

The Professional Guardian

A publication by the Guardian Association of Pinellas County for the purpose of promoting advocacy & education.

Calendar & Coming Events

MAY 17, 7:00 P.M.

MONTHLY MEETING

"Challenges in Guardian Advocacy"

STEVEN HITCHCOCK, ESQUIRE

1 CEU approved

Hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m., Regal Palms

MAY 17, 5:00 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

MAY 27, 9:00 A.M.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

OAK MANOR
3600 Oak Manor Lane, Largo

Regular Monthly Meeting
the third Tuesday of each month
at 7:00 p.m. at Regal Palms
300 Lake Avenue NE, Largo

ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS
P.O. Box 1826
Pinellas Park, FL 33780
Phone (727) 323-9380
Info@guardianassociation.org
www.guardianassociation.org

HIGHLIGHT ON MAY SPEAKER

CHALLENGES IN GUARDIAN ADVOCACY



Steven Hitchcock, Esquire

As Guardians and other professionals serving the guardianship community, we are increasingly asked to assist those of our population subject to one of a series of medical conditions known as "Developmental Disabilities". Many of these individuals are completely able to make decisions and lead independent lives, however, increasingly these individuals may be in need of assistance. Rather than an incapacity guardianship, that assistance may take the form of Guardian Advocacy and the empowerment of a Guardian Advocate.

A Guardian Advocacy is a less restrictive form of guardianship designed to enable the individual to lead as independent a life as possible, but protecting these vulnerable individuals as well. Many Guardian Advocates are family members of the ward, usually a parent. The Professional Guardian may be asked to assist the Guardian Advocate as a mentor, or as the ward becomes older and the parent or other Guardian Advocate ages, the Professional Guardian may be asked to step in and become a successor Guardian Advocate. Occasionally an individual with a developmental disability may be cared for by a parent or loved one with only informal empowerment; the need for a Guardian Advocate arises only when the caregiver becomes sick or passes away. Professional Guardians should be aware of the potential for becoming a Guardian Advocate for an individual with a developmental disability, and welcome these opportunities to assist those unique individuals who need our help.

Mr. Hitchcock will discuss the standards for creation of a Guardian Advocacy, the empowerment of the Guardian Advocate, the accounting and reporting requirements of the Court, termination of the Guardian Advocacy and other issues; it will compare and contrast these issues with those of a traditional Guardianship. There will also be a discussion of the ever increasing role of the Professional Guardian in existing Guardian Advocate cases.

...continued on page 3

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Correy Pastore

Who am I ?

I am a person who works hard at my job.

I am a person who sees helpless people at their worst.

I am a person who sorts through the lives of other persons in need.

I am a person who protects them from harm, even from harm they can inflict upon themselves.

I am a person who assures them of safety, comfort and order.

I am a person who holds their hand in sickness.

I am a person who says farewell in their death and arranges their final resting places.

I am a person who becomes a friend and offers love when those who should, give nothing.

I am a person who has made sacrifices, however the sacrifices have made me who I am.

WHO AM I ?

I AM A GUARDIAN.

With sincere appreciation to all of you who have made a difference to those who cannot take care of themselves.

MAY GOD BLESS,

CORREY

.....
The Guardian Association of Pinellas County, Inc. is a non profit corporation, formed in 1977 as a voluntary group. It is a professional association which allows the receiving of tax deductible contribution of goods and services. The association is governed by an elected Board of Directors and meetings are open to all members. The purpose of the association is primarily that of education, thus promoting a better quality of service for elders by developing and improving the capabilities of guardians and their relationship with other entities within the community.

**Please join us for the monthly
Guardian Breakfast!**

Fri., May 27th, 9:00 a.m.

Oak Manor

3600 Oak Manor Lane, Largo

(see Guardian website for map)

RSVP to (727) 581-9427

**APRIL SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS
MEDICATION RELATED PROBLEMS**



Laurie Hill of Lincourt Pharmacy, a veteran in Marketing, Education and Sales, clarified many issues on medication related problems at our April Meeting.

Americans increasingly come into contact with powerful medicines that possess potential both to heal and harm. A medication-related problem (MRP) is any "bad" thing that can happen to the body as a result of taking medications. Seniors are at a higher risk for a MRP because of the changes in the body as a result of aging, chronic illnesses, poor eyesight, poor mobility, memory problems, cultural, economic, and social issues.

A MRP is most likely to occur when a new drug is added, when there is a change in dosage, when a drug is stopped, with food interactions, when taken with alcohol or illicit drugs, when taking multiple drugs, and when mixing with over-the-counter medications.

