

# City of Seattle

## Notice of Appointment

<b>Name:</b>  <i>Laura Gramer</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Appointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Council <input type="checkbox"/> PDA Constituency
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b>  <i>Wallingford</i>	<b>Zip Code:</b>  <i>98103</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>  <i>206-684-4537</i>
<b>Appointed to:</b>  <i>At-large member of the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities</i>		<b>Date of Appointment:</b>  <i>May 1, 2013</i>
<b>Authority (Ord., Res.):</b>  <i>S.M.C. 3.14.920</i>		<b>Term of Office</b> <b>From:</b> <i>Confirmation</i> <b>To:</b> <i>April 30, 2015</i>
<b>Background:</b>  <i>RE-appointment</i>  <p>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.</p>		
<b>Authorizing Signature:</b>  		<b>Name and Title of Officer Making Appointments:</b>  <b>Bruce Harrell,</b> <b>Council Member</b>

Laura A. Obara Gramer



**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**

*Disability Pride Parade 2004 and 2005, Chicago, IL;*  
[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**

Illinois Occupational Therapy Association OT Public Awareness Award  
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, 2013

15 members, confirmed by City Council, who serve a term of 2-years:

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

1 Get Engaged Member, confirmed by City Council who serves a single term of 1-year

D	G	Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Term #	Position	Appointed By
-	-	Vacant	-	4-30-2014	1 <sup>st</sup>		City Council
1	F	Vickie Foster	5-10-2010	4-30-2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>		City Council
6	M	<i>Ryan Troyer</i>	<i>4-3-2013</i>	<i>4-30-2014</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>		<i>City Council</i>
6	F	Deborah Witmer	5-10-2010	4-30-2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>		City Council
6	M	<i>Mike Barta</i>	<i>9-22-2011</i>	<i>4-30-2015</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>		<i>City Council</i>
6	F	<i>Laura Gramer</i>	<i>5-10-2010</i>	<i>4-30-2015</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Co-Chair</i>	<i>City Council</i>
6	M	<i>Robert Canamar</i>	<i>4-3-2013</i>	<i>4-30-2015</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>		<i>City Council</i>
-	-	Vacant (McKee)	-	4-30-2013	1 <sup>st</sup>		Commission
6	M	Mark Adreon	5-10-2010	4-30-2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Mayor
1	M	Steve Ferreira	8-20-2012	4-30-2014	1 <sup>st</sup>		Mayor
2	F	Hope Drummond	5-10-2010	4-30-2014	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Mayor
-	-	Vacant (Reza)	8-20-2012	4-30-2014	1 <sup>st</sup>		Mayor
-	-	Vacant (Caple)	-	4-30-2013	1 <sup>st</sup>		Mayor
6	F	Patricia Copeland	5-10-2010	4-30-2013	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Mayor
2	M	Jonathan Porter	8-20-2012	4-30-2013	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Co-Chair	Mayor
2	F	Grace Oludiji	9-6-2012	9-1-2013	1 <sup>st</sup>	Get Engaged	Mayor

(sorted by appt auth, term end date and name)

## Diversity

	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	(1) Asian-American	(2) African-American	(3) Hispanic Latin@	(4) Native-American	(5) Other	(6) Caucasian
Mayor	3	2	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	2
Council	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Commission	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Get Engaged*	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

## **Boards & Commissions Request for Appointment and Reappointment**

*From* Felicia Yearwood

*Date* May 28, 2013

### **Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities**

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#### **New Appointments**

*Following are the bios for applicants who request consideration for an initial appointment.*

#### **Robert Canamar**

Robert Canamar, a disabled veteran and wheelchair user, has been active for the past twenty-five years advocating for individuals who are homeless and poor. Robert previously served as a member of the Seattle Housing Authority Resident Action Council and President of Ballard House Community Council. Robert has been active with Poverty Action Network, Progressive Majority, League of Conservation Voters, and People for the American Way. Robert was instrumental in the creation of the Commission through his service on the ad hoc Committee to Establish a Seattle Disabilities Commission. Robert has been engaged with the Commission, regularly attends meetings and special events, and has begun serving on the Transportation Subcommittee.

#### **Ryan Troyer**

Ryan Troyer graduated the University of Washington, Bothell with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Arts in Environmental Sciences and Technology, with a minor in Human Rights. While a student, Ryan identified and tested access issues for university campus, recommended cost-effective solutions for access modifications, and advised on accessible signage solutions. Ryan has tested website accessibility for Starbucks and divisions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ryan identified accessibility issues and made recommendations to a hotel chain while vacationing in France. Ryan serves on AccessSTEM, an interactive online community for DO-IT Scholars in science and technology related fields. Ryan regularly attends Commission meetings and events. Ryan has begun serving on the Transportation Subcommittee and has provided valuable analysis of a Scope of Work for a Sidewalk Pilot Project proposed by the Seattle Department of Transportation.

#### **Re-Appointments**

*Following are the bios for Commissioners who request consideration for reappointment.*

#### **Mike Barta**

Mike Barta has a background in disability theory specifically related to inclusion, stigma, and independence. Mike was a member of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines working group for the W3C which created the standard for digital accessibility concerns. He is knowledgeable about adaptive solutions, both technical AT and practical work arounds. Mike is retired from 15 years at Microsoft and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Policy. Mike has begun working with the City's Department of

## **Request for appointment and reappointment memo**

Information Technology on a plan to develop a web portal for disability-related issues. Mike chairs the Commission's nominating committee.

### **Laura Gramer**

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