As the nation’s troubled economy continues to affect the federal budget, the P&A/CAP network is expected to do more with less.

During this lean time, training is more important than ever.

That is why I am thrilled the Training and Advocacy Support Center at the National Disability Rights Network is partnering with Disability Rights Texas to bring you the 2013 P&A/CAP Annual Conference.

This partnership enables us to develop an even richer program with more workshops and institutes on more topics that will help you face the challenges ahead.

The dozens of workshops, plenaries, institutes, and roundtables offered at the conference will help you hone your skills, develop more efficient advocacy strategies, and maximize your limited resources to provide services to people with disabilities.

The annual conference is always one of my favorite times of year. I hope to see all of you in San Antonio this June.

Sincerely,

Curt Decker
Executive Director, National Disability Rights Network

Monday, June 3 - Thursday June, 6

www.ndrn.org/en/events/annual-conference.html

Go to the above address to register for the conference and to reserve your hotel room.

Additionally, in this issue of the TASC Update you will find an agenda-at-a-glance and descriptions of the many workshops available this year.

It’s shaping up to be our best conference yet!

Hyatt Regency
San Antonio, TX
2013 P&A/CAP Annual Conference

Monday, June 3, 2013

Breakfast: 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Institutes: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Institutes are full-day (unless otherwise indicated), intensive sessions. Breakfast will be served 7:30 am - 8:30 am. There will be a lunch break from 12 noon - 1:15 pm.

- Building a Systemic Strategy in Education and School to Prison Pipeline
- Legal Directors Annual Meeting
- Medicaid Fair Hearing
- NITA: Examining Expert Witnesses (Monday and Tuesday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm)
- Non-Attorney Advocacy Skills
- PAIMI Institute
- P&A Orientation (1:30 pm - 5:00 pm)

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Breakfast: 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Session A: 8:30 am - 10:00 am

- Building a Fail-safe Advocacy Plan
- Disproportionality and the School to Prison Pipeline
- Ferreting out Abuse and Neglect in Community Settings
- Leadership Development for Mental Health Advocates
- P&A Outreach to Integrate Veterans with Disabilities into the Community
- Making Your Board Exceptional
- Review of Olmstead Court Activities

General Session: 10:30 am - 12 noon

Community Living and Community Monitoring

Lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:15 pm

Session B : 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

- Adjusting P&A Strategies in Response to Challenging Financial Times
- Continuing Issues in VR - I
- Managing P&A Investigations
- Special Education Year in Review
- Supporting a Diverse P&A Workforce
- Thinking Strategically about the Future of P&A Olmstead Activities
- Writing Workshop: Using Micro-content

Session C: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- Continuing Issues in VR - II
- Eligibility, Enrollment and Due Process in State Health Care Exchanges
- Opportunities and Challenges in Using Pro Bono and Co-Counsel Partners
- Interviewing Individuals who are Non-Verbal or Non-Communicative
- National Public Policy Update
- Partnerships with Self Advocacy Groups
- Using Social Networking to Support Self Advocacy

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Breakfast: 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Session D: 8:30 am - 10:00 am

- Developing Appropriate Behavioral Intervention Plans
- Reaching and Serving Rural Communities
- Role of the P&A in End of Life Decision Making
- Serving VR Clients with the Most Significant Disabilities
- P&A Orientation

The monthly newsletter of the Training and Advocacy Support Center
Agenda-at-a-Glance

Session E: 10:30 am - 12 noon

- Advocating for Trauma Informed Care - Making Theory a Reality
- Challenge of Delivering Quality Investigations
- Incorporating P&A Principles and Values into Our Work
- Medicaid Managed Care
- Planning for and Recovering Attorney Fees
- VR Cost of Services and Financial Needs Tests
- Voucher, Charters and On-line Schools and Students with Disabilities

Lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:15 pm

Session F: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

- Educational Advocacy in Juvenile Justice Facilities
- Legal Implications of CAP Activities
- Managing Stress
- Medicaid: A Year in Review
- P&A Roles in a New Era of Guardianship Reform
- Role of the Legal Manager
- Sexual Freedom and Expression for People with Disabilities

Session G: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- Ethical Implications of Managing Legal Work
- Experiences of Individuals with Disabilities in the 2012 Election
- Exploring New Technology for Intake
- Hot Issues in Access
- Issue Analysis and Regulation Usage

