

25 Years of the International Symposium of Life Care Planning

Heidi Fawber

In the early 1990s, when the individuals who became known as the founders of life care planning met and conceptualized eight life care planning education modules (aka “tracks”), the creation of a formalized educational program for life care planners began. By 1993, these tracks were being offered by The Rehabilitation Training Institute, Inc. (RTI). By 1995, the founders discussed having a “First Annual Life Care Planning Conference”, which they labeled “Track 9”, to which previous program participants would be invited back to continue with life care planning education and have additional opportunities to mingle with life care planners in this emerging field. So, began the “Symposia”. The Symposium has always emphasized the need to continually update one’s learning, as changes in medicine, rehabilitation, technology, and the law are a constant. The life care planning practitioner must commit to the need to stay current in order to be successful and competent in this field of practice.

Between the years of 1996 and 2019, there have been numerous Life Care Planning Conference/Symposium events. Although the names of the events have varied some over the years, the mission and focus remained the same—to update information on topics relevant to life care planning and catastrophic injury case management and provide professionals the opportunity to collaborate with other life care planners. Below is a comprehensive list of these course offerings along with the key individuals involved and the topics covered in each training.

Life Care Planning Training-Conferences & Symposia

1996- 1st Annual Life Care Planning Conference in Atlanta, GA, 11/14/96-11/15/96. This event was organized by Paul M. Deutsch and the University of Florida Rehabilitation Training Institute. Faculty that year included: Dr. Deutsch, Tyron C. Elliott, Attorney at Law, Dr. Roger O. Weed, Dr. Horace W. Sawyer, and Dr. Linda R. Shaw, among many others. There were 98 attendees and 2 full days of education with primary presenters and Roundtables. Topics included: Adaptive Equipment, Systematic Development of Protocols in Life Care Planning, the Value of a Research Assistant, Special Needs Trusts, Refuting Opposing Counsel’s LCP, Supported Living Programs and what to look for, Lower Extremity Amputation and Life Care Planning Issues, Ethics, Legal Developments Impacting Life Care Planning, among other topics. This event was held during the Nation’s Largest Home Care and Rehabilitation Equipment Tradeshow: MEDTRADE. Participants at this year’s Life Care Planning Conference were able to attend the tradeshow in Atlanta and gain much first-hand knowledge about

medical equipment, supplies, as well as their costs.

1997- 2nd Annual Life Care Planning Conference in New Orleans, LA (10/9/97-10/10/97). Presented by Intelicus (A Partnership Between University of FL and The Kirven Group, Inc.). This year’s conference introduced attendees to several wonderful medical experts in the world of life care planning, namely Alan H. Weintraub, MD from Craig Hospital who spoke about Brain Injury Recover and Predictors of Outcome. Richard Bonfiglio, MD and Susan Dye, CRRN, presented on An Intradisciplinary Approach to Life Care Planning. Terry Winkler, MD, PM&R specialist presented on Spinal Cord Injury from his personal perspective: “A Loss-A Gain: Seeking Balance in Your Life.” Dr. Winkler, along with Dr. Bonfiglio and Dr. Weintraub, became true advocates for life care planning and a friend to all of us. Dr. Weed presented a draft of suggested Ethics and Standards of Practice for life care planners, following preliminary work initiated at the 1996 annual life care planning conference.

1998- 3rd Annual Life Care Planning Conference in Atlanta, GA (11/20/98-11/21/98). Presented by Intelicus (“a partnership between the University of FL and the Rehabilitation Training Institute”). This was the first year that Sheri Jasper managed conference registration and became a friend to all of us in the field. There were 260 attendees this year. Some of the topics that were presented included: Transplantation - Issues for Life Care Planning; Accessing Information in Non-Traditional Ways (internet search techniques and resources); Tort Reform and its Impact on Life Care Planning, Geriatric Rehab: New Opportunities in Life Care Planning; How to Avoid being Disqualified as a Life Care Planner; Advanced Research in Spinal Cord Injury (presented by Dr. Jerrold Petrofsky on advancements in functional electrical stimulation in SCI rehabilitation); and Life Care Planning Certification and The Commission on Disability Examiner Certification - guidelines, standards, and code of ethics. At this Conference, Patricia McCollom, RN, MS, CRRN, CDMS, CCM introduced the community to the International Academy of Life Care Planners (IALCP) and spoke about the importance of life care planning “Education, Communication, Collaboration, and Peer Consultation”. Of specific importance, at this Conference, the accepted definition of Life Care Plan was presented, which had been agreed upon on 4/3/98 at the Forensic Section meeting of NARPPS annual conference in Colorado Springs, CO by University of FL, Intelicus, and the American Academy of Nurse Life Care Planners [now known as the International Academy of Life Care Planners (IALCP)].

