



Microboards 101: An Introduction to a Person-Centered Solution Offering Full Accountability, Active Community Support, and Lifelong Continuity of Care

Summary of a webinar from September 16, 2019

Introduction

This webinar was about Microboards™. A Microboard is a small (micro) nonprofit corporation (or board) created to serve a single person. They help the person to come up with a plan and get the help they need to live the life they want. Microboards have been around for 30 years. There are over 3,000 Microboards worldwide.

Personal Stories

Christopher has a vision for his life. There are lessons from his childhood that he has used throughout his life, like working hard and giving back to his community. He graduated from a program at Kennesaw State University. He uses his Microboard to share his strengths and dreams with the people he shares his life with. He knows that if you work hard, you just might get what you want.

Christopher says, "For me, the vision was to be myself at school and in the community with everybody else."

Stuart uses a Microboard to build the kind of life that he wants. He has a goal to be active outdoors. Stuart and his mom, Anne, pushed back against the system. They found out how to create a Microboard, grew Stuart's circle of support, and started hearing "yes." They work hard to support the assistants who support Stuart and develop commitments to each other. Stuart just finished his first triathlon and gives back to his community just like his favorite person, Mr. Rogers.

Anne says, "We said 'No' to the system!"

Person-Centered Microboards

Microboards serve just one person, so they focus fully on that person's wants and needs. The person can make changes in their support when they want to. They can move or change jobs without losing supports. People in the circle of support help find connections and opportunities for the person.

Microboard members are accountable to the person who needs support. They find creative ways to support the person. New members can be brought in to provide different supports and connections. Each person on the board has a different role, but the person with disabilities makes the final decision.



National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

To start a Microboard, you will need a circle of family members, friends, and community partners.

1. A few members of the circle, with the person at the center, will serve as directors of the Microboard corporation.
2. Other members may serve in roles like supported decision-making partners, financial trustees, and formal representation agreement partners.
3. Circle members can also help the person to reach their goals like renting or owning a home or getting a job.

There are also groups that help people start Microboards. To support Microboards, states should approve Microboards as qualified service providers and offer resources to help groups who develop and support individual Microboards.

You can watch the webinar and look at the slides on [the Webinars page of the NCAPPS website](#).

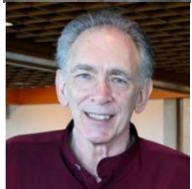
The speakers on this webinar were:



Christopher Hunnicutt, Microboard Lead—Shares his story of his inclusive education, employment, and encourages others to be empowered and share their voice.



Stuart Rabin, Microboard Lead—Shares his story with his mother Anne of using a Microboard to explore the world, contribute to his community, and stay active in his hobbies.



David Wetherow, International Leader—Along with his wife Faye, he invented Microboards, an inclusive housing cooperative, and a mobile lending library of communication equipment and supports.