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Breakfast: 7:30 am - 8:30 am

Session H: 8:30 am - 10:00 am

- How to Manage Your I&R Work
- Meet your Federal Partners
- Mental Health Law Update
- Restraint and Seclusion in Schools
- Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members
- Strategies and Applications of Best Practices Going Forward: Voting
- Tech Points in the Rehab Process

Lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:15 pm

Session I: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

- Evaluating the Use of Psychotropic Drugs
- Proving Disability Under the FHA and ADAAA
- Roles and Responsibilities of ILCs
- Serving Clients without PABSS Funding
- Using and Funding AT to Promote Independent Living

Session J: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- 504/OCR 101
- Aligning Client Training and Labor Market Demands
- Identifying and Combating Abuse of Elderly Individuals with Disabilities
- Working with Challenging Callers/Clients
- Working with Public Defenders
Building a Systemic Strategy in Education and School to Prison Pipeline

The new P&A standards suggest use of the full menu of advocacy options. Once a systemic problem has presented itself, how does a P&A decide which method(s) to use to solve it? How is evidence, including data, collected and used? Once that decision has been made, what steps are needed before the complaint can be filed? In this hands-on session, participants will work in small groups using fact patterns and documentary evidence from two actual and recent P&A cases to select the appropriate advocacy methods and work up the case through the complaint stage.

Legal Directors Annual Meeting

The Legal Directors Annual Meeting brings together P&A legal managers for a full-day forum on the issues and challenges that impact the management and direction of P&A/CAP legal programs. Now in its 14th year, the Legal Directors meeting is open to all P&A legal managers—including legal directors, litigation directors, managing attorneys, and supervising attorneys—as an opportunity to explore advocacy strategies unique to P&A practice, develop and strengthen management and supervision skills, participate in facilitated discussions regarding new and emerging issues, and to connect with peers. The 2013 Legal Directors Annual Meeting will include sessions on the new P&A Advocacy Standards and how the philosophy, principles and values addressed in the standards link to the P&As’ daily work; the effective use and presentation of data as an advocacy tool; striking the balance between individual cases and systemic advocacy; utilizing the power of the P&A network; the legal manager’s role in finances; and utilizing our window of opportunity for coordinated federal complaints.

Medicaid Fair Hearing

This session will take a typical but challenging Medicaid AT case and, with significant audience participation, progress through four key steps: 1.) preparation for the Medicaid fair hearing; 2.) representation at the fair hearing; 3.) deciding whether to appeal, prepare the state court complaint or petition for review; and, 4.) preparing the brief in your case.

Non-Attorney Advocacy Skills

There is no question that the work of non-attorneys is valuable to the P&A/CAP system. To monitor and/or investigate, whether it be Vocational Rehabilitation, Special Education, Rep Payee, or any other issue - one must possess a multitude of skills as well as have a good understanding of the systems in which advocacy must occur. This day long institute will provide an opportunity to understand and fine tune some of the skills essential for a good advocate through exercises, discussion, and practical strategies for successful resolution.

P&A Orientation

Are you new to the P&A/CAP system? Is this your first TASC conference? For those who answer yes to either of these questions, this workshop is an opportunity to obtain information about the P&A system, including its history, values and principles as well as an opportunity to ask questions and network with peers. It also introduces participants to TASC training and technical assistance resources, and provides an opportunity to hear from an experienced P&A board member about the role and expectations of the P&A at a state level and executive director about life in the P&As.
Workshop Descriptions

PAIMI Institute

The 2013 PAIMI Institute will provide a variety of opportunities to better understand the PAIMI Advisory Council so that it can be a strong partner of a P&A. Storytelling will be a big part of this year’s Institute. There will be an exercise on the components of a good story and how people can use their story in a targeted way to fight for change. There will be an opportunity to hear about activities going on in other states and to come together and share ideas. There will also be a section on how to run a good meeting. There will be a chance to explore and discuss how a good story, a good meeting and a good understanding of PAIMI Advisory Council duties/rules/regulations and obligations can all work together to create quality advocacy. By the end of the Institute each attendee will be able to go away with an advocacy goal that he/she can share with his/her respective Council, all in an effort to better the lives of people living with mental illness.