1999- 4th Annual Life Care Planning Conference in New

Orleans, LA (11/4/99-11/6/99). It was presented by University of FL / Intelicus and had 229 attendees. Notable topics presented included: Life Care Planning for Catastrophic Cases - Avoiding Legal Quicksand (by Attorney Joseph Romano); Cognitive Dysfunction & Remediation Approaches for Individuals with Dementia (by Randall Evans, PhD, ABPP); Special Needs Trusts (by William Dussault, attorney at law); The Role of the Economist in Life Care Planning (by Dr. Frederick Raffa); Chronic Pain Disorders and Cutting-Edge Management (by Nelson Hendler, MD); Daubert: How it Impacts the Expert Witness (by Paul M. Deutsch, PhD); and Fibromyalgia Management (by Dr. Joseph Biundo).

2000- 5th Annual Life Care Planning Conference in Orlando, FL. (10/6/00-10/7/00). Presented by University of FL / Intelicus, with 271 individuals in attendance. Some of this year's conference topics / presenters included: Dr. Nathan Zasler presented on the Differential Diagnosis of Presumptive Mild TBI; Steve Sloan, PhD, presented on Advances in Restoring Sexual Function & Reproduction; Dr. James S. Krause presented on Life Expectancy Issues; Dr. John Banja presented on Ethics: Psycho Dynamics of Painful Health Care Communications in Life Care Planning; Dr. Terry Winkler presented on Spinal Cord Injury: New Research & Status of Tissue/Nerve Regeneration; and Attorney Judy Labuta spoke about Giving your Expert Testimony as Life Care Planner & Legal Liability Issues. Of specific importance, Dr. Roger Weed and Dr. Linda Shaw presented a Pre-Publication Draft of the first Life Care Planning Summit held on 4/12/2000 in Dallas TX.

2001- 6th Annual Life Care Planning Conference was held in New Orleans, LA (10/20/01-10/21/01). It was presented by University of FL / Intelicus. Notable presentations at this conference included: Life Care Planning - Opportunities for New Markets; Aging with Brain Injury Research Update; The Role of the Life Care Planner in Mediations, Deliberation and Alternative Dispute Resolution; Meeting the Threshold for a Reliable Life Care Planning Foundation; Practical Tools for Meeting Daubert Challenges; Pediatrics and Special Needs Trusts; Discoverability of Email; and High Tech-Low Tech Rehabilitation Technology.

2002- 7th Annual Life Care Planning Conference in Reno, NV (10/19/02-10/20/02) with 269 attendees. This conference was entitled, "Achieving Excellence in Life Care Planning: Minimizing Risk and Maximizing Success" and was presented by University of FL / Intelicus. Opening comments at this conference were presented by Dr. Linda Shaw and Dr. Horace Sawyer. The keynote presentation was given by Jamshid Ghajar, MD, PhD (Cornell University Weill Medical College and The Brain Trauma Foundation) on the topic *Improving the Outcome of Brain Trauma Patients*. Additional conference presentations included: Dr. Barth Green, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, presented on the Latest Spinal Cord Injury Research; Dr. Timothy F. Field

presented on the Importance of Vocational Rehabilitation in Life Care Planning; Rebecca Busch, RN presented on Costing Methodologies; Brushes with Ethical Violations - Case Examples by Roger Weed, PhD, and Debbie Berens, MS; and Hepatitis C: Issues and Economics by Patricia McCollom, RN and Paula Sundance, MD. A Forum on Catastrophic Injuries - Functional Outcomes & Inappropriate Physician Recommendations was moderated by Dr. Paul Deutsch with panelists Terry Winkler, MD and Robert Meier, III, MD. This year, we were introduced to the newly formed Foundation for Life Care Planning Research (FLCPR).

