



ICS

Three Healthcare Organizations Open Under One Roof

Three Award-Winning Organizations Take Up Residence Together in the Bronx to Meet Increasing Demand for Quality Long-Term Care Services and Supports

Three pioneering organizations, Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), Independence Care System (ICS), and PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute), marked the opening of their new offices under one roof, in a new, LEED-Certified "green" building, at 400 East Fordham Road in the Bronx, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on April 10.

The occasion was recognized by Commissioner Victor Calise of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities with a letter of commendation from the Mayor's Office.

"People with disabilities from the Bronx have waited a long time for a topnotch facility such

as this, which combines three great organizations, PHI, Cooperative Home Care Associates and Independence Care System," said Commissioner Calise at the event. "Their expertise will bring job training, long term service, wheelchair maintenance and repair services to Bronx residents, which will improve their quality of life in so many ways."

"Our three organizations bring to the Bronx an unmatched system of job training, job creation, employment support, long-term care services, and advocacy," said ICS founder and President Rick Surpin, who is also the founder and chairperson of Cooperative Home Care Associates, and chair of PHI.

"Our organizations share the view that our city's health care system and labor market should offer pathways to independence,"

said CHCA President Michael Elsas. "Anchoring our vision is our belief that quality home care jobs are vital to ensuring quality care for people living with disabilities, senior adults, and people with chronic conditions."

CHCA is a home care agency and the nation's largest worker cooperative, which can now train 600 new home care workers each year in its new state-of-the-art training facility. ICS is a Medicaid managed long-term care nonprofit organization that coordinates a wide range of home care, health care, and social services to enable senior adults and people with disabilities or chronic conditions to live as independently as possible. At its new Bronx-based office, ICS has established the first comprehensive, community-based wheelchair evaluation, maintenance, and repair

program in the borough. PHI is the nation's leading authority on the direct-care workforce, fostering quality direct-care jobs as the foundation for quality care.

"As the baby boomers age and more people live with disabilities and chronic health conditions, the demand for quality home care workers is increasing rapidly," said PHI President Jodi M. Sturgeon. "Investing in home care jobs through better wages, benefits, training, and opportunities for advancement, will better ensure that our nation builds the workforce it needs to provide high-quality home care."

The Robin Hood Foundation and Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation were recognized for generously contributing capital grants that make the expanded training and employment efforts possible.

212 584-2500 • www.icsny.org

SAUNDRA M. GUMEROVE, ESQ.

Fundamental Issues Facing Parents Of Individuals With Disabilities

Two major issues face parents of individuals with disabilities: Who will take care of my child when I am gone? and How can I insure quality of life for my loved one? The answer is planning for the future.

A plan encompasses provisions for who will care for a loved one (i.e. by establishing guardianship, if appropriate), how the parents' assets will be divided among surviving family members by establishing an estate plan, and how to maintain quality of life for the individual with disabilities through the use of trusts, particularly supplemental or special needs trusts.

Parents can seek guardianship of their child if he/she is unable to make decisions such as healthcare decisions and/or

financial decisions for themselves. A guardian acts much the same way as parents in decision-making, particularly healthcare and financial decisions.

To insure that a loved one is financially secure, the plan will provide for the division of assets through a will. Assets for an individual with disabilities can be placed in a supplemental or special needs trusts, allowing a family to insure that an individual with disabilities will maintain his/her eligibility for government benefits such as SSI and/or Medicaid, while having sufficient additional funds to have a good quality of life. Assets in a supplemental or special needs trust are not counted as resources for purposes of qualifying for SSI or Medicaid.

516 822-3397 • www.smgesq.com 42 Marian Lane, Jericho, N.Y.



Sandra M. Gumerove, Esq. Attorney at Law

Serving the Special Needs Community

- Guardianships • Estate Planning
• Supplemental Needs Trusts • Divorce Consulting
• Special Education • Life Planning

516-822-3397

www.smgesq.com

42 Marian Lane, Jericho, NY 11753 smg@smgesq.com