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NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, INC.

NYSILC

empowering new yorkers with disabilities

NYSILC News, February 2025

Profile in Excellence

NYSILC Council Member

Naomi Jones

Chaplain Naomi Jones gracefully navigates life with disabilities and embodies a profound sense of resilience and unwavering strength on the road to recovery and healing from trauma. Her remarkable journey in overcoming the obstacles of comorbidities has fueled her commitment to accentuating disability rights, mediation, and health equity.

By prioritizing Cultural Competency and advocating for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, she pays tribute to the legacies of American figures like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, who changed the course of history despite what contemporaries today would classify as "Disability." Through her efforts, she is dedicated to creating positive change and empowering others on their paths to success just as they achieved on a historic level.

Ms. Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was distinguished as a Regents Scholar. Chaplain uses her talents to uplift others, embodying the spirit of giving back through various organizations nationwide that support marginalized populations in New York and around the globe.

Her commitment to Human and Civil Rights shines through her involvement with prominent organizations such as the Cornell Center for Health Equity, the Riverside Church African Fellowship, Mediators Beyond Borders, the Convent Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, and the City of New York Mayor's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives.

As a social justice enthusiast, Naomi Jones inspires others through her current volunteerism as a Field Operative for the National Action Network Crisis Steering Committee Liaison, Chairwoman for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at the New York State Independent Living Council, Chair of the NYC Chapter for the NAN Disabilities Committee, and Lead Crisis Liaison for the New York State Crisis Steering Committee of the National Action Network.

Chaplain Naomi Jones is deeply grateful to have a platform to generate sensitivity and awareness revolving around Trauma Informed Practices, Domestic Violence, Reproductive Health, Mental Health, and the Physical Repercussions of Invisible Disabilities.

Black History Month 2025

NYSILC recognizes Black History Month - a time to honor the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history, including their cultural heritage, struggles, and triumphs in shaping the nation. This month serves as an opportunity to educate ourselves about pivotal figures and events that have significantly impacted the disability community.

Throughout this month, NYSILC will be highlighting Black individuals with disabilities who have made an impact. You can view these highlights on Facebook and our other social media pages (scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter for links).

Budget Advocacy Day

Join NYAIL at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on Tuesday, February 11 for our Budget Advocacy Day. This is your chance to meet with the Assembly members and Senators who represent you!

It has never been more important to share your story with your local elected officials, urging them to prioritize disability rights.

Then head over to the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) meeting from 1-3pm in Empire State Plaza's Meeting Room 6.

For more information, visit this page on NYAIL's website.

Discussion of Medicaid and Medicare

Disabilities Resources From a Criminal Justice Lens

Featuring NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
February 15, 2025

106 W. 145THST., HARLEM NY, 10036 1PM-3PM

Contact Chaplain Naomi Jones for more information or to get involved!
(877) NAN-HOJ1

www.facebook.com/NAN.NewYorkCityCabinet
www.NationalActionNetwork.net

Registration Now Open: May 15, 2025 for the 30th Annual Elder Law Forum

DATE: Thursday, May 15
TIME: 8:30AM - 3:00PM
PLACE: Crowne Plaza Albany (The Desmond)
OR Attend the Live Stream

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS in a statewide conference that delivers the latest policies, proposals, planning strategies and innovations, including:

• Outcomes and impacts of the State legislative and budget session
• Changes to NYS Medicaid home care and what the future holds
• The future of the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program
• Solutions to the shortage of facility and home care workers
• Long-term care insurance options – market changes, affordability
• Innovations in technology – new delivery models
• Update on New York's Master Plan for Aging

Pierro, Connor & Strauss gathers leaders in the fields of health care, long-term care, government, advocacy, law and finance all in one room, a rare opportunity to learn, network and be part of the conversation.

Free to attend with lunch included. Sign up to receive all the latest updates and news leading up to the Elder Law Forum. **Register Here!**

For more information, visit **www.pierrolaw.com**

NYSILC Council Members

Executive Committee

Chair: Yaw Appiadu

Vice Chair: Lindsay Miller

Secretary: Beata Karpinska-Prehn

Treasurer: Stephanie Woodward

Member at Large: John Zick

STAFF
Executive Director:
Denise DiNoto
denised@nysilc.org

Program Coordinator:
Amy Wink
awink@nysilc.org

Community Building and Media Specialist:
Emily Bianchine-Cummings
emilyb@nysilc.org

Interested in a Pat Figueroa Scholarship for youth/young adults with disabilities in New York?

The scholarship provides funding for young adults with disabilities to attend and participate in independent living related conferences and/or national disability and leadership trainings.

Learn more or apply here!

Upcoming NYSILC events/activities:

- Next NYSILC Full Council Meeting - **March 28, 2025** from 9:30 am to 1 pm at the Wolf Road Marriott in Albany and remotely via Zoom.

Please visit https://nysilc.org/council/meetings-calendar for details.

NYSILC | office 518-427-1060 | fax 518-427-1139 | denised@nysilc.org | NYSILC.org

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