



FOCUS Clayton State Conference

Saturday, March 19, 2016

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

REGISTRATION

8:45 am – 9:00 am

KEYNOTE

9:00 am – 9:45 am

Did You Ever Know That You're My Hero? Advocacy Strategies for Parents **Dr. Sam Maddox**

Youth with exceptionalities face a variety of challenges navigating among the different systems, in which they interact. Although these systems have designated persons to assist the youth, parents and caregivers usually must also advocate for the youth's specific needs. This brief workshop will discuss strategies in which parents/caregivers can advocate for their child within these systems and ideas for handling resistance from the various systems.

WORKSHOPS

10:00 am – 11:30 am

A. Deeming Waiver

Debbie Dobbs

Debbie Dobbs will do a hands on walk through of the Deeming Waiver/Katie Beckett Medicaid Deeming Waiver paperwork. Participants will leave with all of the knowledge they need to fill out the paperwork and will understand the eligibility criteria. Participants will also receive information on additional funding sources.

B. Wills and Special Needs Trust

DJ Jeyaram

DJ will present a thorough overview of wills and trusts for your children, especially those with special needs. Wills must be carefully written for parents with children with special needs. This workshop will inform parents of the importance of a will and of the need for careful planning.

LUNCH (provided) & EXHIBITS

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

WORKSHOPS

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

A. NOW/COMP

Debbie Dobbs

Debbie Dobbs will provide information on the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver (COMP). Debbie will explain how to apply, the services available, and how to advocate to get off of the waitlist.

B. IEP 101

Tim Schwarz , ESQ

Using example conversations, Mr. Schwarz's presentation will explain the application of federal law to common scenarios, such as eligibility, evaluation, IEP drafting, and school discipline. By providing parents with a better understanding of the internal checklist being used to run a meeting and provide services, the presentation will help families communicate and advocate more effectively for appropriate and individualized services for students.