



Monroe County Legislature
Office of the President

SABRINA LAMAR
PRESIDENT

May 8, 2023

David Grant, Clerk
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, NY 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	230142
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
URGENT	-L

Matter of Urgency: Appointment to the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Grant:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the Monroe County Legislature by Section 545-24(A)(3) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature, I hereby declare the above a matter of urgency to be considered at the Tuesday, May 9, 2023 meeting of the Monroe County Legislature.

Please inform the members of the Legislature accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sabrina LaMar
Monroe County Legislature
President

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2023

APPOINTMENT TO THE MONROE COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with Monroe County Resolution No. 76 of 2020, the following appointment to the Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee, with a term to commence immediately, is hereby confirmed:

Minority Leader Appointment – Citizen

Akilah Skerette-Banister
125 Hamilton Street
Rochester, NY 14620

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Matter of Urgency
File No. 23-____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

AKILAH SKERRETTE-BANISTER

125 Hamilton Street, Rochester, NY 14620 | (347) 523-3184 (C)
akilah.banister@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A goal-oriented and dependable professional with more than 10 years of diverse public service experience within state government and private sector. Knowledgeable about policies, legislation, and regulations related to service recipients with intellectual disabilities and proficient in translating policies into practice. Adept at interfacing with other governmental entities at the local and state level, and the wider community. Proven history of strong collaboration and partnership skills.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven value as a strategic advisor
- Visionary leadership and executive oversight experience
- Demonstrated goal-setting and strategic planning skills
- Demonstrated critical thinking and problem-solving abilities
- Demonstrated success in project planning including development and implementation
- Strong analytical and interpersonal skills resulting in improved team productivity and efficiency
- Led logistical planning efforts for field operations
- Proven ability to work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary group
- Strong communication skills (written and oral) and ability to build consensus

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Rochester NY

Acting Director, Bureau of Records Management

March 2023

Direct responsibility for developing internal written policies and procedures for records management that ensures agency compliance with Federal, State, and Agency rules and regulations.

- Serves as the primary Agency official in charge of coordinating records management matters with New York State Archives and other oversight Agencies.
- Oversees the Training, Development, and Implementation of Records Management program activities across the Agency.
- Participates in Agency relocation plans to assist with record transfers and ownership plans.
- Assists with the annual CFR Audits.
- Conducts annual evaluations/reviews of the Records Management program, develops annual, short- and long-term plans, and implements corrective and quality improvement plans.
- Tracks and reports any unpermitted or accidental destruction, defacing, alteration, or removal of records and creates a plan to mitigate further unpermitted action.

Emergency Manager

2016 – March 2023

An adept emergency planner focused on translating and implementing policies into practice for a governmental agency serving a vulnerable population.

- Worked collaboratively with agency heads to develop the Agency's Reopening Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan in response to COVID-19 and the Public Health Emergencies Response Plan (DRAFT) that includes a Readiness Assessment based on the CDC's Preparedness and Response Capabilities (2018).
- Evaluated the impacts of COVID-19 on Agency operations by using a tool called the Business Process Analysis where we collected, analyzed, and used data to assess program-level operations.
- Assisted in developing a standardized Administrator On-Duty (AOD) Manual (DRAFT) for incident management statewide.
- Provided technical assistance on CMS Emergency Management Regulations to non-profit providers and COVID-related policies and guidance.
- Developed and assisted in implementing an Emergency Management Operations Protocol that

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includes a Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for all State-Owned and Operated OPWDD facilities.

- Developed an Emergency Response and Reporting Guide for all OPWDD facilities to improve Communication capabilities across the agency.
- Assisted in the development and delivery of a Testing, Training, and Exercise Program for OPWDD staff.
- Responsible for developing an Emergency Management Program for non-profit providers.

Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, Rochester NY

Program Manager

2015

Performed duties that focused on best practices and strategies for promoting population health and reducing healthcare disparities in the Finger Lakes region.

- Conducted literature reviews and researched best practices to support and inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of best practices and strategies as adopted by FLHSA Commissions/Work Groups.
- Assisted in policy writing for reports to be presented to Work Groups.

National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, New York NY

Research Coordinator

2007 - 2013

A detail-oriented and team-centered researcher who collaboratively worked on project planning, budget preparation and management, logistical planning, coordination, and working to achieve desired results.