2003- International Conference on Life Care Planning in Dallas, TX (10/11/03-10/12/03) entitled "The Future Is Now". This year's conference was sponsored and organized by MediPro Seminars, LLC in cooperation with U of F, Kaplan College, Medical College of VA, VA Commonwealth University, Intelicus, AALNC, NRCA, AANLCP. A Keynote presentation by J.K. Lilly, III, MD, MS titled; "Straight Talk About Long Term Opioids Therapy and Chronic Pain Patients". Additional topics presented that year included: The Impact of HIPAA on Life Care Planning, Preparation of Life Care Plans outside the U.S., Maintaining Objectivity in Litigation Support, Medicare Set-Aside Arrangements, Aging with Catastrophic Disabilities, Making Appropriate Equipment Recommendations in the Pediatric Life Care Plan, Risk Management for Life Care Planners, and Integrating the Rehabilitation Team Findings into the Life Care Plan for the Child with Cerebral Palsy. The first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Paul Deutsch this year.

2004- International Conference on Life Care Planning, New Orleans, LA (10/9/04-10/10/04). Organized & presented by MediPro Seminars, LLC, sponsored by the University of Florida, International Academy of Life Care Planners, Foundation for Life Care Planning Research (FLCPR) and co-sponsored by Georgia State University, VA Commonwealth University, AALNC. The title of the conference was "Solutions for the 21st Century". Debbie Berens presented the welcome & opening statements for this conference. Dr. Len Martella of the Center for Leadership and Ethics, Ltd. presented the Keynote presentation: *Transcending from Success to Significance*. Among many notable presentations / presenters, there was a panel of presenters on life care planning software (Ann Maniha, Randall Thomas, Bill Walker and Bill Goodrich) and a presentation by Patricia Krause and Cy Rosenblatt on Beyond the Medical Documentation - Applying and Understanding Billed Services for Life Care Plans. Cathy Breneman took lead on the organization of conference exhibitors, the role that she continued in for many years.

2005- International Conference on Life Care Planning, San Francisco, CA (9/17/05 - 9/18/05). The event was organized and presented by MediPro Seminars, LLC, sponsored by IALCP and FLCPR and co-sponsored by University of FL, Virginia Commonwealth University,

Georgia State University, AALNC, Care Planner Network, and IARP. Of particular interest at this conference were presentations by Dr. John Banja on Ethics, by Dr. Roger Weed, PhD on Testimony; by Laura Deming, RN, on Pediatric Standards of Care for Kernicterus/Bilirubin Encephalopathy; by Tina Trudel, PhD, on Acquired Brain Injury; by Ronald Savage, Ed.D, on Long-Term Needs in Pediatric TBI; and on Innovations in Evaluation & Treatment of Central Nervous System Disorders by Randy Evans, PhD. Lastly, Dr. Deutsch and Dr. Sherie Kendall presented on Research Outcomes of Two Studies involving Reliability and Validity in Life Care Planning Processes.

2006 - International Conference on Life Care Planning, presented by MediPro Seminars, LLC, (10/14/06-10/15/06) in Atlanta GA, titled "Practical Applications in Life Care Planning: A day-to-Day Approach". Debbie Berens again welcomed attendees to the conference. Notable topics presented this year included: Wheelchair Technology for the New Millennium; Use of Smart Technology in Life Care Planning; Update on Daubert/Kumho-Type Challenges; and Deciphering the Coding Process. A panel of presenters on Tools Now Available to Life Care Planners (e.g., websites, resources, data collection tools), and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health - A Model for Life Care Planners.

2007- International *Symposium* on Life Care Planning was held in St. Petersburg, FL (10/6/07 - 10/7/07). This is first year that the title "Symposium" was used. This year was sponsored by the University of FL, FLCPR, and ISLCP. The conference was entitled, "*The Art and Science of Life Care Planning - A New Era in Life Care Planning*". There were 249 participants. The main session presenters included: Tina Trudel, Ph.D. (Keynote on Brain Injury and the Military); Jeffrey Kreutzer, Ph.D, on the Use of Research in the development of Intelligent, Empirically-Based Life Care Plans; Dr. Ron Savage, on Pediatric TBI Treatment Formula; and Dr. James S. Krause, who presented on Life Expectancy Issues with many additional breakout sessions on numerous additional topics presented by a host of life care planning professionals.

2008- International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in Scottsdale AZ, 9/20/08 - 9/21/08. It was sponsored by FLCPR, IARP, IALCP and The University of Florida with co-sponsorship by Georgia State University, The Medical College of VA at Commonwealth University, and The Care Planner Network. The title of the Symposium was *Visions of the Future Applications for Today*. At this conference, the first Patricia McCollom/FLCPR Research Award was awarded to James Kraus, PhD.

