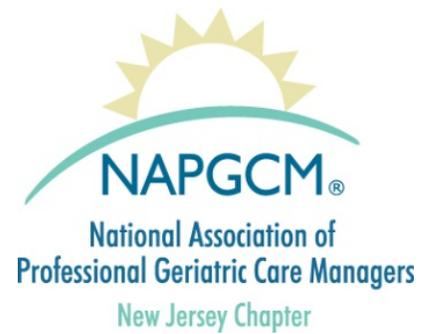


Press Release



Livingston, NJ July 12, 2013:

Despite what you may have heard, hoarding is not a lifestyle choice; it is a mental health disorder that can cause serious safety threats, especially with older adults who are at risk for falls. Hoarding defined, is the excessive collection of items, along with the inability to discard them. Hoarding often creates such cramped living conditions that homes may be filled to capacity, with only narrow pathways winding through stacks of clutter.

In May of this year, the American Psychiatric Association recognized Hoarding as a disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. "The acceptance of hoarding as a diagnosable mental disorder opens up the opportunity to provide treatment to people who experience the disabling effects of hoarding," says Marcie Cooper, Founder of The Hoarding Disorder Institute. Helping someone who hoards is not as simple as coordinating a clean-up. Those who support or care for hoarders need to first understand that the hoarder's possessions are their treasures, and that the hoarder must lead the decision on deciding the outcome of their hoarded items.

Consider the story of "John". John was an elderly man who needed to move from his home to an assisted living facility in order to receive the increased level of support he needed with his daily activities. John was a hoarder, and despite his cramped and unhealthy home environment, he felt unable to leave his possessions in order to make the transition to the assisted living facility. Despite significant efforts made by the assisted living facility and his out of state family to help John, they were not successful at moving him to a safer environment at first.

Hoarding is a common challenge confronted by Geriatric Care Managers as they assist the elderly and their families. "Clients who hoard present a special challenge to care managers, as the hoarding can make it extremely difficult to provide the care and services they need for safe daily living," states Trish Colucci, owner of Peace of Mind Care Management Services, LLC, and President of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NJ-NAPGCM). Care Managers now need to know how to deal with hoarding situations to enable them to successfully assist their clients with other geriatric issues. Says Colucci, "Geriatric Care Managers are uniquely qualified to coordinate care for elderly folks who hoard. They are already skilled at coordinating care and managing transitions. Geriatric care managers also know how to advocate for their clients with family members and professionals."

In June of this year, NJ-NAPGCM sponsored a training session conducted by The Hoarding Disorder Institute titled, "Hoarding Behavior: From Clutter to Chaos." The 35 geriatric care managers who attended the session gained important knowledge about hoarding disorder and how to develop a compassionate, reasonable plan of care. "During this incredible training, the focus was on balancing a gentle and supportive process, acknowledging the hoarder's right to self-determination while assessing for danger," states Judy Parnes, geriatric care manager and owner of Elder Life Management, Inc. The training emphasized for the attendees how to address an emotionally challenging problem with education and advocacy. "Attending the Institute's training provided me with the latest research, greater insight into the process, and many effective tools which allows me to better serve my clients," states Mary Kate Kennedy from 1 Link 4 Senior Care, Inc., who also attended the June session.

Getting back to John's story....that assisted living facility that John intended to move to eventually contacted The Hoarding Disorder Institute for guidance. Upon hearing John's story, the Institute immediately recommended that a geriatric care manager - trained by the Institute - be brought in to assist. With the family's and John's approval, the geriatric care manager coordinated a plan to address John's belongings respectfully, and ultimately successfully helped transition John to the assisted living facility, where he is now safe.

About the NJ Chapter of Professional Care Managers

The NJ Chapter of NAPGCM is a non-profit professional development organization whose mission is to advance professional geriatric care management through education, collaboration, and leadership. A professional Geriatric Care Manager (GCM) is a health and human services specialist who helps families who are caring for older relatives. The GCM is trained and experienced in any of several fields related to care management, including nursing, gerontology, social work, or psychology. For more information about the NJ Chapter of Professional Care Managers, contact Trish Colucci at 973-459-9966. To find Geriatric Care Manager near you, go to www.caremanager.org, or www.njgcm.org.

About The Hoarding Disorder Institute

The Hoarding Disorder Institute has been founded to help ease the emotional, physical, social, financial and legal effects that accompany hoarding disorder. The Hoarding Disorder Institute provides informational workshops, in-service training, continuing education, clinical training and supervision for professionals, agencies, facilities, and others who work with people affected by this disabling condition. The Institute also provides a resource directory to find service providers who have been trained by HDI to help "clutterers" and those who hoard overcome obstacles that can profoundly affect their quality of life. Contact Marcie Cooper at 201-414-3098 or check out www.hoardingdisorderinstitute.com for more information about The Hoarding Disorder Institute.