



Including Siblings Conference

Sponsored by The Arc of Illinois
and
Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters

Achieve with Us.

March
20,
2012

- 9:15 a.m. ***“Transition from Parents to Siblings: A Sibling’s Perspective”***
Presented by Nancy Webster
As parents age there often comes a time when there is a shift of responsibilities from parents to siblings. Many times parents have not prepared their children for this "transition". Nancy will discuss what parents can do to prepare their children, what siblings can do to have a voice at the table, and discuss why this transition process is so important from her personal experiences.
- 11:00 a.m. ***“Advocating from the Heart”***
Presented by Katherine Hamann and Shirley Perez
Circumstances may have caused us to fall into advocacy for our siblings, but advocacy is really a choice we make every day. How do we become strong advocates **with** as well as **for** the ones we love? What are some of the basics of working with legislators, agencies, etc. to achieve positive results for our family members? How does a sibling’s perspective shape our advocacy?
- 12:00 Noon Lunch (included) and Networking/Bookselling
- 1:00 p.m. ***“Prepare to be Surprised”***
Presented by Harriet Redman
“Prepare to be surprised” is good advice in future planning. In this session, Harriet Redman, founder of Wisconsin’s Fox Valley Sibling Support Network, will share her experience in working with adults concerned about their vulnerable siblings and their futures. Suitable for siblings who may be interested in future planning or program planners interested in providing future planning programs.
- 2:15 p.m. ***“ A Sibling’s Story”***
Presented by Maureen R. Aidasani
A sister shares her perspective on growing up with a brother with autism, the importance of sibling support throughout her life, and her involvement with Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters.
- 3:00 p.m. ***“SIBS and SLN: Past, Present and Future”***
Presented by Katie Arnold and Tara Conley
Tara will discuss the development of Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, what they have been doing and their vision for the future. Katie will discuss the national Sibling Leadership Network, what they have been up to and the partnership with SIBS and The Arc.
- 3:30 p.m. ***“Keeping Your Sibling Safe in the Community”***
Presented by Nora Fox Handler
In the thirteen years since their mother passed away the Fox Brothers have experienced a number of moves and transitions. During this period all of them have had interactions with police officers. Advocating for our siblings to have the fullest life possible while also keeping them safe is a balancing act. Nora will share her family’s experience and what you can do proactively to keep your sibling safe in the community.



About the Presenters

Maureen R. Aidasani is an in-house attorney with the national public accounting firm Grant Thornton LLP. Maureen's practice includes managing complex securities and malpractice litigation, overseeing regulatory investigations, and counseling firm professionals on various risk management issues. Prior to joining Grant Thornton, she was an associate attorney with Winston & Strawn LLP. Maureen serves on the Executive Committee, and is a past Co-Chair, of the Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women committee, and is an Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She received her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. As an undergraduate at Syracuse University, Maureen was a four-year varsity letter-winner and captain of the women's track and field team. Maureen currently serves on the Board of Directors of Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, an Illinois nonprofit organization, and is the proud younger sister of Don Wickerham, an adult living with autism.

Katie Arnold, M.S., is the Director of Community Education in the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Katie provides education, training, and resources on various topics. Katie currently serves on the Board of The Arc of Illinois. Katie also provides leadership to Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters (SIBS), as well as the national Sibling Leadership Network. Katie has received numerous awards including the 2009 UIC Humanitarian of the Year award for her dedication to the advancement of human rights of people with disabilities and the 2011 Chicago Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year. Katie's passion about her work with people with disabilities stems from her experience growing up with her sister with developmental disabilities.

Tara Conley is currently an Individual Service Coordinator (ISC) with Service of Will, Grundy, and Kankakee Counties. She has a MA in Psychology of Human Development and has worked with people with developmental disabilities for over twenty years. In 2004 Tara created the listserv AdultSibsNet, an online community for adult siblings in Illinois. She then co-founded Family Sibday for the families whose children attend Sibshops in 2006. Additionally, Tara serves on the Sibling Support Project's Advisory Committee and is a member of the Sibling Leadership Network. She also serves on UIC's Consumer Advisory/LEND committee and is an Arc of IL Board Member. In 2005 Tara received The Arc of IL Outstanding Family Advocate Award. She is also a founding member and president of SIBS, Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, a non profit organization whose mission is to support siblings of people with disabilities across the lifespan. Having a brother with significant disabilities has motivated Tara to dedicate much of her time to the enhancement of services to people with disabilities in Illinois as well as their entire family.

Nora Fox Handler is a committed sister to her three brothers with intellectual disabilities, Marty, Patrick and Michael. Michael also has a serious mental illness. She is a passionate advocate for people with disabilities and their families and shares the story of her family's experience and the consequences of their lack of planning for the future. Nora is a founding member and the treasurer of SIBS, Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, a non profit organization whose mission is to support siblings of people with disabilities. She is a Board Member of The Arc of Illinois and the Sibling Leadership Network. In 2009 Nora received The Arc of IL Outstanding Family Advocate Award. Nora Fox Handler, while living in central Illinois, was instrumental in the growth of The Mahomet-Seymour Schools Educational Foundation. Serving five years as the Executive Director, Nora raised financial and gifts-in-kind contributions for teacher's grants and scholarships through innovative campaigns and events. She currently works as a leader for Weight Watchers.