NITA: Examining Expert Witnesses*

The National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), in cooperation with TASC, is presenting a two-day workshop on examining expert witnesses. With 40 years of experience in teaching trial advocacy skills, NITA’s sole mission is to improve the quality of advocacy in our nation’s courtrooms. NITA’s programs are distinguished by a learning-by-doing teaching philosophy. This two-day workshop will offer quality guidance, instruction and individualized critique from experienced faculty on the art of examining expert witnesses using a simulated case file.

*NITA is a 2 day (Monday-Tuesday), all day (8:30 am - 5:00 pm) institute.

Building a Fail-safe Advocacy Plan

Assisting clients to resolve their issues and concerns requires more than just good verbal skills and luck. One must know the program and overall system, understand the standard of what’s allowable, and identify the right problem for resolution. Learn what tools P&A/CAP agencies use to develop effective advocacy strategies which result in successful outcomes for even the most difficult cases.

Disproportionality and the School to Prison Pipeline

A recent report by the Center for Civil Rights Remedies at UCLA provides hard data supporting what P&As know: that children with disabilities and children of color disproportionately enter the School to Prison Pipeline (STPP). How does the Pipeline impact children and youth with disabilities? How, concretely, can P&As use the data that is currently available to solve STPP problems in their state through litigation, administrative complaints and policy work? This skill building session will provide a step by step plan for building an STPP case or policy effort.

Ferreting out Abuse and Neglect in Community Settings

As individuals with disabilities are living in community settings ranging from private homes, board and care facilities, and adult foster care, uncovering abusive or neglectful situations can be challenging. This session will cover this range of environments and focus on how P&As can increase their presence in communities. Presenters will share experiences and discuss effective strategies for working with other community organizations to ferret out abusive and neglectful situations.

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Session A
8:30 am - 10:00 am
Leadership Development for Mental Health Advocates

Given recent events, the media and political figures are running with stories about people with mental illness that may or may not be accurate. This session will build off of the storytelling exercise in the PAIMI Institute, and help focus one’s personal story for educating policymakers and/or combat stigma. In addition, the workshop will focus on key skills that make a personal story have a message that will make an impact. Attendance at the PAIMI Institute is not a pre-requisite.

P&A Outreach to Integrate Veterans with Disabilities into the Community

The population of veterans with disabilities is growing as servicemen and women return from overseas, many with physical disabilities as well as traumatic brain injury. The systems of care for veterans with disabilities are much different than the services familiar to the P&A network. Even the access rules for P&A's working in VA facilities are different. The speakers will discuss how best to engage in outreach to the veterans community, successful strategies in obtaining services, and the unique challenges that P&A's face when working with veterans.

Making Your Board Exceptional

A strong P&A needs a strong board of directors. Going beyond a cursory review of board member roles and responsibilities, this workshop focuses on how board members can govern more effectively and provide true leadership to their P&As. There will be an opportunity for small group interaction using hypothetical examples of possible governance issues within a P&A.

Review of Olmstead Court Activities

A summary of federal court cases raising ADA Title II integration regulation/Olmstead claims. Participants will discuss major trends and hear advice on issues to consider prior to bringing these cases.

General Session: 10:30 am - 12 noon
Community Living and Community Monitoring

Session B
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Adjusting P&A Strategies in Response to Challenging Financial Times

Services for individuals with disabilities as well as P&A services have taken a beating over the past several years. This session will provide an overview of how the network as a whole is re-evaluating our priorities to focus on core mission, leveraging other resources and adjusting our methods to maintain our zealous advocacy. The session will also provide an opportunity for interaction among participants.

Continuing Issues in VR - I

A variety of issues continually emerge throughout the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system. This two-part session discusses some of the continuing VR issues identified by the panelist and the participants, as well as more recent systemic problems emerging from the VR system. Participants will interact with the panelists to clarify problematic issues and develop ways to overcome them.

Managing P&A Investigations

With limited resources and requirements for data collection growing, managing quality P&A investigations is challenging. This session will offer best practices that have been developed and implemented by selected P&As. Presenters will share practical solutions to improve the quality of P&A investigations and offer their insight into managing investigations in 2013 and beyond.
**Workshop Descriptions**

**Special Education Year in Review**

This session will review the most prominent special education decisions from the prior year, including court cases, OCR decisions and guidance, and OSEP policy letters. There will be time given to discuss the implications of these cases and to suggest other cases of interest.

**Supporting a Diverse P&A Workforce**

As a national leader and in keeping with the P&A advocacy standards, the P&A network strives to be a leader in hiring, retaining and promoting people with a range of disabilities. Come to this session to engage in a practical discussion with regard to management solutions and leadership opportunities presented by diversified work environments.

