



9th Annual Informational Seminar



presented by

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

AGENDA

March 24, 2021

9:00 - 9:20 a.m. - Welcome and FSN Update

**Presented by Shirley Perez, Program Director
Shakari Asbury, Liaison**

9:25 - 9:40 a.m. - “Ligas Update and What We Have Learned”

**Presented by Megan Mutti, Senior Ligas Family Advocate
Ruth Aguilar, Northern Ligas Family Advocate**

9:45 - 9:55 a.m. - Meg Cooch, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois

**10:00 - 11:15 a.m. - “SSI, SSDI, HFS: The Importance of Understanding 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. Changes in procedures due to COVID will be discussed.

11:20 - 11:50 a.m. - “Ligas Update”

Presented by Ronnie Cohn, Ligas Court Monitor

11:50 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. - Break sponsored by ACES\$

**12:20 - 1:35 p.m. - KEYNOTE SPEAKER - “Update on What’s Happening at DHS”
Presented by Allison Stark, DDD Director**

1:40 - 2:40 p.m. - “What Families Need to Know as They Plan for the Future”

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.

**2:45 - 3:30 p.m. - “SDA: An Important Option!” Presented by
Amy Newell, Executive Director, The Arc of Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties**

3:35 - 3:50 p.m. - Wrap-Up and visit with informational Exhibitors

Presented by Shirley Perez, The Arc of Illinois Ligas/FSN Program Director

About the Presenters

Amy Newell

Amy Newell is the Executive Director of The Arc of Winnebago, Boone & Ogle Counties in Rockford, IL. Amy worked for many years for the City of Rockford Human Services Department. A mother of two, she **was** active in the Jaycee's and Girl Scouts and volunteers with a local no kill animal shelter. Amy states, "I have a desire to work with legislators to move forward the cause of people with IDD in the criminal justice system. I feel there needs to be better education for all levels of the process whether dealing with victims or suspects."



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.



Cost & Registration

March 24, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Registration Fees for Participants are:

Arc/FSN/Ligas Members:

Self-Advocate/Family Member..... \$ 0
Professional.....\$ 50.00
Exhibitors..... \$100.00

Non Arc/FSN/Ligas Members:

Self-Advocate/Family Member..... \$ 0
Professional.....\$ 80.00
Exhibitors.....\$130.00

Professionals and Exhibitors, 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
or register online at
www.thearcofil.org/events

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. Please register online at www.thearcofil.org/events. If you need assistance please contact Shakari at Shakari@thearcofil.org or call 708-331-7370!

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

**THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL
EVENT USING ZOOM
WEBINAR!**

Registration Form

"9th Annual Informational Seminar"

March 24, 2021

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:

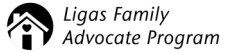
Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Card holder's signature:

Special Request:



9980 190th Street, Suite C
Mokena, IL 60448

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