

# 8th Annual Informational Seminar



presented by

*The Arc of Illinois, Family Support Network and  
the Ligas Family Advocate Program*

## AGENDA

### March 19, 2020

**8:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Registration and Visit with Vendors**

**9:00 - 9:15 a.m. - Welcome and Overview of Options**

**Presented by Shirley Perez, Program Director  
Mary Dixon and Megan Mutti, Ligas Family Advocates  
Troy Markert, Family Support Network Family Advocate**

**9:15 - 10:30 a.m. - "SSI, SSDI, HFS: Understanding the Alphabet Soup of Government Benefits"  
Presented by Sherri Schneider, President of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc.**

This presentation will explore the who, what, and when of the four major government benefits and how they change over a lifetime. A major focus will be on Medicaid: what it covers and why an individual with a disability will need this benefit, like oxygen, for their entire lifetime. Ending in a game of BENEFIT BINGO, you will not believe all you have learned.

**10:30 - 11:00 a.m. - "Ligas Update"**

**Presented by Ronnie Cohn, Ligas Court Monitor**

**11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - KEYNOTE SPEAKER - "Update on What's Happening at DHS"**

**Presented by Allison Stark, DDD Director**

**12:15 - 1:15 p.m. - Lunch (included in registration)**

**1:15 - 2:15 p.m. - "Families, Are You Confused with all the Changes Happening in Illinois?"**

**Presented by Brian Rubin and Benji Rubin, Attorneys at Law**

This presentation will focus on: Special Needs Estate Planning including: types of and appropriate uses of Special Needs Trusts, Gifting by Grandparents and extended family members, the impact of divorce and child support on government benefits, determining the appropriate amount to leave; Guardianships and Alternatives; The "ABLE" Account; The "sibling" perspective. And so much more.

**2:15 - 3:00 p.m. - "Meet Your Fiscal Agent and Learn What's New Including Electronic Verification!"** Presented by Tasha Whiteside, Director of Illinois Operations, ACES\$

**3:00 - 3:15 p.m. - Wrap-Up -**

**Presented by Meg Cooch, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois**

**3:15 - 3:30 p.m. - Visit with Vendors**

# About the Presenters

## Brian Rubin, J.D. and Benjamin Rubin, J.D.

**Attorney Brian Rubin**, a former IRS Agent and former IRS Attorney, has been a practicing attorney since 1976, has been married to his wife Linda for the past 42 years, is the parent of three children (41, 38, and 34), one of whom, Mitchell, has Autism. Brian's law practice, for nearly four decades, since 1982, when Mitchell was one year old, has been dedicated to serving the legal and future planning needs of his fellow Illinois families of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or mental illness. Brian is the Immediate Past President (2017-2018) of the Special Needs Alliance, the national, non-profit, association of experienced special needs planning attorneys (membership is by invitation only), and is a Faculty Member and Text Book Author for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE) on the topic of special needs legal and future planning, as well as a Speaker for the American Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association on those topics.



**Benjamin (Benji) Rubin**, Brian's youngest son, Mitchell's "little/big" brother, has been a member of the Law Firm since 2010. Benji graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law, Magna Cum Laude, received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, and his Graduate Law Degree, an LLM (Tax), with honors, also from Northwestern University. Benji is a member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, a member, by invitation, of the Special Needs Alliance, is Chairman of the American Bar Association Special Needs Planning Committee, serves as the President of SIBS (Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters), the Illinois chapter of the national Sibling Leadership Network, and is the Treasurer of The Arc of Illinois Board. Having Mitchell as a brother profoundly shaped who Benji is today, and thus the type of law he chose to practice.



## Sherri Schneider

For more than 25 years, **Sherri Schneider** as founder of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc. has been tirelessly dedicated to helping individuals with special needs and their families. Her career began as a Case Manager in a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) where she helped those with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses acquire the government benefits they so desperately needed, including SSI, Medicaid and food stamps.

