



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).

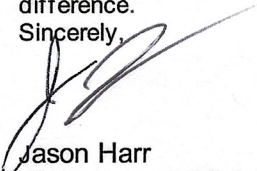
We work tirelessly to **advise** the City and State about present priorities and gaps in services in addition to **recommending** new or continuing services that should be adopted by New York State funding sources. In addition, we strive to **educate** and keep our membership informed by hosting monthly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