

Pennsylvania Association of Elder Law Attorneys

Webinar: **November 6, 2024** - 12:00 Noon—1:00 PM



“Understanding the Mental Health Commitment System: Involuntary, Voluntary, Adults, Minors, Guardians, and Capacity”

PRESENTERS

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DESCRIPTION OF THIS WEBINAR

This program provides legal professionals with a comprehensive overview of Pennsylvania’s behavioral health treatment system, starting with the 302 Warrant for involuntary commitments and the 201 process for voluntary admissions. Participants will explore the legal criteria governing both involuntary and voluntary commitments and learn about additional pathways for accessing support through legal and governmental programs to enhance mental health treatment.

The session will delve into the challenges faced by caregivers, legal representatives, and guardians in navigating treatment options for individuals with severe mental health conditions. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of collaboration between legal and mental health professionals to overcome these challenges.

By the end of the session, participants will have a deeper understanding of the behavioral health commitment process and the tools to advocate effectively for their clients while adhering to legal standards. The program also highlights the variability in mental health resources across counties, equipping participants with the knowledge needed to address these differences in their advocacy efforts.

WEBINAR MODERATOR

William R. Blumer CELA, Kozloff Stoudt
PAELA 2024 Webinar Chair

ABOUT PATRICIA HANSON

Patricia Hanson, a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), has been the Co-Managing Director of IKOR of Western Pennsylvania since 2011. With a master’s degree in professional counseling from Carlow University and specialized certifications in Gestalt Psychotherapy and Life Care Planning, Patty combines therapeutic insight with innovative leadership. Her dedication ensures that older adults, individuals with disabilities, and children with special needs receive personalized and compassionate care and fiduciary services to enhance the quality of their lives.

Under Patty’s visionary leadership, Solutions for Dignity Inc. was founded to address critical gaps in the care community. These programs not only focus on medical and psychosocial needs but also integrate the Legal, Trust, and Financial sectors, providing a holistic approach to care management that prioritizes clients’ quality of life and best interests.

Patty fosters a collaborative environment at IKOR, leading a multidisciplinary team that includes Registered Nurse Patient Advocates, Personal Needs Coordinators, Financial Advocates, and an attorney who addresses fiduciary areas. This teamwork ensures that every care strategy is tailored to the unique needs of each client, encompassing a wide range of medical and care-related concerns, including the most difficult cases that include severe mental health issues to catastrophic injuries. Beyond her role at IKOR, Patty’s influence extends throughout the community. She occasionally serves the Pennsylvania Bar Association Elder Law Institute as a faculty member. She is past President of the Estate Planning Council of Pittsburgh, and a founding board member of the nonprofit Senior Partners of Pittsburgh, she has made significant contributions to the field of care management and fiduciary services. Her active memberships in the Aging Life Care Professional Association and the Employee Assistance Professionals Association demonstrate her commitment to continuous learning and excellence.

In every aspect of her work, Patty’s leadership reflects humility, dedication, and a deep commitment to improving the lives of others. Pa-

tricia Hanson is not just a leader; she is a passionate advocate and a trusted guide in the fields of Care Management and Fiduciary Services, continually striving to set the highest standards of care.

ABOUT MARK Z. ZACHARIA, ESQ.

Mark Zacharia is a senior associate counsel in the UPMC Corporate Legal Department. He is general counsel for UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, UPMC East and UPMC McKeesport, the Behavioral Health Service-line and the UPMC Police. Mark previously, worked at Zacharia & Brown where he practiced in the area of Elderlaw, Estate Planning and Administration. Prior to that, he was an assistant county solicitor for the Allegheny County Law Department. Mr. Zacharia’s duties consisted of representing the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, Children Youth and Families. Mr. Zacharia is admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as well as before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He has extensive experience in Behavioral Health law, guardianships, regulatory compliance and governmental services as well as lecturing, appearing in front of administrative, trial and appeal courts. Mr. Zacharia received his undergraduate degree from the Duquesne University School of Business and his law degree from Duquesne University Law School

WEBINAR PRESENTATION/HANDOUT

The webinar presentation handout will be available to PAELA registrants several days prior to the November 6th zoom webinar.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Use the Zoom link in the email accompanying this Flyer to register. This webinar is open to PAELA members only. Please do not share your personal Zoom link emailed to you by Zoom as it ties in directly to the Zoom attendance reports identifying who participated in the webinar.

CLE. This course is worth 1 CLE for PAELA members staying at least 55 minutes for this 1 hour course.