Mental Health Communication Challenges: Strategies for Advocates
A Webinar Offered by MHLAC and MH Mediate

This webinar will prepare you for challenges communicating with clients who have mental health needs. Examples are tailored to real-world situations such as: helping your client speak in front of a judge or at a team meeting, communicating with clients when you don’t win, and more.

We address:

- **Reality-Checking Client Decisions**
  How do you explain your client’s best interests options while preserving their autonomy?

- **Managing Involved Families**
  What are ways to communicate effectively with additional stakeholders?

- **Explaining Unconventional Client Choices**
  What can you say to explain your client’s less conventional choices to judges, adversaries or others?

- **De-Escalating Challenging Behaviors**
  What techniques can help prevent and de-escalate disruptive behaviors such as yelling, interrupting, or aggression?

- **Using Appropriate Language**
  What are the right terms to use to avoid offending clients?

Logistical Details

- **Mental Health Communication Challenges: Strategies for Advocates**
  1PM to 2:30 PM, March 22nd at 2016 (EST)

- **Ask Questions in Advance**
  E-mail dan@mhmediate.com with subject “MHLAC Webinar Question” to ask your questions in advance of the webinar, to be answered during the webinar.

- **$25 Registration Fee**
  Payments processed to MH Mediate through PayPal at [http://goo.gl/XPIPIQ](http://goo.gl/XPIPIQ)

- **Follow-Up Tools**
  Participants will receive a “Validating Diverse Mental Health Perspectives” Checklist and a tip sheet for Reflective Listening
About MH Mediate

Founded in 2012, MH Mediate develops innovative trainings, programs, and tools to improve how people talk about mental health and resolve mental health conflicts. We are experts in mental health, communication, conflict resolution, and decision-making. We have delivered in-person trainings and programs throughout the country as well as through national webinar trainings. Our clients include workplaces, mental health service providers, conflict resolution practitioners and governmental agencies.

About Dan Berstein, Presenter

Dan Berstein is a mediator living with bipolar disorder who has spent the past decade working to improve how people communicate about mental health. He holds a masters degree in Mental Health and certificate in Health Communication from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a bachelors degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

A sought-after speaker and trainer in mental health communication and conflict resolution, Dan has led workshops, dialogues, support groups, and trainings in over a dozen states. He studied conflict resolution at the New York Peace Institute, where he sat on the Mediator Advisory Board and mediated criminal court, youth-involved, school, and community cases.

Dan was formerly a Mental Health First Aid trainer with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, an operations committee member and facilitator at the Mood Disorder Support Group of NYC, and a speaker for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. He convened the first NYC-based National Dialogue on Mental Health event as part of the White House initiative.

About MHLAC

In 1973 the Massachusetts Legislature established the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC) to secure and protect the legal rights of persons involved in mental health and intellectual disabilities programs throughout the Commonwealth. The Board of the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, is appointed by the Justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and consists of fourteen judges and lawyers who are knowledgeable and experienced in mental health law.
The work of the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee is carried out by a small staff of lawyers who seek to make full use of the law to ensure that the rights of persons who are or may be regarded as mentally disabled are recognized and protected.

MHLAC’s legal advocacy and representation is prioritized and focused to promote and accomplish systemic change. MHLAC has fulfilled its statutory mission through:

- **legal representation** of individuals, families and associations of people involved in the mental health system;
- **legislative processes** to promote and advance legal rights;
- state and federal **administrative processes** to ensure that rights are granted and effectively implemented and that entitlements of services are appropriately delivered to individuals; and
- **advocacy work** reaching individuals and families denied access to care in the community or in public and private facilities or who may be or have been discriminated against on the basis of disability.

The legal staff at MHLAC provides **legal referral, information and advice** to individuals, lawyers, mental health professionals and the general public. Additionally, MHLAC disseminates information to promote understanding of new legal developments in mental health, family, and disability civil rights law through its publication of numerous resource materials and through articles in legal journals.

MHLAC has an extensive **training program** for judges, lawyers and other professionals offering a wide range of conferences taught by leading legal and medical experts on cutting edge topics in clinical, legal and legislative matters affecting persons with mental health needs. The program’s goal is to maintain high quality legal representation and improve the administration of justice when issues related to mental health and disability are presented.