

## **SEEKING VOLUNTEER TRI BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Board Member Recruitment Information Sheet**

**Corporation:** Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI), a center for independent living providing information, referral and advocacy services for people with various disabilities, their families, their friends and their communities.

#### **Corporation description:**

Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc., (TRI) is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization that advocates for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities in Dutchess County, promoting independence and integration in society for people with various disabilities and empowering them to lead self-directed lives with independence and dignity.

TRI effects its mission through its programs: sign language interpretation, housing availability, structural compliance with ADA laws applied and special education advocacy for services of school age students. This is just to name a few specific services TRI provides. Advocacy is extremely important.

#### **Board of Directors Membership:**

The TRI Board of Directors is composed of leaders from the not-for-profit and for-profit sector who are dedicated to the organizations mission.

The TRI Board of Directors is dedicated to ensuring that it recruits the board members it needs to ensure maximum impact. The TRI Board strives to support and promote excellence and board service and is the source of cutting edge thinking and resources related to non-profit board.

Our Board of Directors reflect a diverse group of people, 51% of whom are individuals with disabilities or family members of an individual with a disability. This direct and personal experience with disability allows our Board to govern with a perspective that resonates with the unique issues of impact to the disability community, while reflecting the diversity of disability in our society.

#### **Board of Directors Responsibilities:**

The Board of Directors shall have ultimate authority in governing the operations, finances and affairs of the Corporation. The Board, with the advice of various committees, if so authorized, implements, monitors and modifies, as may be needed, policies and procedures necessary for proper corporate management. It is empowered to employ necessary staff, retain necessary professional assistance, authorize agreements and expenditures and take all necessary and proper steps to advance the purposes and promote the best interests of the Corporation.

TRI Board members champion the importance of board leadership and believe that each and every organization needs a strong and effective board to fully realize its potential. In addition to the standard roles and responsibilities of a board member, our board members are active advocates and ambassadors for the organization and are fully engaged in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for TRI to advance its mission.

The Board meets approximately 9 times a year in Poughkeepsie. Enthusiasm and time to devote to the organization are essential (average 5 hours per month)

#### **Volunteer Opportunity:**

If you live in the community TRI serves and are interested in joining the TRI board to support adults, children and families with disabilities, please email your resume and cover letter to Board of Directors Recruitment committee c/o [BoardPresident@taconicresources.org](mailto:BoardPresident@taconicresources.org)  
For more information please visit [taconicresources.org](http://taconicresources.org)



## **MISSION**

Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI) advocates for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities in Dutchess County and empowers them to lead self-directed lives with independence and dignity.

## **VISION**

We believe in a society where individuals with disabilities are able to experience full inclusion to participate in all aspects of community life and have equal access to the same opportunities and freedom as the general public.

## **INITIATIVES**

### **DDAP**

TRI created the Dutchess Disability Advocacy Partnership (DDAP) December 2021 to build public awareness of the unmet needs of Dutchess County residents with disabilities in the areas of housing, employment, healthcare, public education, and public accommodation. DDAP is dedicated to promoting and maintaining systems advocacy efforts that will result in improving and enhancing the civil rights of individuals with disabilities in Dutchess County. The overarching goal of DDAP is to promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life in Dutchess County.

### **SYSTEMS ADVOCACY**

TRI is a member of the *Statewide Systems Advocacy Network*, which collaborates with other disability organizations to ensure that legislation affecting people with disabilities is introduced, passed by the Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor.

## *Programs-Services*

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### **MID-HUDSON INTERPRETER SERVICE (MHIS) DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES**

For 33 years, MHIS has been providing American Sign Language (ASL) and English sign language interpreting and translating services to the Mid-Hudson Valley area. Since 1989, those of Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties have been serviced providing a bridge between the Deaf and Hearing cultures. MHIS is actively engaged in community outreach and education, employment, advocacy, service coordination, counseling, and technical support.

### **ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS CONSULTATION (ABC)**

ABC is a fee-for-service offering for business owners who want to make their commercial property more accessible to people with disabilities. Working in tandem with traditional building standards, ABC methodologies, standards, and modifications ensure building code compliance according to the law, whether for new construction or remodel projects. Research shows a 20% increase in customers for businesses that make accessibility modifications. Compliance with the ADA is not just the law—it's good business!

ABC offers complimentary services to consumers who are homeowners. Deliverables include an on-site survey, complete write-up of accessibility issues, and recommended solutions.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY**

TRI provides responsive community advocacy addressing the needs of families of students with special needs in Dutchess County. Special Education Advocates (SEAs) are committed to providing families with information, referral, and technical assistance to ensure all students receive an appropriate and equitable education within public schools.

### **MOBILE DISABILITY BENEFITS COUNSELING (SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ADVISEMENT)**

Since 2000, TRI's Mobile Benefits Counselor (MBC) has provided social security benefits advice to individuals with disabilities throughout Dutchess County. The MBC helps increase independence for recipients of SSDI and/or SSI benefits. This is done by conducting both staff and consumer workshops at various agencies to provide information and education about available work incentives. Onsite consumer visits within the county are also conducted to assist individuals navigate the intricacies of the Department of Community and Family Services (formerly DSS), and the Social Security Administration, which are two of the foremost agencies consumers interface with to obtain benefits.

### **OPEN DOORS TRANSITION**

Transition Specialists help people with disabilities who live in nursing homes and intermediate care facilities to receive home and community-based services. The Specialist meets with the consumer to assess needs and supply services that meet those needs. The goal is to enable consumers to *remain* at home or *return* home and live with dignity in the community. Housing Advocacy and Olmstead Housing Subsidy programs collaborate with transition specialists to meet the housing needs of consumers.

### **HOUSING ADVOCACY**

Housing advocates assist consumers locate and apply for affordable and accessible housing within Dutchess County.

### **OLMSTEAD HOUSING SUBSIDY (OHS)**

This statewide rental subsidy and transitional housing support service program is for high-need Medicaid enrolled beneficiaries. The funding is supported in part by the Medicaid Redesign Team's Supportive Housing Workgroup—an initiative to help address the needs of eligible Medicaid participants transitioning from nursing facility settings or preventing nursing facility placement. Medicaid enrollees who qualify must meet the criteria for nursing facility type care and be homeless or unstably housed. The enrollee must also have the ability to live safely in the community.