

GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS

FUTURE CARE PLANNING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PREPARED BY: EDWARD V. WILCENSKI, ESQ.

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NYSARC GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM STATISTICS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

<b>Court Appointed</b>	
Primary Guardianships:	293
Standby Guardianships:	207
Alternate Standby Guardianships:	274
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>774</b>
<b>Pending Court Decrees</b>	
Primary Guardianships:	38
Standby Guardianships:	19
Alternate Standby Guardianships:	13
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>70</b>



One of the greatest fears that parents and other caregivers have is the possibility that they will die without having arranged for the care of a disabled son, daughter, relative or friend. Most families only have to be concerned about this issue until a child reaches an age when he or she is self-supporting. However, many individuals with disabilities will never be fully capable of self-support, and their parents and caregivers will have to plan for the day when they will not be available to provide assistance and oversight. For these families, the failure to plan can cause tremendous hardship for the person with the disability at precisely the time when he or she most needs help: when the primary source of support, often a family member or close friend, is no longer available for companionship, assistance, and help. Comprehensive Future Care Planning ensures that the question, "Who will take care of my loved one when I am gone?" is answered in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible, and in a fashion that considers not only

the needs of the disabled individual, but also the ongoing financial and health care needs of the caregivers themselves.

Future Care Planning requires a working knowledge of a broad range of issues: government benefit eligibility, elder law, trust and estate law, estate and income tax rules, guardianship, and others. In all cases, the planner must understand the nature of the particular disability and must have a sense of what the future care and oversight requirements will be. These will determine the resources that will be required to support a comprehensive care plan. A good Future Care Plan will contain three basic components: a legal plan, a financial plan, and a life care plan.

**Legal Planning.** The legal planning component will address many traditional estate planning issues. Has the client considered how the estate will be divided among all of his or her intended heirs? Is there a Will in place, and if so, has it been updated since the onset of their loved one's disability? Will the appointment of a Guardian be necessary, and if so, who will

be the Guardian?

What if the *caregiver* needs assistance? Does he or she have a properly drafted Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy? Does the parent's Will or Living Trust include a properly drafted Supplemental Needs Trust, which is a trust instrument designed especially for individuals with disabilities? Who is the Trustee, and has he or she been properly educated about Supplemental Needs Trust administration? A sound legal plan will address these and other issues, and as with any type of planning, it is best developed early and comprehensively, considering the needs and intentions of all members of the disabled individual's circle of support.

**Financial Planning.** A sound financial plan accompanies the legal component of a Future Care Plan. Whereas legal planning primarily involves the preservation and transmission of wealth, financial planning is primarily concerned with the enhancement of wealth and the selection of assets to ensure growth, diversification, liquidity and availability to meet a client's goals and objectives. This also involves

(Continued on page 3)



*OFF THE SHELF—*

**ASSESSMENT OF OLDER ADULTS WITH  
DIMINISHED CAPACITY:  
A HANDBOOK FOR LAWYERS**

BOOK REVIEWED BY: MARY MEACHEM, LIBRARIAN, NYSARC, INC.

This manual was produced through the unique cooperative efforts of the American Bar Association and the American Psychological Association. Although the subtitle lists this manual as being especially for lawyers, it can be equally important as a tool for any parent, guardian or sibling of an individual with a disability.

Everybody occasionally forgets where he left his car keys or can't remember a name or completely forgets the day a lunch date was scheduled. But, when does this become a problem? With aging parents or people with disabilities there comes a time for family members or guardians to seriously consider and discuss seeking help in assessing the mental capacity of a loved one.

Here is a book that offers a practical guide for lawyers to observe signs of declining capacity and tips to address such changes. But it is equally valuable for the parent or guardian when they must decide if loved ones are no longer able to make legal, financial, or medical decisions for themselves. The first signs are often felt by those closest to the person. They should be alert to changes over a period of time in cognitive, emotional and behavioral signs. If there has been a notable change in one's behavior such as disorientation, lack of mental flexibility or comprehension problems, it may be time to consult an attorney for a legal assessment.

