



Supporting Siblings of People with Disabilities: The Forgotten Family Members

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

Agenda

9:30 a.m. ***“Unique Concerns and Opportunities for Siblings”***
Sheila Swann-Guerrero

The relationship between brothers and sisters play a critical role in family life. Siblings of children with a disability have unique needs and experiences. Addressing the needs of siblings has a positive impact on everyone in the entire family and often results in life long healthy sibling relationships. This session will address the needs of siblings, review research and provide hands-on interactive activities and strategies that can be utilized by professionals and families. Be prepared to learn and have fun!

10:30 a.m. ***“Resources for Siblings Across the Lifespan”***
Tara Kosieniak and Katie Arnold

Tara and Katie will share resources for siblings both locally and nationally. This will include forums for siblings to connect with each other at different stages of their lives. Tools will be shared to start the dialogue among families about planning for the future.

11:30 a.m. ***“Including My Brother: The Only Choice”***
Rob Johnson, News Anchor, CBS Channel 2 News

Rob will share his experiences as a sibling and the positive impact his brother had on his life and the lives of his other family members. Rob learned from his parents about inclusion from the time he was a young child.

12:00 Noon Lunch (included)

1:00 p.m. ***“Ask the Experts”*** - A Panel of Adult Siblings
Tamara Besser—Facilitator

Learn from a panel of adult siblings about their relationship with their sibling over the years, challenges they have experienced and their thoughts on futures planning. There will be an opportunity for panelists to answer audience questions.

2:45 p.m. ***“Sibling and Self-Advocate Perspective: The Story of One Family’s Journey From Crisis to Hope”*** - Nora Fox Handler and Marty Fox

3:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Questions

4:00 p.m. CEU’s and CPDU’s are provided at the end of the day!

College of
DuPage
Glen Ellyn



Special Guest
Rob Johnson
CBS 2 News

About the Presenters

Katie Arnold is the Director of Community Education in the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. IDHD is the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for the State of Illinois and serves as the bridge between academia and the community throughout Illinois. Katie provides education, training, and resources on various topics which include enhancing the direct support workforce, self-directed supports, supporting healthy relationships and sexuality for people with disabilities, and the sibling experience. Katie currently serves on The Board of The Arc of Illinois. Katie also provides leadership to Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters (SIBS) as well as serving as Chair of the national Sibling Leadership Network. After graduating from the University of Chicago in 2001, Katie lived at L'Arche Chicago, a community based on mutual relationships where people with and without developmental disabilities live together. She has a Masters in Disability and Human Development from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Katie's passion about her work with people with disabilities stems from her experience growing up with her sister with developmental disabilities.

Tamara Besser, MSW, LCSW has worked with children, teens and adults with disabilities and their families for over twenty four years in direct care, clinical, management, and administrative roles. She is currently the Eva Cooper Director of Services for People with Disabilities at Jewish Child and Family Services where she supervises and coordinates a number of programs and services for children and adults with disabilities and their families, including futures planning. Tamara has facilitated Sibshops for the past ten years, was part of the workgroup that developed the Sibshop Standards of Practice. She is a member of the Chicagoland Sibshop Facilitator Network and she is, along with Tara Kosieniak (Conley) and Sheila Swann-Guerrero, one of the founding members of Family Sibday.

Martin Fox is the treasurer of the Self Advocacy Council of Northern Illinois. He lives on his own and works at Royal Coil. He advocates for himself and his long time girlfriend Gwen. Marty is interested in Astronomy, bike riding, fishing, camping and Star Trek.

Nora Fox Handler is a committed sister to her three brothers with developmental disabilities, Marty, Patrick, and Michael. Michael also has a serious mental illness. She is a passionate advocate for people with disabilities and their families. She shares the story of her family's experience and the consequences of their lack of planning for the future. Her story is published in *Thicker Than Water: Essays by Adult Siblings of People with Disabilities*. Nora is a founding member and treasurer of Supporting Illinois Brother and Sisters (SIBS) in Illinois and on the Board of Directors of the national Sibling Leadership Network. She also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Sibling Support Project. Nora is an advocate advisor of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (RRTCADD) and the Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Nora received the Family Advocate award from The Arc of Illinois and is a Board member of The Arc of Illinois.

Rob Johnson is the weekday co-anchor of the CBS 2 evening newscasts at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM. He joined CBS 2 in August 2006 from WLS-TV where he worked since 1998 as weekend anchor and reporter. Rob earned his B.A. in Communications from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana in 1990. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Brain Research Foundation and is an honorary board member of the H Foundation, a cancer research organization. He also dedicates much of his personal time to organizations that support people with disabilities. In his spare time he enjoys golfing, skiing, and ice hockey. Rob and his wife, Stacy, live with their son in the western suburbs.

Tara Kosieniak (Conley), MA has worked with children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families for the past twenty years in a variety of capacities. She currently works for Service, Inc. as an Individual Service Coordinator serving children in the Children's Home Based Waiver. Tara has facilitated Sibshops for the past nine years, is a moderator for SibKids, founded the listserv for adult siblings AdultSibsNet, serves on the Sibling Support Projects Advisory Committee and the Sibling Leadership Network's support and organizational committees. Tara is a member of the Chicagoland Sibshop Facilitator Network and co-founder of Family Sibday. She founded SIBS (Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters) in 2007 along with Nora Fox Handler. Tara's work is influenced by her younger brother who has developmental disabilities.

Sheila Swann-Guerrero is the Sibshop Coordinator at Advocate Medical Group Pediatric Developmental Center (PDC) and Superintendent, Gateway Special Recreation. Ms. Swann-Guerrero received her Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). Ms. Swann-Guerrero has worked with individuals with a disability and their families for over twenty years. She utilizes her background to provide support and services, including recreation, education and peer support for siblings and families of children who have a disability or chronic condition. She frequently presents to both families and professionals on the importance of addressing the needs of siblings to promote healthy life long relationships of all family members.

Cost & Registration

November 15, 2010 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Registration 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Registration Fees for Participants are:

Arc Members:

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

Non Arc Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOCATION

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

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

Registration Form

"Supporting Siblings"

3376
November 15, 2010

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

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

AMOUNT PAYABLE: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

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

____ Check enclosed payable to The Arc of Illinois

____ P.O. or State Voucher # _____

____ Charge to my Visa or Mastercard

Name as it appears on card:

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card holder's signature:



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Special Guest

Speaker

Rob Johnson

CBS 2 News

*“Supporting
Siblings of People
with Disabilities”*

Sponsored by
The Arc of Illinois

Intended Audience

Siblings, Families and Professionals
who support people with disabilities!

