** new or continuing services that should be adopted by New York State funding sources. In addition, we strive to **educate** and keep our membership informed by hosting monthly General Council meetings both virtually and in person.

One of the goals of the council is to grow our membership, as there is strength in numbers. If you are not yet a member, we urge you to become one and to spread the word to others in our disabilities community. Membership is open to parents, self-advocates, caregivers, siblings, provider agencies, vendors, and ANYONE interested in our Staten Island disabilities community. As a member you will be connected to a network of caring, concerned, and knowledgeable people who want to make a difference. Your membership will provide you with an opportunity to take part in one or more of our 12 standing committees that align with your interests. Together, we address real-life community issues which present challenges to daily living and quality of life. Attending meetings and events, visiting our website, and receiving our emails will help you stay informed.

Together with our Executive Board, agency partners and leadership team – First Vice-Chair, Dina Klein, Second Vice-Chair, Fidaije Nesimi, Treasurer Melissa D'Accordo, and Recording Secretary, Maryann Virga - we will continue our effort to achieve our goal of ensuring the best possible quality of life for Staten Islanders with special needs throughout their life span.

I look forward to working with everyone during the 2024-25 year! Together we will make a difference.

Sincerely,


Jason Harr
Chairperson, SIDDC

Website: www.siddc.org

E-mail: contactsiddc@siddc.org

STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

The Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center
930 Willowbrook Road, Building 41A
Staten Island, New York 10314

Phone: (718) 983-5276 E-mail: Contactsiddc@siddc.org Fax:(929)-308-0017 Website: www.siddc.org

2024-2025 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:

(Your contribution helps us to sustain advocacy efforts and SIDDC expenses.)

_____ \$100.00	Agency	May have many participating members, but must designate a primary representative and an alternate (votes in primary's absence)
_____ \$100.00	Lifetime Membership	Entitled to vote on business for lifetime
_____ \$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 Service | |

How did you learn about the SIDDC? _____

For Office Use Only: Received: _____ Entered: _____

STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

The Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center
930 Willowbrook Road, Building 41A
Staten Island, New York 10314
Phone (718) 983-5276

Website: www.siddc.org E-mail: contactsiddc@siddc.org Fax: (929) 308-0017

Standing Committees

Adult Services:

Purpose: To identify and address issues and needs pertaining to adults with developmental disabilities (age 18 years and older).

Co-Chair: Cathy DelPriore: cdelpriore@graceofny.org

Advocacy:

Purpose: To actively engage and inform representatives of governing agencies (e.g. OPWDD) and all elected public officials of the needs and concerns of intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals and their families. The committee arranges meetings on a variety of specific and relevant topics, coordinates a quarterly Legislative Information Exchange, develops the SIDDC's annual position paper and hosts the annual Legislative Breakfast.

Co-Chairs: Barbara Devaney: vandev52@msn.com **Donna Long:** donnalong13@aol.com

Care Management:

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for Care Managers 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.

Co-Chairs: Janet LaMantia: SIDDC.MSC@Gmail.com **Nick LaBruna:** SIDDC.MSC@Gmail.com

Community Outreach:

Purpose: To disseminate and publicize council information and other relevant issues to the community through the SIDDC website, flyers, newsletters, local newspapers, and presentations at council meetings; to oversee the Sub-committee that plans the annual Family Resource & Transition Fair.

Co-Chairs: Mary Jacobson: mjacobson@adaptcommunitynetwork.org
Melissa D'Accordo: mdaccordo@CPOFNYS.ORG

Education:

Purpose: To identify and address issues pertaining to the education of individuals with developmental disabilities (birth to age 21).

Co-Chair: Maryalice Fegeley: mfegeley@ptopnys.org

Family Resource and Transition Fair:

Purpose: Our annual family support and transition fair offers individuals, families, and agency personnel the opportunity to interact with providers and governmental agencies to learn about service options and the issues and options surrounding the transition process.

Co-Chair: Irene Cavanagh: icavanagh@eden2.org

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 full time in their family home, as well as to individuals with developmental disabilities. A family member may remain a member even if their family member with developmental disability 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 Office of People with Developmental Disabilities office, known as the Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO), to plan, develop and monitor Family Support Services (FSS) programs on Staten Island. The FSSAC works with the DDRO to evaluate current FSS programs to determine whether they meet the needs of families and individuals. They also provide direct input regarding program viability and whether or not programs should be renewed based on merit and performance. 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 on Staten Island. Join the FSSAC if you want to have a voice in advocating for services for your loved one.

Co-Chairs: Maryann Virga: marvirga@yahoo.com Diane Peruggia: dperuggia@aol.com

Health and Clinical Services:

Purpose: To focus on issues concerning all aspects of health services, including medical, rehabilitative and mental health.

Co-Chairs: Jayne Cooper: jacooper@rumcsi.org Maggie Scarsella: m scarsella@northwell.edu

Membership and Guidelines:

Purpose: To review new applications for council membership, assess membership status, and outreach for new members. Requests for by-laws changes must be submitted to and reviewed by this committee and then brought to the executive board before being submitted to the full council.

Co-Chairs: Pam Minkoff: pamela.minkoff@ahrcnyc.org Gail Decker: gaiser6@aol.com

Residential Quality of Life:

Purpose: To identify and address issues pertaining to the quality of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in residential settings. We discuss all aspects of residential programming, including regulations, role of staff/clinicians and residential opportunities. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and our committee participates in an annual presentation.

Co-Chairs: Iris Goldberg: ijed4@aol.com Danielle Eilenberg: danielle.eilenberg@ahrcnyc.org

Self-Directed Supports:

Purpose: Fiscal Intermediary Providers, 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 6-12 times per year and guest speakers present on a variety of topics at these meetings.

Co-Chairs: Melissa Chapman: mchapman@pccsny.org Marissa Gessin: mgessin@cfsny.org

Willowbrook Legacy:

Purpose: The Willowbrook Property Planning 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.

The committee drives both projects and meeting as a committee 3 times a year to discuss the direction and progress of the projects.

Co-Chair: Diane Buglioli: dbuglioli@avspny.org Co-Chair: Eric Goldberg: eric2985@icloud.com