- Evaluated tabletop exercises and functional exercises to determine individual-level response with the Putnam County Office of Emergency Management.
- Collaborated and partnered with community-based organizations to recruit and interview participants for enrollment into the study.
- Planned and coordinated multiple risk communication studies addressing the impact of public health messaging for pandemic flu on ethnically diverse, disadvantaged, and socially vulnerable populations.
- Successfully led the logistical planning phase of the field operations in 4 states along the Gulf Coast with populations impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and was able to recruit over 100 participants.
- Effectively managed a nearly \$500K field operations budget by achieving quantifiable cost reductions associated with travel, room, and board for a research team, field staff, and approximately 60 high school students.
- Collaborated with team members on the design and implementation of the SHOREline Project for the recruitment of high school students affected by disasters in the Gulf Coast, to empower them to make fundamental changes in the lives of other youth, their family, and their community.
- Collaborated with team members and contributed to the study design and survey development for multi-state field efforts, used to develop key findings showing the impact of children and their families.
- Negotiated with third-party vendors in delivering quality service and products for use in the SHOREline Youth Summits.
- Created marketing material for the recruitment of high school students for the SHOREline project.
- Responsible for all contractual paperwork and payroll for field operations staff.

EDUCATION

Master in Public Health (MPH), Molecular Epidemiology - Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Science (BS), Environmental Science and BS, Chemistry with ACS Certification, North Carolina

Central University, Durham, NC

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Genesee Federal Credit Union, Rochester NY

Board of Directors

2022 – Present

- Manages and advises the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- Serves on the Policies and Procedures Committees

Climate Solutions Accelerator, Rochester NY

Board of Directors

2019 – Present

- Currently serves as the Board Chair
- Manages and advises the Executive Director.
- Serves on the Executive, Governance, and Policies and Procedures Committees.
- Assisted in the development of board processes, policies, and procedures.
- Participated in developing the Strategic Plan to help set the direction for the Accelerator.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Certified Emergency Medical Technician, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY

Business Certificate, Finance, Marketing & Organizational Management, School of Continuing Education, Columbia University, New York, NY, May 2012

Federal Emergency Management Agency & NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)

Level I – Professional Continuity Practitioner

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

G-139 - Exercise Design

Texas A&M Engineering (TEEX) Certifications

Critical Asset Risk Management (CARM)

Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Past Member of the Association of Contingency Planners
- Past Member of Toastmasters' International
- Past Member of the American Public Health Association (APHA)

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

School of Arts and Sciences at St. John Fisher College

Adjunct Professor

2020

Lectured a master-level Environmental Health course in Public Health.

- Prepared curriculum content to advance students' foundational understanding of environmental health issues and current environmental policies.
- Encouraged active learning through discussion-led projects to enhance students' portfolios.
- Provided an outlet for mentorship and networking by having guest speakers in the industry lecture and connect with students.
- Provided students with exceptional analytical, communication, and research skills.
- Created and actively participated in an online discussion, connecting classroom and online learning.
- Promoted student success by showing flexibility in teaching style, exhibiting a passion for teaching, and engaging students in the learning process.

Monroe Ambulance, Rochester NY

Emergency Medical Technician

2015 – 2016

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A patient-centered health professional with excellent communication and problem-solving skills that provides basic life support to patients.

- Responded to 911 calls for emergency medical assistance, ranging from bandaging a wound to life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and triaging of patients.
- Interfaced with other emergency professionals such as fire, rescue, law enforcement, and hospital personnel.

School of International and Public Affairs in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at Columbia University, New York, NY

Teaching Associate

2008

Performed duties that were instructional in nature to students.

- Discussed assigned duties with the class professor to coordinate instructional efforts.
- Prepared lesson materials, equipment, and demonstrations for use in laboratory work.
- Presented subject matter to students under the direction and guidance of the professor, using lectures and discussions.
- Tutored and assisted students individually and/or in small groups to help them master assignments and reinforce learning concepts presented by the professor.
- Graded class assignments and exams and computed and recorded results.
- Instructed and monitored students in the use and care of laboratory equipment and materials, to prevent injuries and damage.

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