She was instrumental in creating one of the first Community Living Facility (CLF) facilities funded under a Medicaid waiver. Sherri now meets privately with families to thoroughly assess their individual situation and pursue the appropriate benefit assistance program(s), personally guiding them through the application process. Based on her vast experience, she has skillfully established and maintained open, productive relationships with government agencies involved in the decision-making process. Professionals find her in-service expertise to be invaluable as they navigate the government benefit process. Sherri is the President of The Arc of Illinois Board.

## Allison Stark

**Allison Stark**, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, DHS, has committed her entire career to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Allison most recently served as the President and CEO of Orchard Village, a nonprofit in the North Chicagoland area providing an array of community based services to individuals with I/DD. Prior to her 12 years with Orchard Village, Allison was a Program Manager at Resources for Living in Evanston, and a Home & Community Based Services Waiver Case Manager for Adult Care Management in Lafayette, Colorado. Allison holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master's degree from the University of Chicago.



## Tasha Whiteside



**Tasha Whiteside** is Director of Illinois Operations for ACES\$ Financial Management Services with responsibility for the payroll operations, enrollments and client care for over 3,000 consumers in the State of Illinois. Tasha has spent her career working with people with disabilities in a variety of functions and roles. Prior to joining ACES\$ in March of 2014, Tasha spent six years with Ray Graham Association in administration, program enhancement and life skills development. She began her career in direct support and Residential Services and was named Residential Services Director of the Year while at Frances House. One of Tasha's core strengths and beliefs is that community partnership is essential to all non-profits and she continues to improve the connectedness and outreach of ACES\$. Tasha is a National Deans List graduate of Governors State University with a degree in Psychology and she volunteers for KABOOM Project and Special Olympics.

## Cost & Registration

March 19, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Registration 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

### Registration Fees for Participants are:

#### Arc/FSN/Ligas Members:

Self-Advocate/Family Member..... \$ 0  
Professional.....\$100.00  
\*Vendors .....\$160.00

#### Non Arc/FSN/Ligas Members:

Self-Advocate/Family Member..... \$ 0  
Professional.....\$130.00  
\*Vendors .....\$195.00

\*Vendors - Please note round tables with table covers will be provided. If you need a rectangular table, you must make a special request when registering. These tables are limited and will be assigned in the order they are requested and payment processed. Please call Shirley at 708-331-7370.

The registration fee covers the cost of materials, refreshments and lunch. Professionals and Vendors, 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  
9980 190th St., Suite C  
Mokena, IL 60448  
815-464-1832

Notice of any special accommodations is required Two Weeks prior to the event. Contact The Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832.

## FAMILIES AND SELF-ADVOCATES

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT for Families and individuals with disabilities. However, registration is required. Families only please register by sending an email to [Shakari@thearcofil.org](mailto:Shakari@thearcofil.org) or calling 708-331-7370 or register online at [www.thearcofil.org/events](http://www.thearcofil.org/events)!**

**CEUs** will be offered for this training. Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Nursing Home Administrators and QIDP's signing in and out on the day of the event are entitled to five (5) credits.

**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

Heritage Plaza Banquet Facility  
The Bethune Room  
1500 West 95th St.  
Chicago, IL 60643

Located directly across from the Third Baptist Church. There is free parking in the Church parking lot. NO Parking in the Currency Exchange lot!

## Registration Form

### "8th Annual Informational Seminar"

March 19, 2020

3372

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/Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
\_\_\_\_\_ Charge to my Credit Card

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

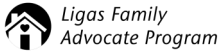
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Dietary Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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9980 190th Street, Suite C  
Mokena, IL 60448

March 19,  
2020

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THERE WILL BE VARIOUS VENDORS  
WITH INFORMATION ON WHAT'S NEW  
IN MEDICAID, DDD SERVICES AND ISC  
CHANGES AND MORE!



LUNCH SPONSOR

**LOCATION**  
Heritage Plaza Banquet  
Facility  
1500 West 95th St.  
Chicago, IL 60643