Here is where this book might be most valuable. Any person seeking guardianship should be aware of the legal requirements of diminished capacity. With this unique collaboration of lawyers and psychologists, this book provides a wide spectrum of mental health questions along with the legal problems in assessing declining capacity. The authors' purpose in writing this book is to answer the question, "*How does the lawyer reach a reasonable belief that the client has diminished capacity?*" The appendix gives case examples, which are most helpful in understanding the process of assessing various degrees of diminishing capacity. It contains many helpful charts and diagrams, including a capacity worksheet for attorneys.

The strong point of this book, although written for lawyers, is it does not use jargon. It is clearly written and easy to understand with ample examples and many key questions and answers.

PUBLICATION PREPARED BY: THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON LAW AND AGING, AND THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Anyone wishing to purchase this publication for \$25.00 can contact the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging at (202) 662-8690 or e-mail at [abaaging@abanet.org](mailto:abaaging@abanet.org).

*No man or woman, even of the humblest sort, can really be strong, gentle, pure and good without the world being better for it; without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.*

*- Phillips Brooks*

## FUTURE CARE PLANNING

(Continued from page 1)

an assessment of what services and support will likely be available through public funding, and what may need to be privately subsidized. Addressing the latter consideration is an especially important part of the Future Care Planning process.

**Life Care Planning.** The final step in developing a Future Care Plan is often the most overlooked. At least in theory, people appreciate the need to address the legal and financial issues discussed above. But once the parents and caregivers are gone and the assets have been protected for the benefit of the individual with the disability, many questions still remain. "How should the funds that the family has worked so hard to protect be used to truly enhance the life of the person with the disability?" "To whom should I, as Trustee or Guardian, look to for advice and suggestions when the person with the disability cannot speak on his or her own behalf?"

"Life Care" planning is the process of providing answers to these and similar questions for the family members, friends and advocates who

will provide assistance and oversight after the primary caregivers are gone. It begins with ensuring that as much personal, financial, and other pertinent information concerning the person with the disability is stored in a single place and accessible for future reference. Many advocates use workbooks designed specifically for this purpose. The workbooks usually request background medical information, financial information, family history, community contacts, and recreational preferences of the person with the disability. The workbooks also often request that the caregivers provide similar information about *their own* finances and family supports. To those people who will step in and assist when the parent or caregiver is no longer able to do so, a well written Life Care Plan will be worth its weight in gold. And as uncomfortable as it is for many parents and other caregivers to face the subject, completing this piece of the process often provides the most satisfaction and relief.

The most important thing is to *begin the process*. Once you build the

foundation, small changes are easy to accommodate. Legal documents can be modified, assets can be restructured, and new information can be added to a life care planning workbook with minimal effort. But if you wait too long to begin the process, you may never have the opportunity to answer the question, "Who will take care of my loved one when I am gone?"



**Edward V. Wilcenski, Esq.,** is a founding partner of the law firm of Jones & Wilcenski, PLLC, in Clifton Park, New York ([www.jwlawoffice.com](http://www.jwlawoffice.com)), and concentrates his practice on Future Care Planning, Elder Law, and Estate Planning.

He and his parents are completing a Future Care Plan for his developmentally disabled brother.

## NYSARC, INC. OFFERS PRE-CONVENTION TRAINING FOR GUARDIANSHIP STAFF

Guardianship Coordinators and other interested staff are being offered the opportunity to participate in a six-hour training prior to the commencement of NYSARC, Inc.'s Annual Convention at the Kutsher's Country Club this fall. The training will be conducted over the course of two days, beginning on Wednesday, November 2, 2005 from 2:00 pm – 5:00pm, and continuing on Thursday morning from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

A module on the Guardianship Policies and Procedures will be presented by Michael O'Brien, Esq., Director of Guardianship Training Services and Staff Attorney at NYSARC, Inc. Discussion and handouts will also address the criteria for Do Not Resuscitate orders, health care proxies and use of the Health Care Decisions Act. Joining Mr. O'Brien will be John F. Von Ahn, Esq., General Counsel for NYSARC, Inc., who will be presenting on consent and capacity issues. Barbara Wale and Erica Berman will facilitate additional discussions on guardianship service innovations used by some Chapter Guardianship programs. Some of the topics that will be discussed, include: successful recruiting and training of Guardianship Committee volunteers; activities to support and provide assistance to family, primary and standby guardians; and practices in conducting effective Committee meetings.

