

To whom it may concern,

My name is Phoenix Stoddard, and I have been a Somerville resident for 27 years. I work as a case manager at an arts therapy studio for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who also have significant co-morbid behavioral health diagnoses. I have also worked in a group home for adults with intellectual disabilities, as well as interning at Gateway Arts, a Vinfen day program providing a professional art studio space for adults with intellectual disabilities.

I also have personal experiences with disabilities, being born with ADHD, Autism, and a severe allergic disorder. I was also raised by a father with later-stage multiple sclerosis, giving me early insight into mobility based conditions. Furthermore, in my early 20s I developed several serious autoimmune diseases that I now live with, giving me personal and professional experience with both developmental and physical disabilities.

I currently sit on two human rights committees (Vinfen and RHD) and have found Disability rights focused group work to be something I care deeply about.

Thank you for your time,

Phoenix