

NGA To Work With COA On Accreditation



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National Guardianship Association and Council on Accreditation Form Alliance for Agency Standards

The National Guardianship Association (NGA) has signed an agreement with the Council on Accreditation (COA) that is designed to promote quality improvement in adult guardianship systems through accreditation.

Both NGA and COA have released standards for agencies that provide guardianship services. NGA developed their standards in 2007 making them available on the NGA website at <http://www.guardianship.org/pdf/09/AgencyStandards.pdf>. COA recently released its Adult Guardianship Standards, which support improved quality of life and reduced risk of abuse or exploitation through transparent, ethical operations; manageable workloads; regular contact with service recipients; and ongoing monitoring of service quality and effectiveness.

As part of the new partnership, NGA will promote COA accreditation among its agency members and encourage them to serve as COA peer reviewers, team leaders, commissioners, and standards panelists. Many members had the opportunity to meet COA representatives at NGA's National Conference on Guardianship in Las Vegas, Nevada in October.

The release of COA's adult guardianship accreditation standards and the evolving partnership between NGA and COA, have stakeholders for both organizations excited about the impact these events will have on their field.

NGA Executive Director Terry Hammond says, "NGA has a long history of working with specialists in the field to support our mission of establishing and promoting a nationally recognized standard of excellence in the field of adult guardianship. Through our partnership with COA, we will be able to expand our work and help our membership ensure that services are of the highest quality. In addition to standards specific to adult guardianship service delivery, COA's administrative standards cover critical areas such as Ethical Practice, Risk Prevention and Management, Client Rights, and Financial Management, which will go a long way to identify high quality, transparent programs that are making a positive difference in the lives of individuals receiving services."

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent not-for-profit international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. For more information about COA and its accreditation processes and standards, call 866-COA-8088, extension 263 or visit: www.coanet.org; www.coastandards.org; www.coacanadastandards.org; and www.coaafschool.org.