2009- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning entitled *Building on the Foundation: The Future is Here* was held in Chicago, IL, 9/26/09 - 9/27/09. The ISLCP was coordinated / organized by the FLCPR with sponsorship from Georgia State University, Medical College of VA, IARP / IALCP, and the Care Planner Network. There were 283

participants. On 9/24/09 and 9/25/09 there were two additional days of education: "Building Foundations for Life Care Plan Development" that provided detailed sessions on elements critical to a solid foundation. This was the last year that we worked with Sheri Jasper. The first Outstanding Life Care Planning Educator Award was awarded to Debra E. Berens, PhD, CRC, CCM, CLCP. Noteworthy presentations: Ann Neulicht, PhD, and Susan Grisham, RN, presented on their Life Care Plan Practice Survey Results. Jamie Pomeranz, PhD and Christine Reid, PhD, presented on How the Role & Function Study May Apply to your Practice.

2010- The 16th Year Anniversary - International Symposium on Life Care Planning: Meeting the Demand was held on 9/13/10-9/14/10 in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The program was sponsored by FLCPR, IARP, IALCP, VA Commonwealth University, Care Planner Network, GA State University, and University of Florida. The life care planning community gathered to help raise money for the Sheri Jasper Medical Trust. This year, the Symposium was organized without Sheri's direct help and Rusiko Gogoberidze (through PMD & Associates) assisted with conference arrangements. This conference agenda included a Keynote speaker, breakout sessions, 37 exhibitors, and a "Meet n' Greet" reception with roundtables on various subjects (ICHCC, AANLCP, pricing/costing, testimony, IALCP, and new life care planners). At this Symposium, we had two additional days (9/15/10 & 9/16/10) of advanced tracks of learning on Amputation and Adult and Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury.

2011 - The 17th Annual ISLCP as held Scottsdale AZ It was sponsored by FLCPR, the International Commission on Healthcare Certification, IARP, IALCP, The Care Planner Network, University of Florida, Kaplan University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Georgia State University. This level of collaboration among institutions interested in the support of ongoing life care planning education was amazing. This Symposium saw the inaugural Sheri Jasper Award given in memory of Sheri Jasper presented to Dan Bagwell, BSN, CCM, CDMS, CLCP, RN. Conference coordination services was directed by Dawn Thomas of PMD and Associates.

2012- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in Denver, Colorado, 9/22/12-9/23/12, titled "*From Litigation to Implementation: Developing Life Care Plans that Work*". Organized by the FLCPR, and supported by IARP, IALCP, Physician Life Care Planning, LLC, University of FL, and The Care Planner Network. Two advanced learning topics were offered on 9/20/12-9/21/12 on Spinal Cord Injury/ Traumatic Brain Injury and Research Based Clinical Applications in the Treatment of Chronic Pain. There were 229 attendees. This Symposium had the phenomenal opportunity to join with Craig Hospital who so graciously offered their facility for tours, but more importantly their expert clinical team who presented on multiple topics specific to spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

2013- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in Atlanta GA, 9/27/13 - 9/29/13 and was entitled *Shepherding the Fundamental While Exploring Contemporary Issues*. This conference provided attendees with the exceptional opportunity to tour Shepherd Center and to learn from some of their most learned professionals. The pre-conference workshop again took the conference on the road, providing attendees with the chance to see Shepherd Center, a world-class rehabilitation hospital in action. An additional pre-conference workshop included SEAK. Thumb drives were introduced to house the materials traditionally provided in notebook form to attendees.

2014- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 9/20/14-9/21/14, sponsored by FLCPR, IARP, IALCP, The Care Planners Network, University of FL, Medical College of VA/VA Commonwealth University, and Physician Life Care Planning. Additionally, a Pre-Conference workshop was held at Gillette Children's Hospital on 9/19/14. Again, participants were afforded the opportunity to take a field trip and tour this facility in addition to a full day conference titled: *"Practices in the Care of Children with Disabilities"*. This program involved 17 presentations at the 2-day ISLCP with eight sponsors and 12 exhibitors.

2015- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in Scottsdale, Arizona on 9/19-9/19/2015. This year's Symposium was combined with the 2015 Life Care Planning Summit, held immediately after the conference. Additionally, a Pre-Conference was held on 9/17/2015. This was the final year where the Foundation for Life Care Planning Research organized and managed the Symposium. This was Tamar Gogoberidze's (PMD & Associates) last year coordinating the conference.

