



THE CORPORATION OF
GUARDIANSHIP

CoG Happenings

A quarterly newsletter to keep you informed.

March, 2021

Looking Back as We Look Ahead A Note from Our Executive Director

I begin this edition of CoG Happenings with a moment of reflection on where we were this time last year. Last Spring, we could not have imagined the profound ways in which we would change over the next twelve months. Yet, despite the adversity we faced, the silver lining of 2020 is that it opened our eyes to new possibilities. The pandemic changed the way we work and live, and many of those changes will be lasting and for the better. Now, one year later, we are embracing the positive lessons that we learned last year. We are facing the "next new normal" with a renewed sense of innovation, resilience, and, most importantly, an even deeper commitment to serving our community and fulfilling our mission. We refer to our staff, board, partners, and clients as the "CoG family"—and, if the events of the past year have taught us anything, it's that there is nothing more important than family!



To that end, the theme of this quarter's newsletter is connectedness. Like most people, I miss traditional meetings, business events, and the sense of connection that only coming together with peers can bring. Unfortunately, it may still be a while before we can resume back to normal with in-person activities; however, the importance of supporting each other remains more apparent than ever. Our goal with CoG Happenings is to: share helpful information; stay connected with our colleagues who serve older adults and individuals with disabilities across North Carolina; and build on existing relationships and cultivate new ones. I hope you will accept this invitation to connect with us. If you'd like to know more about CoG, the work we do, and how we can help you and the clients you serve, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

If you have suggestions or feedback or if CoG can ever be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at **336-273-5389 ext. 101** or dorian@corpguard.org.

Service Highlight – Care Management

In each edition of our quarterly newsletter, we highlight one of the service areas that CoG offers. In this edition, we thought it was only fitting to highlight Care Management—a service area that focuses entirely on connectedness. As you may know, CoG serves in four primary legal roles, including Guardian, Trustee of Special Needs Trusts, Agent under Power-of-Attorney, and Representative Payee. Within each of these roles, CoG provides a person-centered, integrated package of services that goes well beyond financial management. It is a holistic approach that respects our clients' values and preferences while connecting them to opportunities, services, and resources. Our multi-faceted, comprehensive approach to caring for individuals and families is known as Care Management—a service rooted in the understanding that all aspects of "quality of life" are interconnected.



According to the National Academy of Certified Care Managers (NACCM), a Care Manager is a health and human services specialist who acts as a guide and advocate for clients and/or families who are caregiving for older relatives or individuals with disabilities. CoG's professional Care Managers work one-on-one with clients and their representatives to identify key issues or goals. Based on this information, our Care Managers work with clients and their families to create advocacy plans to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. Care Management may include regular in-person meetings with clients and their families, periodic assessments of the client's needs, routine telephone consultation and advocacy, review of existing support services, linkage to needed services, and assistance with budgeting.



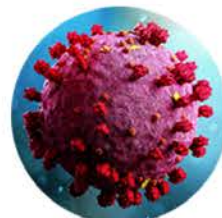
CoG's Care Management team includes a Registered Nurse and a Masters-Level Gerontologist. CoG's Registered Nurse has over 30 years of experience working in public health and special education. CoG's Masters-Level Gerontologist is Certified by the National Academy of Certified Care Managers and has more than 20 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provides support for their aging parents.

Additionally, our Care Management team includes support staff who provide Care Assistance, non-medical caregiving services designed to enhance our clients' quality of life. Our Care Assistants work in the home or in a residential facility to monitor a client's condition and help with day-to-day activities. Care Assistants may provide or arrange for transportation, run errands, perform light housekeeping, escort clients on outings and medical appointments, and provide companionship.

Regardless of the legal role in which we are serving, CoG's Care Management team is available to support the whole person, providing for our clients' physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs. Our Care Managers are ready and willing to help clients overcome challenging obstacles and live a healthy, successful life. For more information about our Care Management services, please visit our website at www.corpguard.org or give us a call at **336-273-5389**.

Navigating the NC COVID-19 Vaccination Process

With the increase of available COVID vaccines, there might just be a light at the end of the tunnel! It is crucial that we understand how to access vaccines, especially for our older clients and those with disabilities. As you may know, the state of North Carolina has divided how the vaccines will be distributed into five different priority groups, including:



Group 1: This group is currently open to receive vaccinations for individuals working in healthcare settings and residents and workers in long-term care facilities. It is important to note that this group includes those receiving long-term home care for more than 30 days, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving Home and Community-Based Services, private duty nursing, personal care, home health services, and hospice.

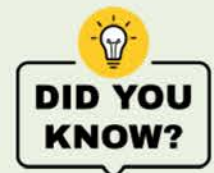
Group 2: Individuals who are 65 and older are currently eligible to receive the vaccination under Group 2. There are no requirements that the individual also have a chronic condition, as eligibility is based solely on age. One key point to keep in mind while working with older clients is that NCDHHS strongly recommends advising those who are 75 or older to receive the vaccination and are asking providers to prioritize these individuals.

Group 3: People working in childcare and essential frontline workers who are employed in specific settings and who are required to work in-person are now eligible to receive the vaccine. The work settings prioritized in this group include critical manufacturing, education, essential goods, food and agriculture, government and community services, health care and public health, public safety, and transportation.

Group 4: This group includes those between the ages of 16 and 64 with high-risk medical conditions and all other essential frontline workers who are required to work in-person that did not meet the previous criteria. Additionally, individuals living in congregate settings, such as homeless shelters or prisons, are eligible. It's worth noting that this group includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Down Syndrome, and those with neurologic conditions, such as dementia, that may not have been included in previous groups.

Group 5: This group includes all other adults who were not eligible previously. NCDHHS has not yet announced when this group will open.

If you would like to take a closer look at each of these groups, please visit NCDHHS: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/find-your-spot-take-your-shot>. This page can also assist you in finding a local vaccine provider, whether it be for your clients or yourself. We encourage you to keep persevering—the end is hopefully near!



CoG Fun Fact

Although CoG is based in Greensboro, we serve older adults and individuals with disabilities across the entire state. Currently, we are serving clients in 34 counties across North Carolina from the mountains to the coast. Our staff are "road warriors" traveling as far east as the Outer Banks and as far west as Madison County (and everywhere in between!) to visit our clients.



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The Corporation of Guardianship
122 North Elm Street, Suite 601
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401
336.273.5389
www.corpguard.org

The Corporation of Guardianship is a private, non-profit organization providing fiduciary services and care management to vulnerable persons based on person-centered principles.