

Family Law - Guardianship & Custody Issues and Responses to Domestic Violence; Colin Daly, Northside Community Law Centre;

This workshop will look at the law as it currently stands in relation to guardianship of children and possible future reform of the existing law. It will also look at the provisions relating to protections against domestic violence and the changes that will be introduced in the new civil partnership and cohabitation legislation and the remedies that may be available to families. Colin Daly is the solicitor in charge of Northside Community Law Centre (NCLC) and works in the area of family law. NCLC is a not for profit independent organisation which offers free legal information, advice and in some cases representation to people living in Dublin North East and Dublin North Central that would otherwise not be able to afford it.

Media Training; Pat Montague, Montague Communications.

This workshop will explain how the media actually operates on a day-to-day basis, what journalists are looking for, what editors are looking for, how news outlets differ, and the constraints and limitations under which they must process news. The workshop will also provide guidelines for giving good interviews. Montague Communications is one of the leading Irish agencies concerned primarily with raising the public profile of and giving voice to organisations working for progressive social change in our society. Pat Montague is the Managing Director of Montague communications which he founded in 1992.

Ireland and the World, Alison Leahy, Comhlámh.

This workshop will enhance our understanding and awareness of global inequality and injustice and increase our understanding of how our views of global poverty are shaped. Alison has worked in Comhlámh's Development Education team for the past four years and holds a masters' degree in Development Studies from University College Dublin.

Traveller Cultural Awareness, John Paul Collins, Pavee Point;

This workshop will look at Traveller ways, culture and traditions and aims to: provide verifiable, honest and open information on Traveller demographics and circumstances, inform the participants of key aspects of Traveller Culture, facilitate debate about the issues facing Travellers and support participants in their understanding of prejudice and discrimination facing Travellers. Pavee Point is a voluntary, or non-governmental, organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers.

Remembering Departed Loved Ones; Fr. Edmond Grace, SJ.

This workshop is for those who have lost someone through addiction or drug related causes. When we lose someone we love we need healing. When our memories of them are painful, as is often the case when someone dies through addiction or drug related causes, the need for healing is all the greater. At each stage of the workshop people will be given time to be silent with the support of others in a similar situation and some time to share and to encourage others. Fr. Edmond Grace is a familiar figure both at the Service of Commemoration and Hope and at the Annual Work Conference helping people to enter into moments of silence and reflection.

Relapse and Relapse Prevention, Dr. Bobby Smyth & Kevin Ducray;

Relapse is common to all behaviour change but is of particular relevance to addiction. By understanding the trajectory typically resulting in relapse one may be able to interrupt this process. The challenge involves understanding, anticipating, avoiding and better managing the interplay between internal and external triggers and challenges which occur on the journey between abstinence and relapse. Bobby is a Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, working full-time with adolescents who have addiction problems for the past seven years, based at the Young Persons Programme in the Drug Treatment Centre Board and at the HSE Youth Drug & Alcohol Service in Tallaght. Kevin is the Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Drug Treatment Centre Board (DTCB). He completed his Undergraduate Degree, BA Honours in Psychology and Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology (with Distinction) from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

Representation Skills, Dáithí Doolan, CityWide;

This workshop aims to build on confidence and experience, work with participants in identifying their needs, understand the role of a representative and identify the skills needed for this role. Dáithí has been Co-ordinator of CityWide since August 2009. Previous to this Dáithí was a City Councillor for Dublin's south inner city. He has been involved in tackling the drug crisis since 1996 when he first became involved in developing a community response in Ringsend. CityWide works to promote and support a community development approach to the drugs problem - this means involving the people who are most affected by the problem in dealing with the problem - drug users, their families and communities.

Guardianship; Megan O'Leary & Siobhán Maher, Family Support Network.

This workshop will look at the difficulties associated with the application process and the qualifying conditions for the guardianship allowance. This workshop aims to provide accurate information on the guardianship allowance. Siobhán and Megan are development workers with the Family Support Network.



Family Support Network

Annual Work Conference 2010

9th-10th October 2010

The Fairways Hotel & Conference Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Contact:

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Saturday, 9th October 2010:

10:00am - 2:00pm	Registration for Conference & Training Workshops
10:00am (sharp)	Buses leave Custom House Quay to travel to Conference on transport arranged by FSN
11:30am	Holistic Therapies - Drop in basis
1:00pm	Lunch - (Library)
2:00pm	Plenary Session (Main Hall)
2:00pm	Welcome Address, Sadie Grace
2:10pm	Opening Address, Minister Pat Carey
2:25pm	How can the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework Document Support Services to meet the needs of Drug Users and their Families?
2:25pm	Joe Doyle, National Rehabilitation Co-ordinator
2:45pm	Families as Agents of Recovery, Margaret Rossiter, You Are Not Alone, Carlow Family Support Group
3:00pm	Michael Conroy, Office of the Minister for Drugs
3:15pm	The Personal Perspective, Rachael Keogh and Alan Grace
3:45pm	Question and Answer Session
4:15pm	Tea & Coffee Break
4:30pm	Intimidation – A Co-ordinated Response
4:30pm	Michael O’Sullivan, Garda National Drugs Unit
4:45pm	Sadie Grace, FSN Co-ordinator
5:00pm	Questions and Answer Session
5:30pm	Discussion Groups on Intimidation, all attendees
6:00pm	Buses depart for satellite accommodation and check-in
8:00pm	Buses collect guests from satellite accommodation
8:30pm	Gala Dinner, Fairways Hotel
2:00am	Buses depart for satellite accommodation