2016- This year's Symposium was held on 10/20/16 - 10/22/16, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Symposium was no longer under the direction of FLCPR. Instead, IARP and the ISLCP combined forces at this conference entitled *Building Bridges to the Future*. The conference, aptly named, saw the Symposium organized and presented by IARP and the IALCP (a professional section of IARP). This year's ISLCP conference committee worked hard to provide exceptional, specialized life care planning educational content within the setting of the IARP Annual Conference.

2017- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held in St. Louis on 10/11/17 - 10/14/17, as part of the combined IARP National Conference. A full one-day program was dedicated to Life Care Planning education on the topic *Lung and Liver Transplantation: Life Care Planning Considerations*, with medical professionals from the Washington University School of Medicine / Barnes Jewish Medical Center presenting on these topics. The remaining two days of the conference included life care planning sessions on topics including: multicultural ethics issues in life care planning; being a sole proprietor / life care planner-owned corporation; Wernicke's Encephalopathy and

life care planning considerations; life care planning for the child with cerebral palsy, facilitation movement in SCI rehabilitation; "price / cost / charge / payment" conundrum in life care planning; as well as an update on the 2017 life care planning summit.

2018- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning was held on 10/25/18 - 10/27/18. It was again combined with the IARP Annual Conference and was held in Charlotte, North Carolina. One day of the ISLCP educational tracks involved a SEAK-provided training on "How to be an Effective Expert Witness". During the main conference, there were life care planning topics presented during each breakout time, offering presentations on: Avoiding a Motion to Preclude a life care plan; Maximizing outcomes following SCI; Life care planning ethics; Empirical Validation of Medical Equipment Replacement Values in Life Care Plans; Past Medical Bill Review; A Review of the life care planning Consensus and Majority Statements from past Summits; Role and Function Study of Life Care Planners; as well as other topics related to writing for publication, medical marijuana, pain management, advances in home medical and complex rehab technology equipment.

2019- The International Symposium on Life Care Planning will be held in Portland, Oregon on 10/30/19-10/31/19 followed by the IARP Annual Conference 11/1/19-11/2/19. This year's Symposia will include a focus on pediatric rehabilitation issues and will be entitled *The Power of Collaboration*. A 25th ISLCP Anniversary Reception is being planned as this is being written, with several of the originators of this event planning to be present. This is a landmark year for the life care planning community, which deserves recognition of all that has transpired in life care planning education over the past 25 years. As the title depicts, it is hoped that the next 25 years of life care planning will maintain the path to continued collaboration among professionals dedicated to this field.

Interviews with Early Life Care Planning Trainers

In preparation of this issue, individuals involved in the very early days of life care planning training, including Richard Bonfiglio, MD, Susan Riddick-Grisham, RN and Julie Kitchen were interviewed on June 13, 2019, June 25, 2019 and June 18, 2019 respectively for their recollections, wisdom and recommendations for life care planning training going forward. Dr. Roger Weed, another member of the originators, was not directly interviewed for this article as many of his comments and recollections are included in his article published within this Journal. Excerpts from these interviews are below.

Do you recall how the first International Symposium on Life Care Planning came about?

Dr. Bonfiglio

I recall the five of us, Paul Deutsch, Roger Weed, Julie Kitchen, Susan Riddick Grisham and I met in a "motel" in Atlanta to discuss life care planning education. At that

time, we developed a life care planning education program comprised of eight modules of content. I was the person assigned to the development of the “Medical Foundation” within each of the disability-specific modules, including: Spinal cord injury, brain injury, amputation, pediatric brain injury, and other injury-specific topics. Once we had the first eight educational modules (educational tracks) up and running, our group discussed having a “1st Annual Life Care Planning Conference” (a.k.a. Track 9). The life care planning educational tracks were a success and we had good interest and attendance and felt that we could provide an additional learning experience to students, as well as offering potential attendees the opportunity for more networking. That “1st Annual” conference became the initial “Symposium”.

Susan Grisham

I recall the first annual conference being held in Hilton Head, South Carolina. We called it “1st Annual Life Care Planning Conference”, considering it “Track 9” of the eight life care planning training modules.

How were the initial Symposia organized; who organized and funded them?

Bonfiglio

I believe that was primarily managed and organized by Paul M. Deutsch (PMD) and his company RTI.

