

About Melmark

Melmark provides residential, educational, vocational and healthcare services for adults and children with intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injuries, autism spectrum disorders and other neurological and genetic disorders. In addition to our Berwyn, PA campus, Melmark also operates a program in Andover, MA.

The Melmark School, an Approved Private School for students 5-21 years of age and Melmark's Vocational Services program for adults 21 years of age and older, focus on the development of community-based independent living and vocational skills.

Melmark is pleased to present *Journey into Adulthood* a one-day conference addressing issues families face as a young adult approaches 21 years of age.

Transition Conference/Resource Fair

Keynote speaker Peter F. Gerhardt, EdD, will lead this conference.

In the morning session, Dr. Gerhardt will address the development of skills and the expert coaching necessary to help prepare young adults for the work place.

Following lunch, the afternoon session will feature a panel discussion focusing on transitional planning issues. The panel comprises a financial planner, a special needs attorney, a parent advocate, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a social worker, and Dr. Gerhardt.

What you will learn

- Common issues confronting families and caregivers of young adults with autism spectrum disorders who are transitioning into adulthood
- Effective planning tools under the expert guidance of professionals, attorneys, and financial planners
- How to create appropriate transition plans

Agenda

7:45 - 8:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Resource Fair, The Multi Purpose Center

8:30 - 8:45 Announcements and Introductions:

Joanne Gillis-Donovan, PhD
President and CEO, Melmark

Stephen C. Luce, PhD
Vice President for Clinical Programming, Training, and Research, Melmark

8:45 - 10:30 Peter F. Gerhardt, EdD
"Bridges to Adulthood: Targeting Skills for the Next Environment" (Part I)

10:30 - 10:45 Break, Resource Fair

10:45 - 12:15 Bridges to Adulthood (Part II)

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch and Resource Fair

1:15 - 1:45 Opening Remarks by panelists *Dennis McAndrews, Nick Lian, Mary Mauer, Anthony Rostain, Stephen C. Luce, Abby McGillivray*

1:45 - 2:45 Question & Answer Session

2:45 - 3:00 Closing Remarks

Resource Fair exhibitors available all day

For Directions

Please visit www.melmark.org and click on "Contact Us"

For more information contact

Michael Donovan
610 325 4740

or

michaeldonovan@melmark.org

Journey to Adulthood

A one-day conference addressing transitional issues facing families of children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

Keynote Speaker

Peter F. Gerhardt, EdD

President and Chair
Scientific Council

Organization for Autism Research

**Thursday
July 31, 2008**

9 am - 3:00 pm

Melmark

2600 Wayland Road
Berwyn, PA 19312

www.melmark.org
610-325-4740

Keynote Speaker & Panelists

Peter F. Gerhardt, EdD, *President & Chair, Scientific Council, Organization for Autism Research.*

Dr. Gerhardt's private practice is based in Baltimore, MD. He has authored articles and publications on the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder, the school-to-work-transition, and analysis and intervention of problematic behavior. He serves on numerous professional advisory boards, including the Autism Society of America, MAAP Services, NJ COSAC and ASPEN.

Dennis McAndrews, Esq., *founding shareholder of McAndrews Law Offices, P.C.*

Mr. McAndrews has worked for over twenty-five years in the public and private sectors in several roles in the field of disability law. Mr. McAndrews regularly represents individuals with disabilities and their families in a variety of areas, including special education matters, special needs trusts, guardianship, estate planning, right-to-treatment cases, and injury cases.

Nick Lian, CFP, *Merrill Lynch*

Mr. Lian is a Financial Advisor with 15 years of experience in the financial industry. He is an accredited Special Needs Advisor at Merrill Lynch, whose focus is primarily on helping families who have children in need of long-term care.

Mary Maurer, RN, *Parent,*

A parent and advocate, Mary is the mother of a young man, who recently transitioned from a school program into an adult placement. Mary has been active in autism-related initiatives for many years.

Stephen C. Luce, PhD, *Vice President for Clinical Programs, Training & Research at Melmark*

Dr. Luce has spent much of his career working with children with developmental disorders and/or behavioral disorders. Dr. Luce has accumulated 29 years of post-doctoral clinical experience and over 50 publications on behavioral programs for students with developmental disabilities and related staff training.

Anthony Rostain, MD, *Director of Social Learning Disorders Program at the University of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Rostain is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University Of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is Director of Education for the Department of Psychiatry where he is responsible for overseeing medical student education and resident training. He also currently serves as the Director of Penn's Social Learning Disorders Program.

Abby McGillivray, LCSW, *Director of Social Services at Melmark*

Ms. McGillivray is a clinical social worker specializing in family mental health and transition planning for individuals with developmental challenges. Ms. McGillivray has spent the past 21 years as a psychotherapist and coach for families trying to obtain needed benefits and services for their loved ones. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and NADD: An Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Needs.

Registration

Seating is limited. Registration fee is \$25 for parents and \$35 for professionals (lunch included).

Please complete the form below. Make checks payable to "Melmark" and mail to:

Attn: Michael Donovan
Melmark, 2600 Wayland Road,
Berwyn, PA 19312

or

Call 610-325-4740 to pay with a credit card
and complete your registration and fax to:
610-325-2929

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs)

- ACT 48 = 5 CEUs
- BCBA = 6 CEUs
- Social Work (pending) = 5 CEUs
- Other, please indicate