Conditions that increase the risk of a MRP are: taking more than five medications a day, taking more than 12 medication doses each day, medication regime has changed more than four times a year, more than three diseases/conditions are present and/or a history of medication non-compliance.

May Speaker Information...

.continued from front page

Mr. Hitchcock received his Law Degree, Cum Laude, from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida in 2005. Focuses of his law practice are in the areas of Elder Law, Estate Planning, Guardianship, Guardian Advocacy, Special Needs and Public Benefits, and Veteran's Benefits law. He is a partner at the law firm Special Needs Lawyers, P.A., in Clearwater. He is licensed to practice law in the State of Florida, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and is accredited to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

This program is open to our guardians, professional guardians, paralegals, administrators of nursing homes, assisted living facilities. Our networking members and guests. Hors d'oeuvres are served at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to begin at 7 p.m. Regal Palms, 300 Lake Avenue NE, Largo, is the Host of this Regular Meeting held on the second floor in the Palm View Room. Reservations are not required.

MAY is NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

Helpful Hints:

- ~ List all medications, over-the-counter medications, herbals, vitamins and supplements to give to all doctors.
- ~ Use only one pharmacy so they can check for drug interactions.
- ~ Make sure you know the following about your medication: Why you take it, When you take it, and How to take it.
- ~ Adverse reactions that signal stop taking the medication are: breathing issues, vomiting and rash.

Agencies exist that provide financial help for seniors. Each county has a Prescription Discount Card that can be obtained from most government offices to pay when there is no insurance available, or insurance does not pay for a particular medication.

Laurie's provocative 50 minute presentation generated many questions from the audience . For any further information call Laurie at (727) 424-3429.



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NAMI Pinellas County Florida - National Alliance on Mental Health - is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2011. Activities have been planned throughout the year not only to celebrate, but also to honor individuals with mental illness and their families. NAMI Pinellas believes in community collaboration and partners with local coalitions, councils and behavioral healthcare providers to supplement the services they provide. To honor this networking the NAMI Pinellas 25th Anniversary theme is: "A Celebration of Collaboration".

☞ **Brentwood Senior Living Community** will celebrate its one year anniversary Thursday, May 19, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., 6280 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg. RSVP (727) 586-9900.

☞ **BLS/PAN** Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. hosted by Bayview Gardens Beach House, Clearwater. For information or to RSVP, call (727) 771-3182.

☞ The monthly **Marketing Mania of Central Pinellas** networking breakfast meets May 31st, 9 a.m., Emeritus at Clearwater, 2750 Drew Street. RSVP (727) 799-2177.

☞ Networking meeting Wednesday, May 25th at **Bay Pointe Nursing Pavillion**. Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., 4201 31st Street South, St. Petersburg. RSVP, Amber Lion, Admissions/Marketing Director, at (727) 520-5137.

☞ Join Karen Karle for Dementia Caregiver Support Groups at the following locations: second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at **Brentwood** in St. Petersburg; 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Friday, 9:30 a.m. at **Grand Villa** in Largo; 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at **Bon Secours Place** in St. Petersburg; 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 9:30 a.m. at **St. Mark's Village** in Palm Harbor; 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 1:00 p.m. at **Villas of Belleair** in Clearwater. For more info, call Karen at (727) 391-9999.

☞ **Arden Courts, Seminole** will host its monthly networking breakfast Wed., May 25th, 8:30 a.m. RSVP (727) 517-7800.

☞ Work Smarter Luncheon is Noon at **Royal Palms**, Largo, Friday, May 20th. Speakers TBA. RSVP (727) 437-1637.

☞ **North County Networking** meets the first Tuesday of every month, 8:30 a.m. at **Freedom Inn, Countryside**, 3260 North McMullen Booth Road. RSVP (727) 934-4310.

☞ **Baytreee Lakeside** now hosts a Healthy Happy Hour the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Call (727) 545-0623 for more information.

☞ For information on the next **Chomp 'n Chat** breakfast, contact Cindy at (727) 253-3735.

☞ Referral Networking Group (RNG) meets for breakfast at **Barrington Terrace** Wednesday, May 18th at 9 a.m. RSVP to Diane at (727) 588-0020. The next Caregivers' Support Group meets Thurs., May 26th, 10:00 a.m.

☞ Listen to Kim Linder and invited speakers on **The Caregiver Hour** every Monday, 11:00 til noon on WHNZ 1250 AM radio. For more information, call Kim at (877) 897-8255.