Sunday, 10th October 2010:

11:00am - 2:00pm	Training workshops
2:00pm	Sunday Dinner
3:45pm	Buses depart Fairways Hotel for Dublin City Centre, Custom House Quay

Speakers:

Minister Pat Carey; Minister Carey was appointed as Minister to the Department of Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs in March 2010.

Previously Minister Carey was appointed Minister of State at the Departments of an Taoiseach and Defence as Government Chief Whip in May 2008 and he has also served as Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy and Community Affairs from June 2007 until May 2008.

Sadie Grace; Family Support Network Co-ordinator.

Sadie is a founding member of the Family Support Network and has worked for over 15 years in a paid and voluntary capacity as an advocate for family support and families living with substance misuse.

Joe Doyle; National Rehabilitation Co-ordinator.

Joe holds a national brief as National Rehabilitation Co-ordinator with the HSE. Previously Joe has held positions as the HSE's National Drug Strategy Team Representative and as Co-ordinator of the Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force. His reporting relationship is at Ministerial level as chairperson of the National Drug Rehabilitation Implementation Committee and board member of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs.

Margaret Rossiter; Family Support Group Facilitator.

Margaret facilitates the You Are Not Alone Family Support Group and is a member of the Management Committee of the South East Regional Family Support Network. Margaret has worked tirelessly as a volunteer in the area of family support for the past seven years.

Michael Conroy; Head of Policy in the Office of the Minister for Drugs at the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Michael's main focus is currently on the implementation of the Strategy and the development of a Substance Misuse Strategy that will include alcohol and drugs.

Rachael Keogh;

Rachael is a 29 year old mother, college student and drugs survivor from Ballymun in Dublin. In 2006 Rachael publicly spoke about her drug addiction as she felt there was no other avenue open to her in order for her to receive help. Rachael wrote a book about her experiences entitled 'Dying to Survive'.

Alan Grace;

Alan is a 33 year old father from the North Inner City who has recently started his journey of recovery. He has a keen interest in working with young people from marginalised areas.

Michael O’Sullivan; Garda National Drugs Unit;

Michael O’Sullivan is a Detective Superintendent based at the Garda National Drug Unit in Dublin Castle. He has spent over 25 years in the area of Drug enforcement and is An Garda Síochána's representative on the Drugs Advisory Group. The Garda National Drugs Unit (GNDU) is a specialist agency that investigates domestic and international drug trafficking.

Training Workshops:

Participants are asked to choose and register for one of the following workshops to attend.

Creative Techniques for Family Support Groups, Breda Fell and Angela Parker, South East Regional Family Support Network (SERFSN);

This workshop is to introduce and share with facilitators creative techniques for use in family support groups. Breda is Co-ordinator of the SERFSN and Angela is Chairperson of the SERFSN. Members of the SERFSN have engaged in numerous training initiatives over the past year and have worked to develop new tools that can be used by family support groups.

Drug Awareness for Family Support Group Members, Bernie McDonnell, Community Awareness of Drugs;

This workshop will build on experience and provide an opportunity for participants to update their information on drugs and their effects and related matters. It will also offer an opportunity for FSN members to comment on a family oriented drug prevention strategy to suit their individual needs. Bernie McDonnell is Co-ordinator of Community Awareness of Drugs and has worked in the area of drug prevention since the early 1980s. Throughout Bernie's career she has been invited to design and deliver a broad range of education and training programmes for a wide audience of adults both at home and abroad.

How to respond safely when a woman discloses to you that her partner is abusing her, Maeve Healy, Women's Aid;

This workshop will examine how members of family support groups can respond safely to disclosures of domestic violence against women by their male partners. Women's Aid has been working directly with women experiencing domestic violence for 35 years and all their training and support is informed by this work. Women's Aid aims to support local groups in addressing the issue of violence against women in your community. Women's Aid are the Specialist Support Agency on Violence Against Women to Family Resource Centres, Community Development Projects and the Local Community Development Programme.

Stress Management, Geraldine Hartnett, Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Treatment Centre;

Stress is normal part of everyday life and accepted as part of our humanness. When we experience or live with the effects of chemical abuse, stress can become overwhelming and feelings of hope can be extinguished. By understanding stress and its causes; we can then begin to address it, allowing us to become even more effective members in our family and society. We more importantly remember who we are, redevelop the ability to identify our needs empowering us to cope with and enjoy life. Geraldine is General Manager of the Continuing Care & Family Services in Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Treatment centre Ballyragget, Kilkenny. Geraldine is also an accredited addiction counsellor, IAAAC supervisor, art therapist and grief therapist.

Please turn over for more workshop options