Kitchen

They were organized and funded through Paul M. Deutsch & Associates, P.A., initially, then through the Foundation for Life Care Planning several years later.

Grisham

Initially, our annual conferences were sponsored by and organized by RTI and PMD, although there was a relationship early on with the University of Florida that was named Intelicus but I do not recall the exact year of when that relationship was formalized. Soon after, the first annual life care planning conference (Symposium), additional organizations joined to help support these educational events, namely FLCPR, IALCP, Georgia State University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2002, I started the Careplanners Network and which also helped to support the yearly symposia.

What was your role in the Symposia history? What changes did you observe in the Symposium events over the years?

Bonfiglio

I was one of the original Life Care Planning tracks presenters. We used to teach all of the eight educational tracks in person at various locations around the U.S. I suspect that I attended and lectured at some of the first

Symposia. I did not get to attend every year, but would offer to do presentations at ISLCPs whenever I was asked. Later, my lectures were videotaped and used for the life care planning training tracks.

In terms of changes over the years, I have seen how everyone has become much more reliant on the internet for the information that access pertinent to a medical or life care planning issue. People rarely make phone calls to research relevant topics. Technology has made things easier on the whole with regards to education and learning.

Kitchen

Initially I helped with organization, arranging agendas and seeking out speakers. Always helped with problem solving, working with speakers for their presentations, and worked with registration.

Grisham

When our original group formed to discuss the need for a life care planning curriculum with a consistent approach to life care planning, developing the concept of the life care planning training modules, I primarily was responsible for helping to develop the course work and teach courses. In 1996, Dr. Weed and I held the first life care planning prep courses for students who had completed the eight learning modules and were preparing to sit for the CLCP exam, mine on the west coast and Dr. Weed on the east coast. With the annual conferences, I helped to develop the yearly conference agenda together with our original group. By 2009, I took over as co-chair of the ISLCP with PMD and continued to do so through the 2015 ISLCP.

In terms of changes over the years, the first few years of annual life care planning conferences really grew in terms of attendance. It then began to level off. I am certain that this had a lot to do with this new area of practice for rehabilitation professionals. Many people began to explore and learn about life care planning and as years went by, some remained within the life care planning community and some decided not to.

Now that we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ISLCP, what are some of the most rewarding moments? Some of the most important accomplishments?

Bonfiglio:

I remember feeling very proud of what we had started and accomplished after the first successful life care planning educational tracks were completed. By meeting PMD at a national AAPM&R conference, several years prior to the development of the life care planning educational tracks, it opened my eyes to the world of life care planning. PMD held strongly to the importance of teaching; to the importance of learning.

These beliefs continue to be something I value greatly. Life Care Planning education changed my career.

Kitchen

As the symposium events were growing larger and larger, many professionals involved in life care planning joined the effort to plan and execute a successful and meaningful conference for all. The events became much more streamlined and organized for the attendees. The content increased, scenarios were re-enacted to help in the learning process and the attendees were encouraged to participate and share their perspectives.

Probably most noteworthy was the support given to ICHCC in the development of the CLCP certification. Additionally, the Summits were a necessary branch of the Symposia to set standards in our area of practice. It was so critical to define a problem and then come up with a consensus on the appropriate practice guideline/principle.

Grisham

I will always remember the fun I had with the Symposia committees coming up with a theme or name for the conference. Some years we held a naming competition, gave free tuition to the ISLCP to the winner. I also remember some of the fun-filled receptions we hosted, namely an ice cream social and a dance with a DJ! The yearly awards were also memorable and helped to promote the accomplishments of many of our life care planning colleagues.

What do you believe are some of the most important aspects of having a yearly ISLCP?

Kitchen

Wow – there were many. There were personal stories of triumph and success through rehab (from various speakers), there was heartfelt appreciation shown to the people in the trenches in this area of practice, and most importantly, seeing how this area of practice grew from a few, to many seasoned professionals. I, personally, did not have the vision for the future, but I certainly enjoyed bringing the events to fruition.

Grisham

I feel that the Symposia have always provided a sense of community to life care planners. It has always been a place where issues that impact the field of life care planning can be presented, discussed, and options for resolution raised. New things are always happening in a changing world of life care planning and the yearly ISLCPs provide a group setting for life care planners to remain current.

