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# City of Seattle

## Notice of Appointment

|  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br><br><i>Laura Gramer</i>  |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Appointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment<br><input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency |
| <b>Residential Neighborhood:</b><br><br><i>Wallingford</i>   | <b>Zip Code:</b><br><br><i>98103</i> | <b>Contact Phone No.:</b><br><br><i>206-684-4537</i>   |
| <b>Appointed to:</b><br><br><i>At-large member of the Seattle Commission for People with disabilities</i>  |                                      | <b>Date of Appointment:</b><br><br><i>July 11, 2011</i>  |
| <b>Authority (Ord., Res.):</b><br><br><i>S.M.C. 3.14.920</i>   |                                      | <b>Term of Office</b><br><b>From:</b> <i>Confirmation</i><br><b>To:</b> <i>April 30, 2013</i>  |
| <b>Background:</b><br><br><i>RE-appointment</i><br><br>Ms. Gramer serves on the board of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services and works as an occupational therapist. While living in Illinois, Ms. Gramer served on the Universal Access Commission, the Open Doors Organization, the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association, and the Progress Center for Independent Living. Ms. Gramer has engaged in substantial public speaking and lecturing on deafness, disability, and occupational therapy. Ms. Gramer has consistently worked to bridge the deaf and deaf-blind communities to the larger disability rights community. Until recently Ms. Gramer served as the Commission's Co-Chair. |                                      |  |
| <b>Authorizing Signature:</b><br><br><i>Bruce C. Harrell</i>   |                                      | <b>Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:</b><br><br><b>Bruce Harrell,<br/>Council Member</b>  |

**Boards & Commissions**  
**Request for appointment and reappointment**

*From* Felicia Yearwood

*Date* July 11, 2011

Following are the bios for one candidate who seeks an initial appointment and two  
*Notes* current Commission members who request consideration for reappointment.

## Seattle Commission for People with disabilities

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### **Saron McKee (new appointment)**

Saron McKee serves as the ADA Coordinator for Seattle Housing Authority where she is responsible for ensuring accessibility, reasonable accommodations, staff training, and policy changes. Saron has a strong passion for all aspects of disability law, which has been a driving force of her education and career path. While completing access surveys across Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, she obtained her BA in Human Services and her MA in Rehabilitation Counseling, which enhanced her ability to understand and serve people with disabilities. Saron brings to the Committee her understanding of the structural and programmatic changes that have occurred over her lifetime, an extensive knowledge of applicable laws, and more than thirteen years providing services to people with disabilities.

### **Laura Gramer (reappointment)**

Ms. Gramer serves on the board of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services and works as an occupational therapist. While in Illinois, Ms. Gramer served on the Universal Access Commission, the Open Doors Organization, the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association, and the Progress Center for Independent Living. Ms. Gramer has engaged in substantial public speaking and lecturing on deafness, disability, and occupational therapy. Ms. Gramer has consistently worked to bridge the deaf and deaf-blind communities to the larger disability rights community. Until recently Ms. Gramer served as the Commission's Co-Chair.

### **Gary Stobbe (reappointment)**

Dr. Gary Stobbe is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Neurology and Psychiatry Departments, and Director of Adolescent and Adult Services at Seattle Children's Hospital's Autism Center. Dr. Stobbe specializes in children and adults with autism, traumatic brain injury, and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Stobbe serves on the Professional Advisory Boards of the Brain Injury Association of Washington and the Washington Chapter of the Autism Society of America. Along with his wife, Dr. Stobbe founded the Autism Spectrum Treatment and Research Center, a non-profit organization that served over two thousand individuals with autism and their families across the lifespan. Dr. Stobbe serves on the Commission's Education and Training Committee.

Laura A. Obara Gramer

[REDACTED]  
Seattle, WA 98103  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Related Experience:**

7/09 to present *Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services*, Seattle, Washington: board member

Oversee and provide feedback and initiatives for the agency

1/08-12/08 *Universal Access Commission*, Oak Park, Illinois: Commissioner

Make recommendations to the village regarding issues related to disabilities and accessibility for everyone.

4/06-present *Open Doors Organization*, Chicago, Illinois: executive board member

Oversee and provide feedback on programs and initiatives for the agency

1998-11/08 *Illinois Occupational Therapy Association*, Elmhurst, Illinois

Multicultural Liaison chairperson for Illinois Occupational Therapy Association, 1998 to 2008

Illinois Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee co-chair, June 1999 to present

Presenter at IOTA state conference on multicultural issues, 1998 to present

6/02-11/08 *Progress Center for Independent Living*, Forest Park, Illinois: board member (volunteer), executive board-president, and program committee chairperson

Board oversees and approves programs that impact people with disabilities in 133 cook county suburbs.