**Thinking Strategically about the Future of P&A Olmstead Activities**

At this workshop, join a facilitated discussion of P&A work to raise Olmstead claims to stop segregated services outside of institutional settings and to promote more independent versus group home options. Participants will develop a vision of how to expand the impact and meaning of the ADA integration mandate in the next 5 years.

**Writing Workshop: Using Micro-content**

Don’t underestimate the power of being brief. Micro-content—status updates, Tweets, blog posts, even the headlines you use on your website—can convey everything you want a reader to know. Oftentimes, it’s all they are going to read. When you are in a time crunch, using micro-content can be the difference between reaching your audience first and standing on the sidelines. With practical exercises, this workshop will explore maximizing being brief.

**Session C**

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Continuing Issues in VR - II**

A variety of issues continually emerge throughout the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system. This two-part session discusses some of the continuing VR issues identified by the panelist and the participants, as well as more recent systemic problems emerging from the VR system. Participants will interact with the panelists to clarify problematic issues and develop ways to overcome them.

**Eligibility, Enrollment and Due Process in State Health Care Exchanges**

The health exchange brings with it many challenges for people with disabilities and the P&As. Among those challenges are ensuring people eligible for Medicaid are not inappropriately enrolled in the exchange; individuals can access necessary long term services and supports; and exchange plans comply with due process requirements. Speakers will highlight what we know and do not know about these areas of key importance for individuals in the exchange.

**Interviewing Individuals who are Non-Verbal or Non-Communicative**

Words often only tell half of the story. A good interview involves using all of the interviewer’s senses and experiences. This session will offer techniques that can be used when interviewing individuals who are non-verbal or non-communicative. Presenters will share their strategies, insights and experience around interviewing individuals who are non-verbal or non-communicative.

**National Public Policy Update**

Funding issues (the budget, debt ceiling, sequestration, and appropriations) are in the
forefront of discussions in Washington, DC, and the decisions made on these important topics will have a profound effect on the rights of people with disabilities. This workshop will review those funding decisions, other federal legislation, and implementing regulations that provide a framework for protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities have on the P&A/CAP network and people with disabilities.

Additionally, while the elections last November did not change the overall look of the executive and legislative branches of government, there are many new faces in both Congress and the Obama Administration that will impact the P&A/CAP network. This workshop will introduce participants to the changes in Congress and the Administration that affect the P&A/CAP network and people with disabilities.

Effective strategies will be discussed for educating policymakers as a staff member, a board member, a PAIMI Council member, or other community-based advocate.

**Opportunities and Challenges in Using Pro Bono and Co-Counsel Partners**

P&As can garner additional resources and expertise through the use of pro bono attorneys and co-counsel arrangements. From assisting with a special education hotline, co-counseling a complex class action case, to providing legal back-up, various options exist for partnering with outside counsel. Learn about and discuss the pros and cons in using outside counsel, the benefits to the P&As and the outside law firms, as well as practical and ethical issues to consider fee arrangements, retainer and co-counsel agreements, recruiting, and making lead counsel decisions.

**Partnerships with Self Advocacy Groups**

P&As partner with self advocates throughout our work. Come to this session to hear about successful collaborations as well as to be introduced to Project Vote’s (SABE) new collaboration curriculum.

**Using Social Networking to Support Self Advocacy**

P&As can combine their access authority with a focus on supporting the advocacy of people with disabilities using social media. Social media advocacy has the ability to create engagement and impact far beyond the traditional look of advocacy. This presentation will include a live video connection with advocates living in a forensic unit at a state hospital in Washington State. The participants will hear from the advocates about a real world example of combining the efforts of advocates with disabilities with the P&A and its access to not only the facility and residents, but also its access to social media and other communication technologies not available to many people in institutions or those without similar budgets or logistical restrictions. This workshop will also look at going beyond social media 101, with discussion focusing on finer points such as ensuring that messaging strikes the right voice, engages and mobilizes the intended audience, and remains true to the goals of the group fighting for change. Finally, there will be time for discussion so that audience members may ask panel members (both in the room and those remotely connected) questions about how they might take these strategies to their own constituents.

