

Office of Public Guardian:

Roles and Trends

DAIL Advisory Board 7/14/16

Roles-

- The Basics- General Supervision; Medical/Dental; Legal; Contracts; (Financial)
 - See attached Statutory Excerpts
- Real Life Examples- Sample OPG Annual Review; Celebrating Accomplishments
 - See attached Annual Review and email from Heather Allin

Trends-

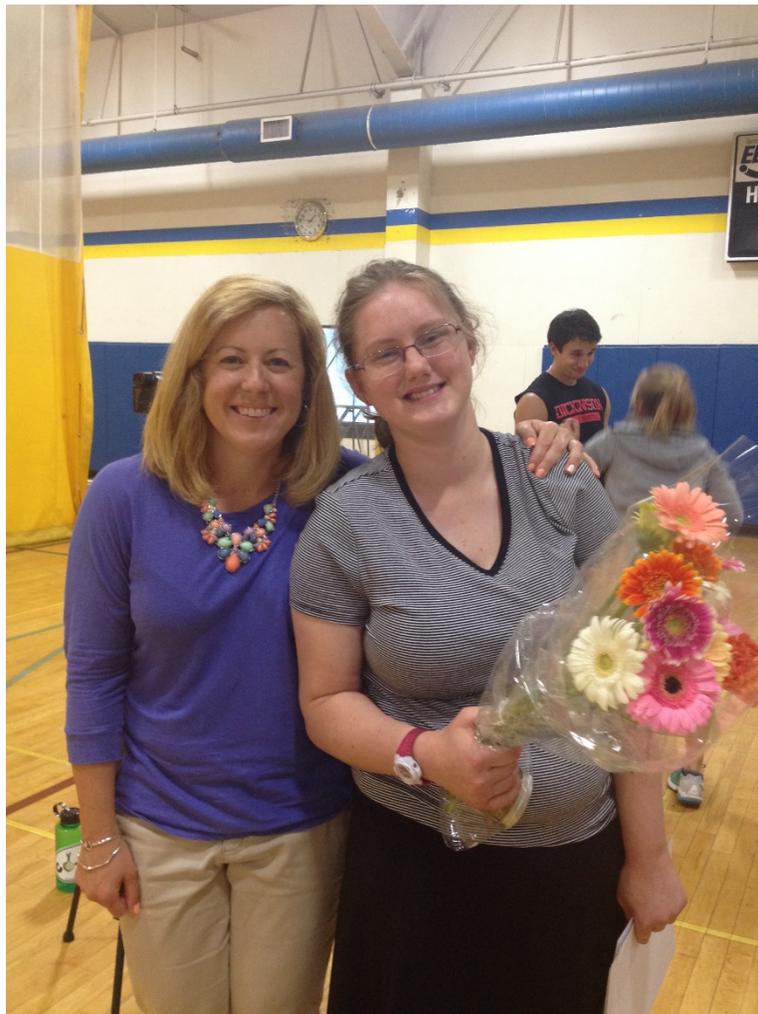
- Increasing caseload with decreased number of guardians
- Increasing # petitions for guardianship initiated just to fill out the Long Term Care Application
- Increasing # petitions for guardianship filed by hospitals because of difficulty discharging elders with complex mental health issues
- Guardianship and the Facebook generation: TMI???
- Increased Focus on Supported Decision Making
 - See attached Definition and VT Supported Decision Making Task Force information

Celebrating Accomplishments

Email from Heather Allin, OPG Regional Supervisor:

Hi Folks,

It's nice to hear a positive story every once in a while so here I go. Casey, a young woman for whom I am guardian, graduated from the Project Search program today. Project Search is a transition-to-work internship program. The EDGE Sports and Fitness, HowardCenter, VR, AOE, and SB School District partner in Project Search. Casey began the program with very little confidence and struggled at times with emotion management and social anxiety. Fast forward 9 months and she got up and spoke to the audience about her experience in this wonderful program! She has so much more confidence in herself, which has decreased her anxiety and allowed her to gain better control of her emotions. While in the program, she interned in Group Fitness, the Preschool, and the Front Desk. She would love to work with kids. However, while she looks for childcare jobs, she just got a job at the Dollar Tree. So proud of her.



Definition of Supported Decision Making:

A WAY FORWARD: SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

“a recognized alternative to guardianship through which people with disabilities use friends, family members, and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they may make their own decisions without the “need” for a guardian.”

- Blanck & Martinis, 2015