

# Caregiver Connection and Support Program



As a caregiver, we rely on the support of other caregivers to:

- ◇ help us learn how to navigate a complex system,
- ◇ share our stories, and
- ◇ discuss our challenges

Caregiving is a lifelong journey that no one understands unless they have experienced it. This program offers education, support and socialization for caregivers who are caring for a loved one with a disability. There is a focus on those caring for a loved one with a developmental disability, but all are welcome.

We hope you will consider joining us.

## **\*Special Event: DAWN's Family Fun Day and Disability Resource Fair\***



*~ Come grow with us ~*

**When: Sunday, May 19th from 12-4pm**

**Where: Central Park of Morris County**



Spend the day with DAWNcil and other community partners at a free community event! Enjoy games and prizes for all ages, a disability sensitivity station, a scavenger hunt, the fully accessible playground, delicious food provided by Colonial Grill's food trucks, live music, and more!

This year we will also have a Caregiver's Corner! It will be located in the back-right of the pavilion, conveniently close to the activity stations so your loved one can be engaged in an activity while you stop by for a visit and connect with other caregivers!



## **May Caregiver Recreation Activity**

Spring is a wonderful time to get out into the sunshine and stretch your legs- come join us for good company and a pleasant walk at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, located at 353 East Hanover Ave in Morristown! This public arboretum is a place of natural beauty and learning, with nearly 2,000 specimen trees and plantings, gorgeous formal gardens, woodlands, meadows, walking trails and a historic mansion.

Thursday, May 30, 2024

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqdOyrrzMjH9xryuKwaJrR-W-gAfk7RsZ>

**As this is an in-person event, the Zoom link accompanying your approved registration will not be needed. All future communication concerning the event will come from Julie Ferguson via email.**

*If you are new to our caregiver programming, Julie Ferguson, DAWN's Caregiver Support Coordinator, will reach out to you to welcome you to the program, share information, and answer any questions you may have.*

**Please contact Julie Ferguson at (973)-668-7675 for further information.**

**This program is supported by Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. Contributions are gladly accepted. Contributions are voluntary and are not required to participate in this programming.**

## **May Caregiver Education Sessions**

### **Housing 101**

**Presenter: Jerisa Maseko, Director, Planning For Adult Life, ARC of NJ**

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live in a variety of places in the community. It's important to determine the level of support needed by the person with IDD when exploring the housing options available in your community. One size does not fit all, so it's never too early to get started on understanding the different housing options. This workshop will give an overview of the housing options available to people with I/DD and what to keep in mind when identifying the best fit for your loved one. At the end of the presentation, caregivers will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting.

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvf-6upjMoGNMtXEyd0kE2KZaNng1F8FntF>

### **The Acronym Soup of Special Needs Planning:**

#### **Learn All About SNTs, SBTs, QITs & ABLE**

**Presenter: Ryann Siclari Esq., Counsel for Porzio, Bromberg & Newman**

Ryann Siclari has a Master of Law specializing in Elder Law and she concentrates her practice on a wide range of elder and disability law issues including long-term care, government benefits planning and advocacy, estate and trust administration, and estate planning.

Ms. Siclari's presentation will provide an overview of the critical financial planning tools for people with disabilities to ensure ongoing eligibility for government benefits including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. At the end of her presentation, caregivers will be able to ask questions.

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdOupqTluHtYLJO-VkdVnOvVI1Rr-hTtm>

### **Self-Directed Services**

**Presenters: Patricia Brennan, Director & Jessica Licon, Assistant Director  
The Office of Education on Self-Directed Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Patricia Brennan and Jessica Licon's presentation on self-direction will share what it means to self-direct, and aims to empower caregivers to help their loved ones make informed choices on how they receive their supports and services. The presentation will include an overview of self-direction, the difference between self-directed services and provider services, fiscal intermediaries, and Charting the Life Course as a planning tool. At the end of the presentation, caregivers will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting.

[https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-GprT4vE9RHV\\_hgF31NcYDsOG3zhsbN](https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-GprT4vE9RHV_hgF31NcYDsOG3zhsbN)