

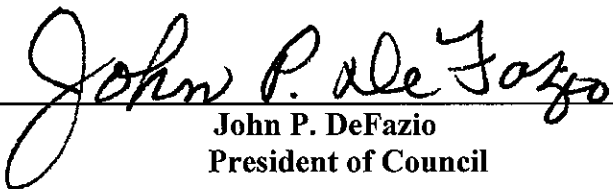
**APPOINTMENT**

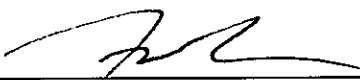
Approving the appointment of Paul Barkowitz to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

**SPONSORED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD**

In Council     **APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>**    , 2015.

Read and approved by Motion of Council.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John P. DeFazio**  
President of Council

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jared Barker**  
Chief Clerk  
Allegheny County Council

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 5, 2015

MAR5'15 11:01AM

Honorable President and Members  
Allegheny County Council  
119 Courthouse  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Dear Members of Council:

Please find the biography of Paul Barkowitz, whom I am recommending for appointment to the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board.

The MH/ID Board aids the County Executive and County Council in the planning, development and implementation of mental health and mental retardation services and supports to the residents of Allegheny County. I am recommending that Mr. Barkowitz serve a three year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mr. Barkowitz received his Bachelor's in Psychology and his Master's in Social Psychology. He has published several articles and journals. In addition is the parent of a child with special needs.

I appreciate your consideration, and ask you to act on this appointment as quickly as possible. Ms. Barkowitz will make himself available for review before the appropriate committee if members of Council wish to speak with him.

Sincerely,

Rich Fitzgerald  
Allegheny County Executive

CC: Paul Barkowitz

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Paul Barkowitz – [paulbark@gmail.com](mailto:paulbark@gmail.com)  
1191 Driftwood Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

412-276-1557 (Home and Work)  
412-656-6975 (Cell)

I welcome the opportunity to participate as a member of the Allegheny County MH/ID Board.

My educational background consists of a BS in Psychology (minor in Sociology) and an MS in Social Psychology (minor in Statistics). I've published several articles, focusing on the issue of cross-race identification (along the lines of "do they all look alike?"). But, that was a lifetime ago (1970s).

I haven't worked professionally in the Psychology field. Rather, I've worked in the computer industry, mostly as a technical instructor and program manager. I've worked for IBM since 1995.

My wife (Doreen) and I have three children, daughters (27 and 18 years old), and a son (Samuel – 25).

While there is very little from my educational or professional experience that brings value to my participating in the board, I have 25 years of parenting a special needs child that has taught me more than I could have learned about this in any classroom setting. Samuel has Asperger's Disorder, depression, and ADHD. In addition, he has Type I Diabetes.

Samuel was born "pissed off at the world." Literally from the day he was born, he was inconsolable. On his first day of life, he would hold his breath until he would turn blue. We were taught to blow in his face to startle him, so that he would breathe.

I could fill reams of paper describing events in Samuel's life, how Doreen and I have tried to help, the effect this has had on all members of our family. Samuel been through years of therapy, outpatient counseling, 18 separate hospital admissions for mental health issues, school problems, family based therapy, and two long term residential treatment facility stays. We've worked to get Samuel qualified for Medical Assistance, SSI, and independent living.

We supported Sam until he became an adult, and we continue to support him to this day. And, I don't mean financially (as Sam receives SSI, he is mostly self sufficient in this regard, although we do help out some). We support him in his daily living, even though he lives independently, in HUD-supported housing.

I have been an active dad in raising and supporting Samuel. Doreen and I are fortunate that both of us are active in this regard. All too often, when faced with these kinds of

problems, families split up. We are a team, and it has taken every ounce of our combined energy to be as effective as possible.

What I would bring to the Board is 25 years of experience in helping to raise and support a wonderful, talented, kind young man who has lived his life, and will continue to live his life burdened by his disability. He wakes up every day trying to be successful. On many days, he is. And then, life happens. Something goes wrong. And, all the good that has happened for weeks, months, gets flushed down the toilet. Any speed bump in life becomes a potential disaster.

I'm currently the co-chair of the Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery (ACCR) Youth and Family subcommittee, and as such I participate in their advisory board. Samuel has been my recovery muse. No matter how good things get, I know that a downward turn lies ahead. This isn't pessimism. It's reality. By the same token, no matter how bad things get, I know that Samuel will bounce back. He always has.

As I said, I could go on and on. It's painful at times to reflect back on all that's happened, but in a way, it's very satisfying as well. Samuel has taught me so much. I knew parenting would be difficult, but I had no idea. Samuel is a survivor, and I feel I am, too.

We have been fortunate to have had so much professional support from the Pittsburgh community. Samuel has a wonderful psychiatrist, and in addition sees a therapist that he relates to very well, given the therapist himself has Asperger's. Over the years, we had caring Therapeutic Support Staff, Mobile Therapists, and Behavioral Specialists who would come into our home and help us...all of us. Thanks to their effort, Samuel was able to live at home for almost his whole life. The person Samuel is today is, in large part, thanks to their work.

At this point in my life, I would like to give back in some way to help those facing the same kinds of struggles we faced (and face). That's why I joined ACCR and stepped up to a leadership role. And, that's why I'm interested in participating in the MH-ID Board.

If you need any more information, please let me know.

Thank you,

Paul



# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

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April 8, 2015

Mr. Paul Barkowitz  
1191 Driftwood Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Dear Mr. Barkowitz:

This is to inform you that at the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 7, 2015 Council approved your appointment to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Congratulations on your appointment and best of luck in this undertaking. We look forward to receiving your recommendations and stand willing to assist you in any way you believe appropriate.

Sincerely,

Jan Rea, Appointment Review Committee Chair  
Allegheny County Council

cc: Marc Cherna, Director, Allegheny County Department of Human Services

JR/sb