

Workshop Description

Protecting the Health & Lives of Hospital Patients Especially Those Who Are Societally Devalued

This workshop is based on the work of Dr. W. Wolfensberger of the Syracuse University Training Institute, as well as the practical experiences of clinicians, family members, and advocates. Dr. Wolfensberger is considered to be one of the most influential thinkers of the century on disability and social devaluation. The workshop explores the unpleasant and paradoxical reality that anyone who is hospitalized is exposed to grave dangers which jeopardize that person's health and safety, sometimes to the point of making the person dead. This is a reality for all ill people in the hospital, including valued citizens, but is especially ominous for people who are members of a socially disadvantaged class, such as the elderly and the impaired. The workshop will offer practical information and examples on necessary guidelines and measures for protecting people in the hospital.

Format: This workshop is presented in lecture style, using overheads, with opportunity for participant questions, comments and general discussion. A panel will present in the afternoon. The panel consists of individuals whose personal life experiences and roles as family members, (former) patients, medical professionals, advocates, and service workers, have direct relevance to the issues.

What participants will learn:

- The general perils of hospitalization for all people.
- Additional perils that threaten devalued people.
- Measures to take to defend the well-being and lives of hospitalized people.
- The reality, causes and wounding impacts of societal devaluation, and related mind-sets.
- Opportunities for additional learning related to this critical issue.

Workshop materials: Each participant will receive the monograph *A Guideline on Protecting the Health & Lives of Patients in Hospitals* as well as valuable hand-outs.

Who should attend:

- Families who have children, parents or other relatives with medical needs;
- Impaired people and other citizens who are socially disenfranchised, and their families, friends and advocates;
- Human service and medical staff.

Presenters:

- **Joe Osburn, Director of The Safeguards Initiative, Bardstown KY**
Joe Osburn has worked in human services since 1964, in a variety of direct service, administrative and consultative positions, primarily with poor families and families with impaired children. Since 1974, his work has focused particularly on the dissemination and application of normalization/Social Role Valorization (SRV) as a major safeguard in the lives of socially vulnerable people. He directs the Safeguards Initiative, a non-profit SRV-based project established in 1991. His main activities include planning and conducting SRV and related training; coordinating and leading comprehensive in-depth evaluations of service quality of human service programs, agencies, and service systems; writing; and other related SRV-based projects. He regularly provides support to a few small communal organizations that practice hospitality, life-sharing or other forms of solidarity with socially vulnerable families and individuals.
- **Jo Massarelli, Director of the SRV Implementation Project, Worcester MA**
Jo Massarelli is Director of the SRV Implementation Project based in Massachusetts (USA). She divides her time between teaching Social Role Valorization theory, PASSING workshops and related topics; and working to effect positive change for individuals with impairments and elders. Ms. Massarelli is a consultant to the Medical Safeguards Project, an effort of physicians and nurses who seek to protect the lives of impaired people in medical settings. She has a particular interest in advocacy in hospitals. She and her colleagues teach workshops on defending vulnerable people in hospitals and on medical decision-making. She and her husband Marc Tumeinski are members of a community responding to the needs of homeless people in downtown Worcester, Massachusetts, where they live.

**To Schedule This Workshop
Or For More Information,
Please Contact:**

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This workshop could save a life or limb!