For further information please contact Erica F. Berman via e-mail at [bermane@nysarc.org](mailto:bermane@nysarc.org).

## THINKING AND PLANNING FOR END OF LIFE: SOME IDEAS FOR PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

PREPARED BY: DIANN BAXLEY

All of us are aging. As an individual caring for your family member with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) the very thought that you are aging can bring many a sleepless night asking questions such as: *Who is going to be there to care for and support my family member when I'm no longer able?; Where will my family member live?; and How can I provide for the same quality of life I have given him/her?* There are steps you can take now to help answer those questions. Where we live and how we pay for where we live are the two most crucial concerns in a person's life, particularly as we age. If you are not already working with an agency that provides services to individuals who have disabilities, then this is your first step. Begin talking! There are many things agencies can help with. Preparing for the day when someone else takes over for those supports you provide takes trust building. **You** need to reach out and begin to develop a relationship with the person or agency who will take over for you. Peace of mind comes with a knowledge that you trust those who will care for your family member. So the question now is: *Where do I begin?*

**1. Give your family member the opportunity to build a relationship with the agencies or individuals too.** If there will be a change in housing, due to your own health decline or your eventual passing, then they should participate

in this decision making process. Your loved one should drive the process and the choices should, to the extent that it is practical, be their choice, not yours. If this decision means a shared living experience, then your family member needs to meet potential housemates. No one should be forced into a living situation with someone not of our own choosing. Life is stressful enough, particularly if you are dealing with any kind of disability. Future planning may help alleviate a living situation that places your family member with strangers. Remember, quality of life starts with quality of living space.

**2. Start talking with your local aging agency to see what services you might qualify for.** Your needs and wants are just as important as the person you are caring for. If your needs are not being met, you may find yourself and your family member in a precipitous service situation. This is where either you and/or your family member ends up in a housing or care situation due to an emergency. Transition planning will help to avoid a situation such as this.

**3. Plan for when you will no longer be here to care for your family member.** Death is one of those subjects we all avoid like the plague, yet when we are in a care giving role, we need to plan ahead. As a caregiver of a person with a developmental disability, taking even a few steps in the planning process can make the world of difference for your loved one. Be an educated advocate! Be

proactive! Look into housing options, services for yourself and your family member, ensure that you and your family member are receiving all the government benefits and entitlements you qualify for, and think about how you can continue to pay for all of the out-of-pocket items you currently provide for your family member. There is a legal vehicle known as a Special (Supplemental) Needs Trust that can help you do this. Finally, if you are your family member's legal guardian, or if you think your family member may need a guardian in the future, you need to make arrangements for this as well. Knowing you are taking every step you can to prepare for a quality life for your family member will help you to have a quality aging experience as well.

### For Further Information:

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## NATIONAL WINGSPAN IMPLEMENTATION SESSION: ACTION STEPS ON ADULT GUARDIANSHIP PROGRESS

In 2001, the Second National Guardianship Conference, known as the "Wingspan Conference," made 68 landmark recommendations on adult guardianship law, policy and practice in the areas of: diversion and mediation; due process; agency guardianship and guardianship standards; monitoring and accountability; lawyers as fiduciaries or counsel to fiduciaries; and guardianship overview issues. The challenge of the Wingspan recommendations is their implementation.