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013**

**Session D**

8:30 pm - 10:00 am

**Developing Appropriate Behavioral Intervention Plans**

For children with disabilities that result in behavior conflict at school, the best intentions in the world do not necessarily lead to success. But a great behavior plan might.
Workshop Descriptions

This session will combine the expertise of a behavior planning expert with an experienced P&A litigator to answer such questions as: What does a good plan look like? What process should be used to develop one? What legal tools can P&A staff use to obtain an appropriate plan and ensure the availability of a competent expert? Participants will leave the session ready to take on behavior planning challenges.

The Role of the P&A in End of Life Decision Making

Panelists and participants will explore the individual’s, P&A’s, family member’s, and guardian’s role in making, or assisting a person to make, end of life decisions about care. Speakers will provide an overview of existing standards and tools. Examples will be used to illustrate how a P&A can promote person-centered decision making and work effectively with health care agents. Hear how one P&A is working with the state attorney general’s office on a process for notifying the P&A when an individual may need assistance making end of life decisions, as well as plans for training the local bar on end of life decision making for individuals with disabilities.

P&A Orientation

Are you new to the P&A/CAP system? Is this your first TASC conference? For those who answer yes to either of these questions, this workshop is an opportunity to obtain information about the P&A system, including its history, and also ask questions and network with peers. It also introduces participants to TASC training and technical assistance resources, and provides an opportunity to hear from an experienced P&A Board member about the role and expectations of the P&A at a state level.

Reaching and Serving Rural Communities

This workshop will explore strategies and obstacles for reaching and delivering advocacy to rural communities and other hard to reach communities. Topics to be covered include understanding the needs of rural communities, working with rural community partners, performing education and outreach to rural clients, using resources wisely to achieve systemic change, communicating with rural governments, and improving cultural competency.

Serving Clients with the Most Significant Disabilities

According to the Rehab Act, VR agencies must assure that individuals with the most significant disabilities receive services first, when sufficient resources do not exist to meet the needs of all eligible applicants and clients. With shrinking budgets and increasing costs, does this really happen? Join the discussion and decide for yourself if the policies and practices of VR agencies really meet the intent of the law.

Supreme Court and Federal Circuit Court Review

This workshop will provide an overview of Supreme Court decisions from the current term and recent Circuit Court decisions on disability and related civil rights.

Update on the Rep Payee Project

For the past three and a half years, P&A agencies have conducted over 1,500 reviews of organizations serving as representative payees for the Social Security Administration. A project begun in reaction to the discovery of exploitation by an entity who employed and served as a payee for a group of beneficiaries, has expanded to become an important project for many P&A agencies. Learn about the results of the first few years of the project, what some P&A agencies have discovered conducting reviews, and how the project can be a useful way to access new parts of the disability service system in your state.
2013 P&As/CAP Annual Conference

Session E
10:30 pm - 12 noon

Advocating for Trauma-Informed Care – Making Theory a Reality

While many know the theory around trauma informed care (TIC) and understand its benefits, it is not always clear how to advocate for a TIC model while someone is in crisis.

This workshop will offer a synopsis of the incidence of trauma reported across disability groups, how trauma and trauma-informed care are defined in the literature, and what trauma-informed care looks like in day-to-day practice. The workshop will outline how trauma-informed care constructs and core principles are adapted into a range of services. Pragmatic examples of applied trauma-informed care will be reviewed, advocacy strategies will be presented, as well as helpful tools, resources, and guidance for assessing trauma-informed care.

Planning and Recovering Attorney Fees

The need for P&A services continues to increase, yet we face level, or even decreased, funding for our services. This session considers whether P&As can increase attorney fee recoveries, and how it might be done. The discussion will include the practical, perspective of the litigator and explore the management strategies and “buy-in” that may be required to increase fee recoveries.

Participants in this session need not have advanced knowledge of this area, but the session presumes a basic knowledge of the law on entitlement to fees for a prevailing party, and the lodestar concept.

Incorporating P&A Principles and Values into our Work

As advocates, we use multiple strategies to promote rights enforcement, independence and inclusion of people with disabilities. This workshop is designed to take a step back from our day-to-day activities and think about how we can keep our values and principles central to our work. It will offer practical examples of how several P&As strive for this balance.