Provide direction for the Center for Independent Living

Developed and facilitated three year Strategic Directions 2004-2006.

Currently developing three year Strategic Direction for 2007-2009

11/03-9/05  
Chicago, IL

*Disability Pride Parade 2004 and 2005,*

[www.disabilityprideparade.com](http://www.disabilityprideparade.com)

Co-chair of 2005 Disability Pride Parade  
Finance chair of the 2004 Disability Pride Parade  
Networked with the City of Chicago and disability community

11/01-11/04

*Youth Advisory Board for Yield to the Power Project, Access Living, Chicago, Illinois: Chairperson*

Recruit participants with disabilities (age 14 to 21) for a 16-week training program on disability history/culture, healthcare, American with Disabilities Act, and self-advocacy

Collaborate and maintain open communication with project leader of Yield to the Power project

Facilitator for quarterly meetings to organize agenda topics regarding program progress and development

Contact board members between meetings to pass on information or participation in activities relating to Yield to the Power project

### **Employment History:**

10/09- present *People First, Bothell, Washington.* Staff: Occupational Therapist

Part time occupational therapist in a rehabilitation/ long term facility.

Provide evaluation and appropriate treatment for improved quality of life.

12/00 – 12/5/08

*Chicago Read Mental Health Center, Chicago, Illinois: Staff*

Occupational Therapist

Collaborate and support individuals with psychiatric disabilities on goals related to their life (i.e., social support, employment, housing, transition to community living, etc.)

Advocate for the individuals with psychiatric disabilities and collaborate with team members from acute, transition and long-term units, and deaf-hard of hearing units

Collaborate with individuals with psychiatric disabilities and community agencies with discharge plans

Make referrals to community programs and advocacy services to support the individual with psychiatric disabilities' goal

Lead clinical instructor for Level II occupational therapy students (12 weeks)

Trained to be a WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator to recruit deaf consumers to become peer trainers

Moderator of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Metro North online group

8/05-spring 2006

*Thresholds, Chicago, IL, WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator*

Facilitated group for deaf members on recovery and encourage peer training within the consumer group

8/96–11/00,4/01-2004\* *Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Harvey, Illinois: Staff OTR/L, fieldwork coordinator, registry staff\**

Fieldwork coordinator/clinical instructor: Duties included updating affiliation contracts, scheduling level one and two internships for OTS/OTAS, providing inservices, resources, and support to clinical instructors. Developed partnership with local colleges/university.

Program development/education (bladder dysfunction program, Howe state operated center / Ingalls partnership, TBI inservice from Marianjoy, diversity files Crossover training completed in rehab, acute, and skilled nursing unit.

Conducted evaluations and established treatment plans with consumers for spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, orthopedics, and amputee diagnosis.

Supervised COTA in patient care/education.

Participated in hospital-sponsored health fair to educate the public on carpal tunnel and arthritis prevention.

11/97 to 4/99

*STI Therapy Services, Palos Hills, Illinois: Work site at Howe Campus in Tinley Park, Illinois: Staff OTR/L*

Conducted evaluations and established treatment programs for developmentally disabled adults to keep their independence in their environment after acute illness/trauma. Provided education and carry-over information for staff/family.

Lecturer, 1999 IOTA conference, Occupational therapy services for developmentally disabled adults in various settings.

**Education:**

1994-1996

B.S., Occupational Therapy Program,  
University of Illinois at Chicago,  
Chicago, IL

2000

Student at large, Disability Studies, University  
of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

## **AWARDS**

2007 Illinois Occupational Therapy Association OT Public Awareness Award  
2006 Illinois Occupational Therapy Association Board Award of Merit  
Recognition Award from Access Living for the 2004 Disability Pride Parade (Core Group member)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

Washington Occupational Therapy Association member, February 2009- present  
American Occupational Therapy Association member, November 1994 to present  
Illinois Occupational Therapy Association member, November 1994 to present  
Member of University of Illinois Disabled Student Union (DSU) 9/00-9/01  
Member of The National Disabled Student Union (NDSU) 2/01-2004  
Member of Illinois Association for the Deaf  
Member of Daughters of the Nile- women's auxiliary group for Shriner's hospital  
Member of the Shriner's Hospital alumni  
Member of Polish Legion of American Veterans- woman's auxiliary group  
Member of FRIDA (Feminist Response in Disability Activism)