In the Fall of 2004, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Guardianship Association and National College of Probate Judges took up the challenge by convening a "Wingspan Implementation Session" at their joint conference in Colorado Springs. Each of the three organizations sent participants, who were joined by representatives designated by the State Chief Justices, as well as individuals from the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, the American Bar Association Section on Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

The Wingspan Implementation Session aimed to develop a blueprint for action at the national, state and local levels. The charge to the 91 participants was to identify specific action steps for a selected 19 of the 68 Wingspan recommendations. The resulting 45 action steps make up a guide for acting on the recommendations called for three years earlier, and offer practical suggestions for making the adult guardianship system better provide for the needs and recognize the rights of society's most vulnerable, at-risk members. The action steps focus first and foremost on development of interdisciplinary guardianship committees, as well as on issues of interstate guardianship, funding, data collection, education and training, certification and standards, assessment and accountability.

You can find the set of 2004 Wingspan Implementation Recommendations at the website of the National Guardianship Association (NGA), at [www.guardianship.org](http://www.guardianship.org), or the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging, at <http://www.abanet.org/aging/>. (You can find the original 2001 Wingspan recommendations in the Stetson Law Review, Vol. 31-3, Spring 2002, at <http://www.law.stetson.edu/lawrev/abstracts/lawreview.asp>.)

- Erica F. Berman

## CHAPTER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS 9TH ANNUAL GUARDIANSHIP PICNIC



Under sunny skies, over 120 individuals attended the annual summer picnic held at the Robert E. Post Park in Kingston, New York on August 26, 2005, which was sponsored by the Ulster-Greene Counties Chapter Guardianship Program. The invitation list, in recent years, has been expanded to include all the individuals in the Chapter's residential program and staff due to the picnic's popularity. This year's event was once again considered a huge success by those in attendance. Kathy Bonelli, Steve Ramos, Melissa Nilsen, and Cathy Casey of the Guardianship/Quality Assurance Programs as well as Kathy Freese, Chair of the Chapter's Guardianship Committee coordinated the efforts for the picnic,

which is one of three major events sponsored by the Ulster-Greene Guardianship Program throughout the year. The other two events include the Spring Fling held in April and the Holiday Party, which takes place in December.

Over twenty (20) individuals receiving guardianship services from the Chapter were able to attend the picnic and appeared to enjoy the festivities, which included food, music and some great dancing. Tim Adam, an employee of the Chapter and DJ extraordinaire, provided the musical entertainment, which rocked the group for several hours under the gazebo, while picnic food, consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs and salads, were passed out to the hungry picnickers. Members of the Guardianship Committee and volunteer representatives, ARC staff, and board members, spent a good portion of the day ensuring that everyone was well fed and having a wonderful time. Face and tattoo painting as well as craft activities also brought smiles and laughter to many participating in the day's festivities.

- Erica F. Berman



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—**

### ***NYSARC, INC. SEEKS TO EXPAND END-OF-LIFE POWERS***

PREPARED BY: BEN GOLDEN, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

A top priority of NYSARC, Inc. during the upcoming legislative session will be to expand the authority of surrogates to make appropriate end-of-life decisions for persons with mental retardation. Currently, the ability to make those decisions is strictly limited to guardians of persons with mental retardation appointed under Article 17-A of the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act.

However, many people with mental retardation, who do not have the legal capacity to make end-of-life decisions for themselves and, for example, cannot leave a living will or health care proxy, have no one empowered to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment, which only prolongs an agonizing death. While information is sketchy, one reliable source expressed concern with ongoing and inappropriate end-of-life decisions.

In the hope of facilitating appropriate end-of-life decisions, NYSARC, Inc. had legislation

introduced in both the Senate and Assembly (Senate 3413 by Morahan, Assembly 6555 by Rivera) last legislative session to allow Surrogate Decision Making Committees (SDMCs) to enroll individuals in hospice. SDMCs makes major medical decisions for individuals who do not have the capacity to make their own major medical decisions and who also do not have an authorized surrogate to make such decisions for them.

While the bill passed the Senate, it failed to pass the Assembly. Sources suggest that the bill stumbled in that house because of the conflict between authorizing SDMCs to enroll individuals in hospice - where life-sustaining treatment is generally not administered - and the prohibition in Article 80 of the Mental Hygiene Law forbidding SDMCs from making a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.