Medicaid Managed Care

The vast majority of states are expanding use of managed care to deliver Medicaid acute health care and many are moving quickly to incorporate managed behavioral health and long term services and supports into their Medicaid program. Unfortunately, Managed Care Organization’s (MCOs) have little experience providing behavioral or long term services and their use of utilization controls can cause unnecessary barriers to receiving long term care and access to specialists. This workshop will identify common legal issues that arise with Medicaid managed care and effective legal defenses.

At the same time, there is a nationwide increase in the use of MCOs to provide Home and Community Based Waivers to the Medicaid population. Based on practical experiences with AT-related caseloads, the presenters will discuss a range of legal issues that continue to surface in the waiver and MCO approaches to Medicaid—including lack of/inadequate notices, failure to afford fair hearing rights, failure to meet time deadlines for decision making, and failure to follow generally applicable Medicaid standards (by MCOs). Legal rights and strategies to enforce them will be discussed.

The Challenges of Delivering Quality Investigations

The ability to conduct and successfully complete a quality investigation within the P&A system requires overcoming challenges to meet the elements of the investigation. This session will discuss some of those key elements in both the context of P&A abuse and neglect investigations.
and those conducted under the Representative Payee Review Project including identifying the purpose and goals of the investigation, identifying and collecting proper documentation, following any required protocols, and utilizing P&A authorities and other means to obtain the information. Ways to meet both internal and external challenges to obtaining the goal of producing a quality investigation will be discussed.

VR Cost of Services and Financial Needs Tests

According to federal regulation, states have the option to adopt a financial needs test under the Rehabilitation Act. But do they really? This session will sort through how well written and implemented are a myriad of policies and practices that require people with disabilities to contribute to the cost of their VR services. Following a brief presentation, there will be an opportunity to discuss the financial contribution issues and the effect they have on VR outcomes.

Voucher, Charters and Online Schools and Students with Disabilities

States and school districts all over the country continue to increase the use of vouchers, charter schools and online programs. Many times they do not think about where students with disabilities fit into the mix. This session will explore the rights of students with disabilities in each of these three programs.

Legal Implications of CAP Activities

CAPs are required under federal statute to provide legal assistance to their clients when needed and/or requested. This session will address key concerns related to the unauthorized practice of law, confidentiality issues related to the release of client records and how to deal with conflicts of interest within a legal context.

Managing Stress

Learn how to identify and manage the stress of working for a P&A. Managers will learn how to identify when staff are stressed and need support. Participants will also receive tools to manage stress personally and as managers, and to build stronger teams that maintain productivity and good health.

Medicaid: A Year in Review

The workshop will review significant Medicaid cases in federal courts in the past year. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss these decisions potential impact on how P&As plead these claims in the future.

P&As Roles in a New Era of Guardianship Reform

Internationally, many seeking to maximize the independence and integration of people with disabilities are profoundly rethinking existing substituted decision making (such as, guardianship) systems. This workshop will discuss the current state of guardianship law in the United States. It will also explore

Session F
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Educational Advocacy in Juvenile Justice Facilities

Studies show that whether or not a youth receives quality educational services while “inside” makes all the difference in terms of his or her success upon return to the outside.
the potential use of the ADA and Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as instruments of significant reform and survey extraordinary efforts here and in other countries to preserve the right of people with disabilities to make their own decisions. Special emphasis will be placed on supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship and on the role of P&As in leading the movement to challenge and change guardianship systems.

The Role of the Legal Manager

P&A legal managers must meet the challenges of providing visionary leadership while managing the day-to-day delivery of quality, effective and zealous legal advocacy services. But how do you meet the myriad roles of a legal manager, enhance your program’s strengths and remove barriers to excellence? This session will explore the responsibilities of P&A legal managers, identify strengths and potential barriers, and identify effective leadership practices.

Sexual Freedom and Expression for People with Disabilities

Adults with disabilities are often viewed as being nonsexual, as if they do not have any sexual urges. Those individuals that do display any sexual interests are often chastised for doing such and may be labeled as engaging in devious, perverted behavior.

Consequently, many adults with disabilities are ill prepared to engage in healthy intimate relationships due to lack of understanding and support from family, friends, service providers, educators, and medical practitioners. This session will focus on how advocates can help make this issue a part of the civil rights for which we fight.

Ethical Implications of Managing Legal Work

Managers and supervisors overseeing advocacy work of attorneys and non-attorneys must ensure the quality of the work product, adherence to ethical rules, and avoidance of the unlawful practice of law, among other tasks. Learn about the ethical issues to be aware of in managing advocates and attorneys, and discuss ways to avoid and deal with such issues.

