MARRYING HIGH-TECH AND HIGH-TOUCH
Who am I?

National Guardianship Association, Treasurer

Florida State Guardianship Association, Treasurer

Area Agency on Aging, Advisory Council

Nationally Certified Alzheimer’s Educator

Award-winning author and radio host

Alzheimer’s Community Care, Presenter, 2011-2017

Americorps Volunteer

L.E.A.R.N.

ComForcare Senior Services, CEO
In the next 60 minutes, we will …

✔ Take a look at the home health care technology landscape

✔ Explore some of the technologies that are out there

✔ Discuss if they’re a blessing or a curse ... or both

✔ Identify the challenges

✔ Share some tips for finding balance

✔ Answer any questions
Home health care technology

An entire industry being driven by the demand for more personalized health care in the home
Home health care technology

With new technologies coming out every day along with big brands getting in on it too ...
A blessing or a curse?
The reality is that some are good.
Some are good and bad
We need to be mindful of the challenges
Robot Caregivers: The Future of Caregiving?
Caregiving without touch is not caregiving
The Jetsons
Jane the Caregiver

✓ R - A – G
  ✓ Resentment
  ✓ Anger
  ✓ Guilt

✓ Jane’s stresses become triggers for George

✓ Body language

JANE NEEDS HELP
Introducing Rosie

✓ Help around the house
✓ Respite for Jane
Rosie: A blessing and a curse

✓ Makes meals
✓ Reminds George to take his medication
✓ Fetches and reads the newspaper
✓ ADLs/iADLs

✓ No SOUL
✓ No emotions (empathy, compassion, kindness, sense of humor)
✓ Doesn’t understand interdependence
Activities of daily living keep people alive; meaningful activities give people a life worth living.
Jane the Blessing

✓ Redirect behavior

✓ Make George happy

✓ Emotional contagion

✓ Eye contact

✓ Make George feel safe

✓ Tap into implicit memories

✓ Validation Therapy/Therapeutic Fiblets
George’s Joy
Three Prescriptions
So how do we marry the two?
Be practical
Preserved vs lost

Motor
Using tools, scooping, carrying, stirring, pouring

Sensory
Hear, see, smell, touch, taste

Social
Conversations, lead, humor, listen, opinions

Cognitive/Thinking
Reading, comprehension, templates, count, sort
And remember, it’s the quality of care, not the severity of one’s condition, that determines their quality of life.
Tracking my cookies?

They will never get my recipe!
QUESTIONS
THANK YOU