NYSARC, Inc. is currently exploring the issues and concerns, which must

be addressed to resolve that conflict.

Meanwhile, legislation (Senate 5323 by Hannon, Assembly 8274 by Rivera) authorizing Article 17-A guardians of persons with developmental disabilities to make a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for their ward, provided he or she has mental retardation, has not yet been sent to the Governor for his approval. NYSARC, Inc. has met several times on that legislation with the Governor's Office over the summer.

In addition to hospice, NYSARC, Inc. and other parties are exploring other means of facilitating appropriate end-of-life decisions. So far discussions have been described as "broadly conceptual" and are expected to occur throughout the fall in anticipation of the 2006 legislative session.

## **TRAINING ON HEALTH CARE - INFORMED CONSENT AND OTHER ISSUES**

The New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (NYS OMRDD) is offering statewide video conference training on health care, informed consent and other issues to be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Topics to be addressed include an overview of informed consent for medical treatment, surrogate decision-making committees, health care proxies, Do Not Resuscitate orders, and the Health Care Decisions Act for Persons with Mental Retardation. Presenters include Paul Kietzman, General Counsel of NYS OMRDD, Patricia Johnson, Assistant Counsel for the NYS Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled, John F. Von Ahn, General Counsel for NYSARC, Inc. and Eileen Zibell, Associate Attorney for NYS OMRDD. The trainings will be video conferenced to audiences from five (5) DDSO host sites.

For further information on these trainings, please contact the Counsel's Office at NYS OMRDD at (518) 474 -7700.



**REGIONAL UPDATES—  
A VIEW ON REGIONAL GUARDIANSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

PREPARED BY: ERICA F. BERMAN, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR  
GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

**Region # 1- Southeast Region –  
Facilitated by Nancy Succoso (Westchester)**

**April 14, 2005** – Meeting was held at the Rockland County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

- Approximately fourteen (14) individuals, representing six (6) out of eight (8) Chapters attended the meeting. Michael O'Brien and Erica Berman of the NYSARC, Inc. staff participated in the meeting.
- Innovative practices and challenging issues were discussed, including difficulties in obtaining birth certificates for proposed wards. The Health Care Decisions Act and Hospice for persons with developmental disabilities was also discussed. Erica Berman received feedback on the current NYSARC, Inc. reporting for serious reportable incidents and events.
- Nancy Succoso scheduled a deadline of December 2005 for scheduling peer partnering.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in near future.

**Region # 2- Finger Lakes Region-  
Facilitated by Barb Wale (Monroe)**

**June 15, 2005** - Monroe County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. invited Chapters' members of their Guardianship Committee and staff to hear Mike O'Brien present on the Health Care Decisions Act and consent and capacity issues. Proposed checklists and guidelines for Chapter Guardianship Committees to follow when making decisions regarding life sustaining treatment were distributed and discussed.

- Next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Region # 3 – Facilitated by Steve Ramos (Ulster-Green)**

The last meeting held by the region was on **March 11, 2005**.

- Steve Ramos has developed a Peer Partnership Exit Conference Form, which has been shared with other members of the region. This will be a useful tool for those Chapters participating in the peer partnering process.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Region # 4 – Central Region –  
Facilitated by Debra Gallagher (Onondaga)**

**May 3, 2005** – Regional meeting was held at the Onondaga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

- Eleven (11) individuals representing all nine (9) Chapters in the region attended the meeting, in addition to two guest speakers, Jim Moragne, District Manager of Revenue Support at OMRDD, and Heidi Flatt, Trust Administrator for NYSARC,

Inc. Trust Services. Discussion addressed topics including, but not limited to, funeral and burial arrangements; consumer asset and management, and to NYSARC, Inc. Trust Services.