Experiences of Individuals with Disabilities in the 2012 Election

Learn about the polling place experiences of voters with disabilities on Election Day as captured by Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and its partner Disability Rights Ohio with their Election Day checklist and from Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (SC P&A) who conducted an Election Day survey.

Hot Issues in Access

Starting with an overview of key P&A access issues that have arisen since the last Annual Conference, this session will discuss accessing live video surveillance of facility staff; protecting P&A investigation files from discovery by third parties; as well as access to faith-based facilities, Private Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs), juvenile justice facilities and jails, among other issues. The session will allow for ample discussion of strategy around these emerging issues.

Issue Analysis and Regulation Usage

Properly analyzing a client’s situation and applying the rules and regulations in seeking a remedy are central skills for P&A advocates. It requires accurate identification of issues and the resources that should be employed. Join this session to reacquaint yourself with the tools you need to develop better advocacy skills through hands-on exercises and group discussion.
Simulated Interview and Simulated Case Review: AT focus

Using a hypothetical PAAT case, involving Medicaid or other third party insurance funding of AT, the presentation team will present both a simulated client interview and a simulated case review. This session will be set up for maximum audience participation.

Supervising Remote Staff

This workshop will go over the issues faced by managers that must supervise staff working remotely. It will cover both remote offices and teleworking scenarios, and the things organizations should consider before deciding to expand worksites.

Using Technology in Intake and I&R

P&As respond to thousands of calls each year through information and referral and/or short-term assistance. The volume of these requests has pushed some P&As to explore using technology to better serve the callers and to automate the data they gain from the caller. Come hear two P&As share their respective agencies perspectives on how they came to the decision to use technology, the problems they experience and the benefits. This session is meant to be a way for I&R staff and managers to compare notes and brainstorm how all P&As can more seamlessly provide short-term assistance to people with disabilities.

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Session H
8:30 pm - 10:00 am

How to Manage your I&R Work

This workshop will focus on I&R management and how to deal with the way information flows within the P&A. The presenters will discuss strategies to manage the work as well as the quality of the information provided to callers and passed through to case review.

Meet Your Federal Partners

Join staff from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) in a discussion about current events and activities, their process to revise the Program Performance Report (PPR) and develop outcomes measures for the DD program. The workshop will provide ample opportunity for interaction with regional program officers.

Mental Health Law Update

Description forthcoming.

Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

This session will provide an update on case law, and policy progress in the last year. It will address the issues in states that have a law or policy on the books and for those that do not. An update on new laws/policies, policy challenges and significant cases will be provided for states seeking settled legal authority. For states that already have a law or policy on the books and those anticipating new policy, there will be a discussion of enforcement strategies and prevention of legislative backlash. Participants will learn from the experiences of others and discuss what new approaches should be considered.

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

This is a refresher on the role and responsibilities of a Board of Directors. It will serve as a general introduction and review of governance issues like understanding fiduciary responsibilities, knowing how to govern more and manage less, and planning for the future. There will be an opportunity for small group interaction utilizing hypothetical examples of possible governance issues within a P&A.
2013 P&A/CAP Annual Conference

Strategies and Applications of Best Practices
Going Forward: Voting

During the 2012 general election, two of the biggest barriers voters with disabilities faced concerned challenges to their competency to vote and being denied voter registration opportunities and assistance at the polls. This workshop is designed to address those disparities and injustices; and provide participants with strategies and best practices going forward.

Tech Points in the Rehab Process

Assistive technology is often mentioned as a possible solution to help people with disabilities—even those with severe disabilities—obtain employment in the community. However, such technology should not be considered solely at the end of the process. This presentation will highlight how AT can be utilized throughout various points of the entire rehabilitation process. Some specific types of AT will be shown, demonstrated and discussed.

General Session
10:30 am - 12 noon

Topic Forthcoming

Session I
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Aligning Client Training and Labor Market Demands

Labor market realities wrought by the Great Recession and subsequent tepid recovery have made it difficult for even the most skilled workers to find and keep a job. Fiscal uncertainty and a weak global economy have dampened consumer demand and business investment. While at the same time, new technologies and emerging business practices are shaping domestic job creation that puts some workers in improved positions, while others have seen their opportunities diminished. This session will focus on how the changing labor market affects job placement strategies and how to balance client passion and labor market reality.

