

News from the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
Protecting, Advocating and Ensuring Quality of Life for People with Disabilities

Roger Bearden, Chair

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Contact: Bryan Jackson – 518-388-2891

CQC Strengthens Oversight Role with Appointment of Director of Investigations
Samuel Spitzberg Brings Wealth of Experience to New Position

As part of a realignment to strengthen its oversight role, Roger Bearden, Chair of the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities has appointed Samuel Spitzberg as its new Director of Investigations. Spitzberg brings with him extensive experience both as an investigator and prosecutor, most recently serving as a New York State Assistant Medicaid Inspector General.

Under the realignment, CQC units reporting to Spitzberg will include the Adult, Children and Fiscal investigative units of the Commission.

“Sam’s leadership will allow CQC to more effectively integrate its oversight of the vast network of agencies that provide programs and services to people with disabilities throughout New York State,” said Bearden. “The improved coordination of our investigative units will help us identify abuse, neglect and other problems within the system that need to be exposed and corrected.”

Spitzberg’s experience includes service as an Investigative Counsel for the New York State Inspector General. In that capacity he directed criminal and administrative investigations into allegations of fraud, larceny, and conflicts of interest. His investigations led to criminal and administrative sanctions being imposed. Prior to that, he was an Assistant District Attorney for Albany County.

For the past ten years, he has also served as a member of the United State Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, with assignments in Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Iraq. In this capacity, he has at various times served as both prosecutor and defense counsel in federal cases.

Spitzberg holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting from the State University of New York at Albany and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Hofstra University School of Law.

The Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities was created in 1977 to provide independent oversight and accountability for the delivery of services by the vast network of programs that comprise the state’s mental hygiene system. CQC also serves as the State's Protection and Advocacy agency, operating eight federal programs which provide legal and advocacy services to persons with disabilities.

Anyone seeking to make a complaint about services, who needs to report abuse or neglect, or who wants more information about programs for people with disabilities, can contact the Commission at 1-800-624-4143 or by visiting its website at www.cqc.ny.gov.

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