## **OFFICES/PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

Presented at Illinois Occupational Therapy Association as part of multicultural liaison chair's responsibility, 1998 to 2008

Lecturer, American Occupational Therapy Association conference as a presenter. A Tool for Recovery: WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) (5/13/2005)

Guest Lecturer, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois- "Deaf 101" (2002- 2006)

Lecturer, with co-workers, "Real World OT" at Illinois Occupational Therapy Conference (2000)

Guest Lecture, South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois- "Deaf 101" (1999)

Lecturer, "Incontinence" Grand Rounds with Doctor T. Pang at Ingalls Memorial Hospital and Illinois Occupational Therapy Conference, 1999

Lecturer, "Providing Healthcare Services for Developmentally Disabled Consumers" Grand Rounds, 2000

Lecturer "Changes in Rehabilitation: End of Professionalism?" Panel  
Grand Rounds, 2000

**PUBLICATIONS:**

"Coming Home to Disabled Country" by Sarah Triano and Laura Obara.  
*Mouth Magazine*. January- February 2002, p 10-11.

Updates of multicultural issues or events in the Communiqué and IOTA  
listserv from 1998 to 2008.

Moderator for Progress Center for Independent Living Yahoo Group for  
board members to exchange and update board members of various  
events from 2002-2008.

Moderator for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation (PSR) Yahoo groups for  
consumers and professionals in mental health in metro north Chicago  
land to exchange information and events from 2004-2008.

Current moderator for "Dogs of the Deaf in Seattle"- a monthly group for  
deaf, hard of hearing, interpreters, friends, and family to meet at various  
dog parks from 2009 to present.

# Seattle Commission for People with disabilities

June 27, 2011

15 Commission members: Per S.M.C. 3.14.920, confirmed by City Council, 2-years terms\*

- 7 Appointed by Mayor
- 7 Appointed by City Council
- 1 Appointed by the Commission, confirmed by City Council

1 Commission member: Per S.M.C. 3.14.920 Part C, confirmed by City Council, a single 1-year term

- 1 through the Get Engaged youth leadership, Appointed by Mayor

| D | G | Name                     | Appointed | Term Ends | Term #          | Appointed By        |
|---|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 6 | F | Cory, Rebecca            | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | City Council        |
| 1 | F | Foster, Vickie           | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | City Council        |
| 1 | F | Lum, Mary Beth           | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | City Council        |
| 6 | F | Witmer, Deborah          | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | City Council        |
| 6 | F | <b>Gramer, Laura</b>     | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2013 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <b>City Council</b> |
| 6 | M | <b>Stobbe, Gary</b>      | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2013 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <b>City Council</b> |
| - | - | <i>Vacant (Denooyer)</i> | -         | 4-30-2013 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>City Council</i> |
| 6 | M | Adreon, Mark             | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mayor               |
| 6 | F | Curtiss, Charlene        | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mayor               |
| 2 | F | Drummond, Hope           | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mayor               |
| 6 | F | Woody, Sara              | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2012 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mayor               |
| 6 | M | Caple, Joshua            | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2013 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Mayor               |
| 6 | F | Copeland, Patricia       | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2013 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Mayor               |
| 6 | F | Sekins, Erica            | 5-10-2010 | 4-30-2013 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Mayor               |
| 5 | F | <b>McKee, Saron</b>      | 6-27-2011 | 4-30-2013 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Commission</b>   |
| 5 | F | Mauck, Sheelarani        | 1-10-2011 | 9-15-2011 | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Get Engaged         |

*(sorted by appointing authority, term end date, and name)*

## Diversity

|              | Men      | Women     | Vacant   | Minority | (1)<br>Asian-American | (2)<br>African-American | (3)<br>Hispanic Latino/a | (4)<br>Native-American | (5)<br>Other | (6)<br>Caucasian |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Mayor        | 2        | 5         | 0        | 1        | 0                     | 1                       | 0                        | 0                      | 0            | 6                |
| Council      | 1        | 5         | 1        | 2        | 2                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 0            | 4                |
| Commission   | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 1*           | 0                |
| GE Program   | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1        | 0                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 1**          | 0                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>2</b>              | <b>1</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>               | <b>2</b>     | <b>10</b>        |

\*Mixed race

\*\*Middle Eastern