Evaluating the Use of Psychotropic Drugs

Description forthcoming.

Proving Disability Under the FHA and ADAAA

The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) greatly expanded the definition of disability under the ADA (and under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). In contrast, the definition of disability under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) was not expressly amended by the ADAAA, and in practice “disability” was not as often disputed in Fair Housing cases. But under both laws, “disability” is typically a required element that will need to be proven if the case ends up in litigation.

This session will discuss how to prove disability under both statutes, and how to prepare the case with that required proof in mind. Rather than simply highlighting the elements of the disability definitions, the focus will be on the practical—how to prepare a case with possible litigation in mind; how to plead disability and the impact of those pleading choices; the kinds of evidence that may be required; the potential sources of that evidence; how both sides might use discovery; as well as seeking and resisting summary judgment.

Roles and Responsibilities of ILCs

Many CAPs receive calls or referrals from their local independent living centers. However, sometimes it is a little unclear about the statutory responsibilities of the CAPs as an avenue to complain about ILC services and when/how the two organizations should work together to best serve the VR client. This
presentation will discuss the functions of the ILCs and the type of services that they provide.

Serving Clients without PABSS Funding

For years we built the PABSS programs to assist Social Security Beneficiaries go back to work. When the funding ended, the motivation of beneficiaries to seek employment did not stop. This session will provide advocates and information/referral staff with information and resources they need to continue to assist those beneficiaries in their continuing endeavors to join the workforce.

Using and Funding AT to Promote Independent Living

This session, through two case scenarios, will explore how AT can help a person move from a hospital or institutional setting into the community, or help that person remain in the community. Trainees will help brainstorm on the AT needed and the potential funding to pay for it. Mini presentations will be provided on a range of funding sources/funding strategies to meet the identified needs, including: Medicaid, Medicaid waivers, Medicare, AT low-interest loan funds, VR agency funding, SSI’s PASS program, and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and the ADA.

Session J
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

504/OCR 101

This session is an overview of the application of the ADA and Section 504 to schools. Using Section 504 as the base, it will look at who is eligible, how Section 504 is similar to and how it is different from the IDEA, what are the obligations to provide FAPE, and what procedural safeguards are available.

Identifying and Combating Abuse of Elderly Individuals with Disabilities

Speakers will share ideas for strategic advocacy and litigation to deter and stop abuse of elders with disabilities. Including a discussion of the factors that can lead to elder abuse; tips for recognizing less obvious forms of abuse; and examples of effective interventions and systemic fixes.

Working with Challenging Callers/Clients

Often, by the time the caller reaches the P&A, they are frustrated and exhausted from looking for help. The workshop will focus on active listening and some de-escalation techniques so intake staff can get to the caller’s core concern(s). Participants will learn ways intake staff can de-stress and make sure he/she is maintaining a healthy personal attitude. There will be some discussion about the ethics of providing services to those who call often and/or are abusive to staff when making their request. Finally, hypotheticals will be presented and the audience will have a chance to chime in on the best way to handle the call.

Working with Public Defenders

P&A input and actions can make the case for public defenders who represent juvenile justice clients with disabilities—they can also sink it. How can we be sure to “do no harm?” This session will focus on ways a client’s public defender can help the P&A with their case and vice versa.

Remember!
You can register today.

www.ndrn.org/en/events/annual-conference.html
The monthly newsletter of the Training and Advocacy Support Center

Upcoming Events

The Pathway for Complex Litigation: Elements, Strategies and Skills
Session 7: Preliminary Motions and Other Matters – Thursday, April 4, 2013, 2-4 EDT
Session 8: Discovery – Thursday, April 18, 2013, 2-4 EDT
Session 9: Experts – Thursday, May 2, 2013, 2-4 EDT
Session 10: Trial – Thursday, May 16, 2013, 2-4 EDT
*This is a 13 session training.

Web Series: Board Master Class: Principles that Empower Exceptional Boards (BoardSource) [A joint session with the Leadership Series]

Wednesday, March 27
3:00 pm - 4:30 EDT

Understanding the Tribal 121 Programs

Thursday March 28, 2013
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

An overview of what they are and how they work. It will include a discussion of their policies and procedures, the application of federal law to the 121 programs and tips/strategies about how CAPs can effectively collaborate with them to best serve their VR clients.

Register and find additional information at http://tascnow.com/tasc/meetings-and-trainings.html