



September 20, 2019

John Cullen  
Commissioner  
Westchester County Department of Emergency Services  
4 Dana Road  
Valhalla, New York 10595

Dear Commissioner Cullen:

The White Plains Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (MACFPWD), the Yonkers Mayor's Disability Advisory Board (YMDAB), and Westchester Disabled on the Move (WDOM) are committed, in part, to increasing public understanding related to the needs of people with disabilities. On behalf of residents with disabilities in White Plains, we are writing to offer suggestions to improve the scope of the language in the "Condition/Mobility Information" section of the Westchester County Special Needs Registry in order to encourage greater participation. We are concerned the Registry may discourage some individuals with disabilities from applying, as it does not fully capture the spectrum of disability conditions. Some of the information in this section should be expanded for inclusivity and specificity, and certain language should be amended for propriety and accuracy (e.g., "Mental Retardation").

Please consider revising the Condition/Mobility Information section of the Registry to incorporate the following suggestions in bold:

- Deaf / Severe Hearing Impairment (**emergency equipment**)
- Blind / Severe Visual Impairment (**mobility cane/white cane, guide dogs, etc.**)
- Developmental Disability (Autism, **intellectual disability**)
- Alzheimer's / Dementia / Psychiatric Disability (**seizure disorder, bi-polar, psychosis, etc.**)
- **Non verbal**
- Evacuation Assistance Not Required
- Require Electricity for Life Sustaining Equipment (needed to operate any life sustaining devices)

- **Medication Required (diabetes, seizure, dialysis, incontinence supplies, allergies to medications, etc.)**
- **Wheelchairs / scooters / power chairs / charging units / confined to bed**
- **Service animals / guide dogs**
- **Ventilator / trach**
- **Other information you would like to share (medical alerts, medication bracelets, etc.)**

The MACFPWD invites County Emergency Services Planning personnel to attend one of our monthly committee meetings to discuss this further and share ideas. Our committee members are persons with varying types of disabilities and would be able to offer their perspectives and recommendations regarding emergency planning procedures and special needs populations.

Thank you in advance for considering our suggestions. We will follow up with your office in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

White Plains MACFPWD:

Lisa Tarricone, Chair

Kenny Burr  
Terry Degatano  
Joe Dursi  
Jeremiah Frei-Pearson  
Gil Mecurio

Michael Hellmann  
Harriet Lowell  
Liz Mark  
Paul Schwarz

Yonkers MDAB:



Carol Conklin, Chair

Pamela Dingee  
Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji  
John Moynihan

Marcus Blacknall  
John Strothenke  
David Rabadi

Westchester Disabled on the Move:

Mel Tanzman, Executive Director

Cc: Honorable George Latimer, Westchester County Executive  
Honorable Thomas M. Roach, Mayor, City of White Plains  
Honorable Michael Spano, Mayor, City of Yonkers