Outcomes of Guardian Ad Litem Services, Inc.

Guardian Ad Litem Services, Inc. provides comprehensive services to adults with serious mental illness. From January, 2002 to December, 2016, the program served a total of 601 clients. Clients experience a range of vulnerabilities: the majority of clients have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (with bipolar disorder, major depression, and anxiety disorders also fairly common), and most have a monthly income of less than $1,100. Clients range in age from 19-90.

To get a sense of the impact of Guardian services, we compared medical and law enforcement use for clients from the 3 years before to the 3 years after enrollment. The findings reflect data from a total of 298 Guardian clients who enrolled in the program from Jan, 2002 to Dec, 2013, and who had detailed information available on services.

We identified substantial reductions in hospitalizations, ER visits, state hospitalizations, arrests, and time in jail in the 3 years after Guardian enrollment, compared to the 3 years before enrollment.¹

Clients were connected to a range of services upon enrollment in Guardian, which may have accounted for some of these changes. The most common services received included case management, supervised living, group home placement, work services, and group therapy.

Lower use of ER visits, hospitalizations, state hospitalizations, and prisons can save state resources. For example, the cost of imprisonment is higher in Connecticut than almost any other state, with an estimated annual cost per inmate of $50,282,² while expenses for inpatient hospitalization in Connecticut range from $3,426/day for state/local government hospitals to $2,547/day for for-profit hospitals.³ Inpatient mental health care has been estimated to cost about $1,000/day. Guardian Ad Litem services may therefore be associated with substantial cost savings in some of the state’s most vulnerable adults.

¹Trends were similar when we examined changes from five years before enrollment to five years after Guardian enrollment, and one year before to one year after enrollment.
Improving lives through enhanced care coordination

- Hospitals
- Doctors
- Family
- Court
- Benefits
- Law
- Resources
- Community
- Conservator

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The 7Cs
There is a solution to meet the demands of budget restrictions in Human Services. Michael Mackniak, JD brings a new and proven solution to the table.

As a court-appointed conservator and fiduciary Michael Mackniak, JD experienced the frustration of fragmented and inefficient delivery of human services to at-need populations. He was convinced there had to be a better way. That better way is The Guardian Model and its signature program, Melissa’s Project. Co-created by Michael, The Guardian Model delivers enhanced services while reducing costs by millions of dollars each year.

**Michael’s Presentations**

**The Guardian Model: Creating Interrelated Service Systems**

*A new, proven approach to deliver human services and reduce costs*

Learn about Melissa’s Project, the nationally acclaimed program based on The Guardian Model. Co-created by Michael Mackniak, JD, The Guardian Model is a groundbreaking, highly adaptable, and interrelated approach to deliver critical services to at-need populations.

**Attendees learn a new, proven way to:**

- Get a complete, accurate picture of their human services system
- Discover their system’s inefficiencies and learn how to fix them
- Gain clarity on their system and improve system oversight
- Identify small breakdowns in communication that may contribute to larger problems

**The 7Cs to Cure The Mental Health System**

Discover how to bring a higher level of empowerment to your organization and better results to your clients, while reducing costs. Perfect for leaders at all levels.

**Be Proactive. Be Proficient. Change Lives!**

A recipe for success to accomplish your personal and professional goals. High-energy and inspirational, this talk is perfect for Opening and Closing Keynotes.

**Attention Meeting Planners!**

Give the decision-makers in your group the opportunity to learn about a new, proven model that changes lives, improves outcomes and reduces costs.

Michael presents keynotes, workshops and breakout sessions to leaders in the health and human services arena and in related fields that include:

- Mental and behavioral health
- State government
- Judicial and corrections departments
- Hospitals
- Fiduciaries and guardians
- The legal community
Meet Michael Mackniak, JD
A recognized expert in health and human services.

Nationally recognized as an innovator and problem-solver, Michael Mackniak, JD is the foremost speaker and consultant on interrelated human service systems. Why? Because he brings a unique, timely, and proven solution to the table – a solution that changes lives, while reducing costs. Key to his message: Enhance your system of care, and you WILL improve lives.

Early in his career, Michael served as a fiduciary. He experienced the frustration of insufficient services for vulnerable populations. Michael's frustration led him to co-create The Guardian Model and its signature program, Melissa's Project. This nontraditional approach delivers enhanced coordination, with bottom line results saving millions of dollars each year.

Michael's model sets forth a collaborative process to monitor and address each client's unique needs via the interrelated network of courts, mental health services providers, physicians, state agencies, guardians, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and conservators.

Michael's innovative programs have received multiple awards. National recognition for The Guardian Model and Melissa's Project includes Eli Lily's “Welcome Back Award,” NAMI's “Hero Award” and the National College of Probate Judge's “Isabella Award.”

Michael is author of Saving Melissa: 7 Cs to Cure the Mental Health System. He holds a law degree from Quinnipiac University, a master's degree in nonprofit management from Bay Path College, and is a National Certified Guardian.

"Michael has the unique ability to teach while making learning fun. His innovative thought process captivates his audiences wherever he goes.”
Sara Valentino, MSW, LCSW

Select client list
- American Association of Psychiatry and the Law
- National College of Probate Judges
- National Conference on Crisis Intervention
- National Guardianship Association
- Multiple Hospitals including Connecticut Valley, Griffin Hospital, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Waterbury Hospital, and Yale New Haven Hospital
- Connecticut Probate Court Administration

Be Proactive.
Be Proicient.
Improve lives by enhancing your system of care.”

Michael Mackniak, JD
Innovator, Strategist & Award-Winning COO
Co-creator of The Guardian Model
(203) 723-4332
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upon each other is crucial, so we’ll go over how to have a comprehensive system of

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of difficult, real life cases that he’s managed and what keys he’s learned from each

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