

Fox named to NYS health department stakeholders group

The Westchester Institute for Human Development, WIHD, one of 67 university-affiliated centers in the nation dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through education, service, and research, has announced the appointment of Dr. Susan Fox, president and CEO of WIHD to the New York State Department of Health, Disability and Health Program Stakeholders Group, NYSDHP.



The New York State Department of Health Disability and Health Program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and is charged with promoting inclusion and accessibility in public health programs and reducing health disparities between people with and without disability with a focus on cardiovascular disease and diabetes, through improved physical activity, nutrition and reduction of tobacco use, as contributing risk factors.

As part of its agreement with the CDC, the NYSDHP convenes a stakeholders group comprised of individuals with disability, community-based disability advocacy organizations, relevant state agency representatives and other subject matter experts in the focus areas of the cooperative agreement.

"I'm honored to part of this important group. The mission of NYSDHP is closely aligned with the work we do—providing adequate and accessible health care and promoting an inclusive environment," Fox said. "WIHD has expertise in advocat-

ing for people with disabilities and I look forward to working with fellow NYSDHP members to solving complex issues facing our population."

Members are expected to provide input on the annual CDC work plans, assist with identifying partners and resources, and participate in implementation activities. As a result of these meetings, members develop new and valuable relationships that support their own work and interests. The group's first meeting was Sept. 7.

Fox joined WIHD as president and CEO in 2016. She previously served as associate director and clinical assistant professor at the Institute on Disability, IOD, at the University of New Hampshire, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, UCEDD. In this role, she managed the organization's UCEDD and state core grants, handled human resources and personnel matters, and led strategic planning and implementation of the IOD's strategic plan. Fox has been successful in bridging relationships between aging and disability, which resulted in the founding of the Center on Aging and Community Living at the University of New Hampshire where she served as director.

The Westchester Institute for Human Development is one of 67 university-affiliated centers dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through education, service, and research. The institute works to advance policies and practices that ensure the health and self-determination among people of all ages with developmental disabilities, and the safety and well-being of vulnerable children. For more than 40 years, WIHD has been a key regional resource supporting children and adults with disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, neurological and cognitive disabilities, hearing and vision problems, and speech/language delays. WIHD's services, which often follow a person throughout his or her lifespan, include comprehensive dental and adult medical care programs, service coordination and planning, education and support services. For more information, visit wihd.org.