



February 12, 2008

**DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER SEEKING VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN ADVOCATES
AND HEALTHCARE PROXIES**

Naples, FL – David Lawrence Center, Collier County’s community mental health and substance abuse treatment center, is seeking out qualified, caring individuals to serve on a volunteer basis as Healthcare Proxies and Guardian Advocates. These services are provided for individuals seeking mental health treatment at the Center who, due to the nature of their illness, need outside advocacy and representation. These services are provided under the provisions of the Florida Mental Health Act, Chapter 394.

A Guardian Advocate is the informed decision maker for a person who has been found by the Court to be incompetent to consent to his or her own mental health treatment. Advocates must meet certain qualifications and cannot be a professional referred to in the written Baker Act law, an employee of a facility providing services, an employee of the Department of Children and Families, a facility administrator, or member of the Local Advocacy Council.

Healthcare Proxies must be qualified Clinical Social Workers. Proxies provide substitute judgment on the behalf of individuals deemed unable to provide express and informed consent.

All qualified candidates that must complete formal training and will be included in the Center’s Baker Act Volunteer Program. Individuals interested in learning more about volunteer positions at the David Lawrence Center should contact the Human Resources Department at 239-455-8500.

David Lawrence Center is a not-for-profit, community mental health center that provides affordable mental health and substance abuse services in Southwest Florida. In addition to helping children with behavioral, emotional and substance abuse challenges, the Center provides counseling and rehabilitative services to adults in crisis and individuals with persistent mental illness. David Lawrence Center has nine locations in Collier County and touches the lives of nearly 16,000 people each year. It is David Lawrence Center’s mission to restore and rebuild the lives of all of those in need. More information about David Lawrence Center can be found online at davidlawrencecenter.org.

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