

## NYC Shelter Accessibility Advisory Board Minutes January 7, 2025

Minutes taken by Jennifer Shaoul

In attendance: Jennifer Shaoul, Crystal Rivera, Beth Diesch, Asa Johnson, Lisanne Anderson, Erica Strang, Mbacke Thiam, Charisma White, Cynthia English

Both Commissioners Curry (MOPD) and Park (DSS) joined briefly to welcome the group and encourage this important work.

All members introduced themselves and highlighted areas of focus/need. Areas that were raised:

- Staff training (topics including engagement, empathy) and support
- Supports for people with mental health diagnoses (also those with complex needs including physical health)
- Quality of life in shelter
- Addressing invisible disabilities
- Access for home care workers
- Health through food/ meeting dietary needs
- More physical accessibility (and knowing if a unit is truly accessible)
- Streamlined RA process

The group agreed that quarterly meetings were not sufficient for the mandate. We agreed to monthly meetings, potentially a quarterly in-person meeting. We discussed the selection of a Chair and potentially a Co-Chair. That will be discussed further at next meeting. Beth has agreed to take the minutes going forward (Thank you, Beth!).

Jennifer thought it would be a good idea to see what the current training consists of and will preview the slides at the next meeting. It would also be helpful if the group reviewed the current 5-year accessibility plan in preparation for making recommendations. Jennifer will send that plan and re-send the Local Law that established this group so that people are prepared for the next meeting (attached).

The next meeting will be Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> from 11-12:30. An invite has been sent.

Agenda for next meeting:

- Overview of training
- Review 5-Year Accessibility Plan
- Determine Chair and Co-Chair
- Plan for March meeting