

Madeline "Madi" Kennedy LMSW began their caregiving journey at a young age as a family caregiver for loved ones living with severe asthma, physical disability, Alzheimer's Disease, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. At age 19 Madi began working as a care aide at an Intensive Care Facility for people with Cerebral Palsy, various disabilities, dementia, and age-related cognitive decline. There and at a variety of residential settings, (i.e., group homes, an apartment program, specialized respite, and individualized residential alternatives), over the next decade plus Madi provided older adults and adults with disabilities of all ages with medication and medical treatment administration, medical appointment management, benefits navigation, financial management, hygiene, advocacy, and support with life goal achievement. In 2013, after Madi obtained their master's degree in social work at University at Albany with specializations in gerontology and behavior change, Madi began working as a private care manager and/or caregiver for clients living with aphasia, dementia, mental illness, autoimmune disorders, and/or advanced heart disease. Madi has stayed with clients as long as five years at a time using a wellness-forward, highly individualized, client-and-family-directed collaborative approach to overseeing and supporting client care. Madi also provided care coordination, counseling, and project oversight for a holistic healthcare pilot serving patients with dual diagnosis of a primary care clinic. More recently, Madi oversaw a team of Community Health Workers providing long- and short-term case management and benefits navigation via home visits for women, teens, and families of Albany County. Madi has been appointed to several teaching positions in their career, having taught "Social Gerontology" at University at Albany and "Community Health Work with Individuals" at Schenectady County Community College. Madi remains a family caregiver to this day.