Katherine Hamann is an Illinois Life Span Family Advocate for The Arc of Illinois. In spite of a B.A. in English from Northwestern University and an M.A. in English from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Katherine's true vocation came from her sister with developmental disabilities, whose long journey from childhood in Dixon State School to life in a CILA is her inspiration. Katherine's own journey has taken her from work as a Volunteer Coordinator and Human Resources Associate for the State of Illinois at Howe Center, to experience as a human rights committee chair and involvement in various advocacy and self-advocacy groups.

Shirley A. Perez is the Executive Director of The Family Support Network of Illinois (FSN). Ms. Perez has twenty plus years of advocating and working with individuals and their families with disabilities. She has worked as a Special Project Advocate with the Illinois Life Span Project; met with families/guardians to explain the transition process and listen to their concerns as their family members transition into the community from State Operated Developmental Centers. She has worked at a Pre-Admission Screening Agency where she advocated for and assisted families in locating services by navigating the State system. In conjunction with the City of Chicago, Federal Home Loan Bank and The *Illinois Housing Development Authority*, she implemented a home-buying program for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities. She is the proud mother of an adult daughter (Tamekia), who lives at home with her. Tamekia is diagnosed with multiple disabilities, intellectually and developmentally delayed. She is non-verbal, diagnosed with Autism and suffers from a seizure disorder. Her passion for advocacy is fueled by her desire to help her daughter and others with disabilities reach their full potential. Ms. Perez's philosophy is, "everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Harriet Redman is Executive Director and founding member of the Fox Valley Sibling Support Network, a non-profit organization established in 1998 and dedicated to the interests of children and adults who have siblings with disabilities or long-term illnesses in Northeast Wisconsin. A graduate of Valparaiso University, she has taught middle school and high school, developed family educational programs and marketing strategy for a Fortune 500 insurance company, and served as business manager of a non-profit, semi-professional choral organization. She has a master's degree from Purdue University in family life education and a passion for the needs of siblings. She and her husband have a 19-year old son with multiple disabilities whose 22-year old sister is her mother's inspiration and most honest critic. In 2009, Redman was presented the *Exceptional Parent* magazine's Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award for her work and advocacy on behalf of the 54.6 million people living with disabilities in the United States. In 2010, she was honored with a Celebrating Abilities Award in recognition of her founding an annual week-long community project that inspires the Fox Cities community to celebrate the abilities of each person, regardless of their disabilities.

Nancy Webster is a Board Member of The Arc of the United States, currently servicing as Vice President of the Board of Directors. Her affiliation with The Arc U.S. started in 2001 when she served on the Development Committee. In 2002, she was elected to the Board and has served and chaired the Development Committee; has served on the Governance and Rules committee; and the Task Force on Affiliation and Growth; and, for the past three (3) years, has chaired the Future of The Arc committee, which created "The Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc" (the 10-year strategic plan), and which now is charged with the oversight of implementing it annually. Prior to joining The Arc U.S., Nancy was active in The Arc of Illinois from 1992 to 2002, serving as its Board President from 1998 to 2001. Nancy and her husband, Bob, have lived in the Chicago area for the past 41 years. Their current home is in the Chicago southwest suburb, Indian Head Park. They have two grown children and are enjoying the life balance of family, work and volunteerism. Nancy's sister, Martha, a person with disabilities who lives with her friends, Jane and Terry, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is an important part of all aspects of their lives.

Cost & Registration

March 20, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Registration 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Registration Fees for Participants are:

Arc Members:

Professional.....\$ 90.00
Consumer/Family Member.....\$ 55.00

Non Arc Members:

Professional.....\$120.00
Consumer/Family Member.....\$ 80.00

The registration fee covers the cost of materials, refreshments and lunch. Please complete the attached registration form, fax it to 815-464-5292, then mail the hard copy along with your check to:

The Arc of Illinois
20901 S. LaGrange Rd., Suite 209
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-464-1832

CEUs and CPDUs will be offered for this training.

Educators, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Nursing Home Administrators and QSP's signing in and out on the day of the event are entitled to five (5) credits.

If financial restrictions prevent you from paying full registration, consumer stipends are available through The Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832 or thearcofil.org. The Consumer Involvement Fund Program is funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Groups of more than 7 from one agency are entitled to a 10% discount. If you have any special needs, please contact Linda Bivian at 815-464-1832. Notice of any special accommodations is required TWO WEEKS prior to the event.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS Participants canceling their registration 72 hours in advance will be entitled to a credit or refund, less a \$50.00 administrative cost. No refund or credit will be given for cancellation less than 72 hours before the seminar.

LOCATION

College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-942-2800

From IL-53 take Park Blvd. North to Fawell Blvd. Go left or West on Fawell Blvd. to parking lot D. Go to the Student Resource Center (SRC Building). Take the stairs or the elevator up to the 2nd floor and the meeting room is right there. Meeting room SRC2800.

Registration Form

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One form per person, please print legibly.
Your name will appear on your name tag
as it appears on this form.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

AMOUNT PAYABLE: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

____ Fax form and send check to The Arc of Illinois
(815-464-5292)

____ Check enclosed payable to The Arc of Illinois

____ P.O. or State Voucher # _____

____ Charge to my Visa or Mastercard

Name as it appears on card:

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card holder's signature:



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Intended Audience

Siblings, Families and Professionals who support
people with disabilities!