



New Slate of Officers for WIHD Board of Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Left to right: Monica Sganga, Dr. Traci Gardner, Vera Halpenny, Dr. Fern Juster

VALHALLA, NY (August 2023) --- Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) voted in a new slate of officers at our annual Board of Directors meeting on July 27, 2023. The new slate includes Monica Sganga, Chair; Dr. Traci Gardner, Vice Chair ; Vera Halpenny, Secretary ; and Dr. Fern Juster, Treasurer.

Monica Sganga, of Scarsdale, is Director of a privately owned property management company. A resident of Westchester since 1990, Ms. Sganga has a strong volunteer history in the community and schools in her home community of Edgemont and in neighboring Yonkers. Ms. Sganga earned a BS in Business Administration from Miami University.

Dr. Gardner, of Hawthorne, made history in 2019 as the first woman and African American Medical Director at the Children’s Village in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Dr. Gardner is also the Chief Medical Officer for their Division of Immigration Services. She serves as the Director of Community Engagement at New York Medical College where she is a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and on the Advisory Council for the Attorneys for Children; NY State Court System. Dr. Gardner is passionate about her work advocating for better access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, children and families.

Vera Halpenny, of Dobbs Ferry, has been an advocate and supporter of individuals with various levels of ability for over 30 years. She has been actively involved with WIHD for over 12 years and served as the Board Chair for the past four years. She has served on the Community Services Board of Westchester county since 2007 advocating for services for individuals with I/DD. As Chief Program Officer at YAI, Ms. Halpenny spearheaded a Diversity and Inclusion process and worked with an Emerging Leadership Team to manage the succession plans for the executive level.

Dr. Fern Juster, of Chappaqua, is Associate Dean Emeritus at New York Medical College School of Medicine. She was the Senior Associate Dean and Chair of the Admissions Committee at NYMC School of Medicine for 23 years where she spearheaded major changes in the admissions process resulting in a significant increase in racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity within the medical student population. She remains deeply committed to improving access to comprehensive medical and mental health care



Westchester Institute
for Human Development

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for individuals with chronic disease through advocacy and the education of professionals and the general community.

“WIHD is a unique community resource dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities, vulnerable children, and families by providing medical and clinical services, educating current and future professionals, and conducting innovative research. We cannot do our work without a strong and committed volunteer board of directors. We are honored to have these outstanding women leading our Board,” said Susan Fox, President and CEO of WIHD.

Westchester Institute for Human Development

As one of 68 University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and vulnerable children through professional education, direct service provision, and innovative research. First established in 1950, WIHD moved to Westchester County, NY in 1972 and has been a key regional resource providing a wide range of medical, dental, clinical and social services to individuals with disabilities, vulnerable children, families and professionals. At WIHD, everything we do is guided by our vision of a future in which all people, including people with disabilities and vulnerable children, live healthy and productive lives as full members of society. For more information, go to www.wihd.org.