Kitchen

I think it is so critical to stay on top of changes in our area of practice, to continually update ourselves on practice management, case management, life care planning methodologies, new equipment, rehabilitation practices and new programs/professionals with which to consult – all for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness and accuracy of our plans. Additionally, the availability of other professionals brought together for a common cause is invaluable. It is critical to have colleagues for support, individual practice perspectives and to be able to celebrate each of our own specialties and personal and professional strengths – and to share in that knowledge. No one does life care planning in a vacuum – we are all a part of the bigger picture.

What recommendations do you have going forward with regards to life care planning education?

Bonfiglio

I believe and strongly recommend that life care planning education needs to occur “in-person”. The annual Symposia make that possible and make the person-to-person learning happen. The opportunity to connect, in-person, with other life care planning professionals is very important. While the lectures and presentations are valuable, it is the personal meetings, personal stories, personal chats in the hallways, where the real learning happens. It’s not just the factual information that comprises education in life care planning, but the subtleties that one learns from another professional who has experienced a particular situation or specific type of case. I recommend that the IALCP continue to carry forward the yearly International Symposia of Life Care Planning, so that new practitioners to the field and not-so-new practitioners to the field can mingle, learn and support each other.

Kitchen

Continue to make the education relevant; continue to get people together to share in ideas and practice management, and encourage colleagues to work together to make this area of practice solid and meaningful. Continue to encourage participants to share in their experiences, their successes, their stumbles, because this is how we all learn.

Grisham

I encourage the life care planning community to continue with annual Symposia. We need to keep the Symposia contemporary. We need to stay current with new technology. We need to provide education about changes in healthcare, rehabilitation interventions, and life care planning resources. I think back to when we didn’t have databases to obtain relevant information needed in our research and now this is commonplace.

Past Symposia have always included cutting edge information and this needs to continue.

Life Care Planning Event Planners

No discussion about life care planning education can be without mention of Sheri Jasper. Sheri was the person you first spoke to on the phone when you wanted to register for a life care planning course. After your initial phone call with her, she became your friend forever. She took great interest in each and every new student and called them her “newbies”. She would even personally remind you if you forgot to register for the annual life care planning conferences. She was not only a friend, but was the connection to all things dealing with the ISLCP. She was the face of RTI and U of F / Intelicus. On September 13, 2010, Dr. Paul Deutsch presented a Career Achievement Award to Cheryl Jasper at the 2010 ISLCP and his Eulogy is published in volume 10(1), p. 3-5 of the *Journal of Life Care Planning*. Sheri continues to be missed by all of us to this day. Life care planning Symposia were coordinated by the following hard-working individuals:

Sheri Jasper 2004 - 2010

Rusiko Gogoberidze 2010 - 2015 (Volunteer)

Dawn Thomas 2011 - 2012

Tamar Gogoberidze 2012 – 2015

Life Care Planning Training Materials

In reviewing past volumes of life care planning educational materials gathered over the years in preparation of writing this article, it becomes very clear just how much time, energy and work was put into the development of the early life care planning educational curriculum by the original founders (and their colleagues). Going back even further to the *Guide to Rehabilitation* (Deutsch & Sawyer, 1985), life care planners would purchase blank Life Care Planning forms from PMD Press, because we did not have life care planning software or programs to set up charts and forms and spreadsheets, it reveals that the beginnings of life care planning education extends back more than 34 years. Dr. Deutsch and Dr. Sawyer shared their expertise through the publication of the *Guide to Rehabilitation*. Simultaneously, The Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. (RTI, Inc. affiliated with Paul M. Deutsch & Associates) began offering seminars, one of which was titled “Comprehensive Life Care Planning for Catastrophic Injuries” which I attended in 1989. At that time, conference handouts documented that this was “The Fourth Annual Series of Professional Development and Training Workshops” conducted by RTI, Inc. RTI, Inc. faculty included Dr. Deutsch, Dr. Sawyer and Julie Kitchen, with guest faculty Joseph M. Taraska, JD, Susan N. Riddick, RN, and Roger O. Weed, PhD. Their life care planning workshops included: Comprehensive Life Care Planning for Catastrophic Injuries and Advanced Life Care Planning for Catastrophic Injuries. Their target audience included life care planners, rehabilitation counselors, vocational experts,