☞ **Grand Villa of Largo** hosts its Motivational Marketing breakfast the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. For dates and times of Grand Villa support groups, call (727) 586-0108.

☞ BAMA Professional Networking Luncheon meets at Largo's **Arden Courts** the first Thursday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. \$5 for lunch, no checks please. RSVP to Rose Bobier at (727) 559-8411.

☞ **Oak Manor Senior Living Community** in conjunction with **Suncoast Hospice**, provides a "Caregiver Coffee Break" the third Friday of every month at 10am. Contact Karen at (727) 581-5388. Oak Manor is also proud to host the the Suncoast Hospice Volunteer Orientation and Patient & Family Support Training. The dates are Tuesday, June 7, June 14 and June 21st. Registration is required, call Hospice at (727) 586-4432, ext.4120.

☞ Brunch 'n Learn is Friday, June 3rd at **The Fountains of Boca Ciega Bay**, 1255 Pasadena Avenue, St. Petersburg.

☞ **BLS Consortium** will meet at Mease Manor, Dunedin, Friday, May 13th, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. No RSVP necessary.

☞ Check out **Arden Courts, Largo**, Wednesday, May 18th, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. "Walk in Someone Else's Shoes". For more information, call (727) 559-8411.

☞ **Gulfport Senior Center** hosts a Senior Chat Room, Fridays at 2:00 p.m. For information, contact Carol Ehrenkrantz at (727) 347-3424.

☞ Consider attending the Florida Elder & Disability Law Forum to be held at **Regency Oaks**, Clearwater, Thursday, May 19th, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For further information, (727) 252-0540.

☞ **FALA Pinellas** meets May 18th at noon for lunch at The Villas of Casa Celeste, 9225 82nd Avenue North, Seminole. RSVP (727) 397-7272.

Email your community events to Phyllis Johnson, pjohns3@tampabay.rr.com or call (727) 596-8919

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FAMILY GUARDIAN WORKSHOP March 30, 2011 - Emeritus at Clearwater

Becky Preidis, representing Emeritus at Clearwater, served as Host for this three hour class that included attorneys, family members, case managers, Guardians, Ad Litem representatives and parents of Developmentally Disabled adult children. Also present were a Pasco County Guardian, Guardian President Correy Pastore, Executive Director Patricia Hall and Board Member/ Secretary Cynthia Van Vliet.

Hector Collazo, Office of the Inspector General, provided information regarding Accounting for family members. John Cautero, Probate Attorney and Guardian Board member, summarized duties of the Family Guardian in Chapter 744 of the Florida Statutes and emphasized the need for keeping records. Steven Hitchcock, Attorney, addressed Advocacy under Chapter 393. Judy Turnbaugh, Family Guardian, spoke on classes and resources available to assist in caring for family members.

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WHILE WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS BEFORE, the following issues continue to occur (facts modified to protect the confidentiality of the sealed records):

- A Ward inherits monies from his deceased father and a Petition and Order designating depository is entered.
- The designated financial institution DID NOT file the Receipt of Depository.
- The Court ordered the Guardian/Attorney to file the required documents for the Receipt of Depository. The Guardian/Attorney filed copies of bank statements, but did not file the Receipt or Acceptance of Depository as requested by the Court.
- The Court issues an Order that a Receipt and Acknowledgment prohibiting withdrawals without Court Order be filed.
- The Guardian/Attorney ignores the Court Orders.
- The Guardian resigns and the Guardian's Attorney did not notify the Court for two months.
- The Court appoints a Guardian Ad Litem who provides copies of bank statements, which indicate Teller/ATM withdrawals totaling \$95,000, all made without the required Court Order.

It is very important to remember that the submission of a Receipt and Acceptance of Depository is required. It is imperative that the Receipt and Acceptance be filed by the Bank. An updated/amended Receipt of Depository is required when any account information changes, which includes bank mergers resulting in the change of bank names and/or account numbers.

The Division of Inspector General has moved.
Our new address is 510 Bay Avenue, Clearwater FL 33756.



HOW TO CONTACT US:

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Guardian Association

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For more information contact: 727-323-9380
Website: www.guardianassociation.org

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One Windrush Blvd., #55

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

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Deadline for ads with payment is the **25th** of each month. Same deadline for editorial copy. A complimentary copy of each issue is sent to our advertisers.



GUARDIAN ASSOCIATION NETWORKING BREAKFAST
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Guardian Association

of Pinellas County, Inc.

P.O. Box 1826
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