**June 9, 2005** – Meeting was held at the Onondaga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

- Nine (9) representatives from seven (7) out of nine (9) Chapters attended this meeting.
- A summary of NYSARC, Inc. guardianship and legislative activities was reported on by Erica Berman, including updates on regional meetings and the Capital District Conference on Future Care Planning held on May 19-20, 2005; proposed legislation on expanding SDMC to Nursing Homes; adding individuals with Developmental Disabilities to those covered by the HCDA; enabling SDMC to consent to Hospice Care; fall training for Guardianship Coordinators and Chairpersons; and discussion about the potential use of ethics committees. A regional conference for families was discussed for next year, and Chapters will ask their Executive Directors for permission to go forward with this initiative.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Region # 5 – Northeast Region –  
Facilitated by Patty Paduano (Saratoga)**

**June 3, 2005** - Regional meeting was held at the Saratoga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

- The meeting with invited guests Jim Moragne from OMRDD and Heidi Flatt attracted twenty-five (25) staff representing eight (8) Chapters, including Guardianship and Service Coordinators, and QA staff.
- Jim Moragne and Heidi Flatt covered similar information that was provided at the Central regional meeting held in May, and this presentation was the last of a series of informational meetings scheduled for the Guardianship regions.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.



## INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

**The Center for Social Gerontology—**[www.tcsg.org/guard.htm](http://www.tcsg.org/guard.htm)

The Center for Social Gerontology, Inc. (TCSG) is non-profit research, training and social policy organization dedicated to promoting the individual autonomy of older persons and advancing their well-being in society. It has created a web site specifically to provide information on guardianship and alternatives, including relevant articles.

**Guardianship Services, Inc. -**[www.guardianshipservices.org](http://www.guardianshipservices.org)

Guardianship Services Incorporated (GSI) is a non-profit organization in Texas that provides services to adults who lack the ability to manage personal or financial affairs. The Guardianship Program recruits, trains and supports volunteers who serve as volunteer guardians for adults who lack the capacity to make personal and business decisions and have no family members or friends to serve in that capacity.

**The Office of State Guardian of the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission -**[www.gac.state.il.us/osg/osgfs.html](http://www.gac.state.il.us/osg/osgfs.html)

The Office of State Guardian advocates for the rights of over 5,300 adults with disabilities in Illinois. The Office of State Guardian encourages maximum self-reliance and independence.



*A family-based organization working with and for people who have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities*

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Delmar, New York 12054  
Phone: 518-439-8311  
Fax: 518-439-1893  
[www.nysarc.org](http://www.nysarc.org)  
E-mail: [nysarc@nysarc.org](mailto:nysarc@nysarc.org)

On-line Shopping:  
[www.shopforNYSARC.org](http://www.shopforNYSARC.org)

## NYSARC, INC. TRAINING DELIVERED AND SCHEDULED AS OF JUNE 1, 2005



- June 23, 2005:** **Cooperstown, New York**  
Participated in panel presentation to the Executive Directors' Association on Withholding and Withdrawal of Life-Sustaining Treatment
- August 23, 2005:** **Wayne County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Training provided to the Chapter's Guardianship Committee
- September 13, 2005:** **Oneida-Lewis Counties Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to Chapter Board of Directors
- September 14, 2005:** **Saratoga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to families
- September 22, 2005:** **Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to families
- September 24, 2005:** **Sullivan County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to Chapter Guardianship Committee
- October 6, 2005** **St. Lawrence County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to Chapter Guardianship Committee
- October 13, 2005:** **Sullivan County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.**  
Scheduled to provide training to Chapter Guardianship Committee
- November 2-3, 2005:** **NYSARC, Inc. Convention at Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello, New York**  
Scheduled to present training on the NYSARC, Inc. Policies and Procedures to Chapter Guardianship Coordinators and interested staff

Chapters are encouraged to contact Michael O'Brien, Esq., at the NYSARC, Inc. State Office to schedule trainings for their Board of Directors, Guardianship Committees, Program Staff and/or Families on any of the following topics: Guardianship; the Health Care Decisions Act and End-of-Life Care; the NYSARC Policies and Procedures on Withholding /Withdrawal of Life Support; Advanced Directives; and Consent and Capacity.

Mike can be reached at (518) 439-8311 or [mobrien@nysarc.org](mailto:mobrien@nysarc.org)