rehabilitation nurses, insurance claims adjusters, mental health professionals, vocational evaluators, special needs teachers and rehabilitation psychologists. In 1989, Paul M. Deutsch Press, Inc. published *Life Care Planning for the Spinal Cord Injured: A Step by Step Guide* (Deutsch, Weed, Kitchen, & Sluis, 1989), *Life Care Planning for the Head Injured: A Step by Step Guide* (Deutsch, Weed, Kitchen, & Sluis, 1989), *Life Care Planning for the Brain Damaged Baby, A Step-by-Step Guide* (Kitchen, Cody, & Deutsch, 1989); along with the aforementioned Life Care Planning Worksheets (five complete sets of forms, 18 pages each, for \$20.00). A quarterly newsletter subscription to *Life Care Plan Facts - A newsletter for life care planning and catastrophic case management* (PMD Press, 1989). By 1990, PMD Press, Inc. added the publications:

Establishing Nursing Needs A State-by-State Review of Nursing Regulations (Kitchen, Deutsch, & Morgan, 1990)

Life Care Planning for the Ventilator Dependent Patient: A Step-by-Step Guide (Kitchen Deutsch & Cody, 1990),

A Guide to Rehabilitation Testimony: The Expert's Role as an Educator (Deutsch, 1990). During this period, the first life care planning software developed by Kitchen and Rollins (1990) entitled *New Life Care Planning Support System* was sold through PMD Press Inc. By then, the roots of life care planning education were well established and the growth was to begin.

Conclusion

While going back through the conference materials spanning over 25 years, I realized how many critical topics in life care planning were initially presented to ISLCP participants. If not for this educational gathering, many of us, particularly solo-practitioners, would not really have had an opportunity to learn about many of these matters in a timely way. Consider these novel topics discussed: draft ethics standards of practice for life care planners (1997), accepted definition of a Life Care Plan (1998), introduction to the International Academy of Life Care Planners (IALCP, 1998), Daubert challenges (1999), Life Care Planning costing methodologies (2002), Life Care Planning Software options and Understanding Billed Services for Life Care Plans (2004), the importance of Reliability and Validity in Life Care Planning Processes (2005), the Use of Smart Technology in Life Care Planning, Deciphering the Coding Process, and new Tools Available to Life Care Planners (2006), the Life Care Plan Practice Survey Results and the Role & Function Study (2009), and the ongoing dissemination of updated information on life care planning summits, pertinent research findings relative to life care planning, and newest technology / resources available to the life care planning community. The Symposia over the past 25 years have helped keep individual life care planners up to date with trends and changes in the practice of life care planning.

In looking back over the 25 years of Symposia, several

things become clear. First is the importance of *education*. Second is the importance of *social gatherings* among rehabilitation professionals and life care planners, to permit person-to-person learning. Third is the issue of change and how that will remain a constant, not only in our individual practices, but in the world of life care planning. Just as the practice of life care planning continues to *change*, grow, and evolve, so will the ISLCP. Organizations may change, leadership may change, but the need for exemplary life care planning education to keep pace with the changes in healthcare and disability management will not. Neither will the need for socialization and collaboration among life care planning professionals change. The upcoming 2019 ISLCP will be held in Portland next month. The conference title is *The Power of Collaboration*--that is the essence of the ISLCP!

References

- Deutsch, P. (1989). *Life care planning worksheets*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Deutsch, P. (1990). *A guide to rehabilitation testimony: The expert's role as an educator*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Deutsch, P. (1989). *Life Care Plan Facts - A newsletter for life care planning and catastrophic case management*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Deutsch, P. & Sawyer, H. (1985, 1993) *Guide to Rehabilitation*. New York, NY: Matthew Bender.
- Deutsch, P., Weed, R., Kitchen, J. & Sluis, A. (1989). *Life care planning for the head injured: A step by step guide*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Deutsch, P., Weed, R., Kitchen, J. & Sluis, A. (1989). *Life care planning for the spinal cord injured: A step by step guide*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Kitchen, J., Cody, S., & Deutsch, P. (1989). *Life care planning for the brain damaged baby: A Step by Step Guide*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Kitchen, J., Deutsch, P. & Cody, S. (1989). *Life Care Planning for the Ventilator Dependent Patient: A Step-by-Step Guide*. Orlando, FL; Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Kitchen, J., Deutsch, P., & Morgan (1990). *Establishing nursing needs: A state-by-state review of nursing regulations*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
- Kitchen, J. & Rollins, A. (1989). *New life care planning support system*. Orlando, FL: Paul M. Deutsch Press.
-