



Pathways to Person-Centered Decision-Making and Alternatives to Guardianship

Summary of a webinar from June 21, 2022

Introduction

This webinar is about supported decision-making. Speakers on the webinar share:

1. What supported decision-making is and
2. How supported decision-making works

History of Supported Decision-Making

Michael talks about the history of supported decision-making. He says that supported decision-making is about, “The rights of people with disabilities to be in charge of their own life and make their own decisions.” Guardianship means that someone else will make all decisions for them.

The UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was a turning point. It said guardianship is harmful. It said that people’s rights should be restored.

People wanted other options besides guardianship. Fourteen states now allow supported decision-making. Supported decision-making is a growing practice.

Panel of Experts

Dana talks about what it means to be person-centered. She asks, “Who is the person and what do they need?” Not just their service needs, but their human needs. Dana says, “We get different solutions based on the questions we ask.” We need to ask what support people need to make decisions.

Jordan is a self-advocate from Wisconsin. His parents thought they had to get guardianship. He learned about supported decision-making at a conference. He told his mom about what he learned. They agreed to supported decision-making instead of guardianship. He says, “My number one right is to vote.”

Nora says supported decision-making looks different for everyone. People can choose:

1. What decisions they need help with
2. What kind of help they want
3. Who they want help from

Lori gives examples of how Colorado is growing the use of supported decision-making.



The speakers on this webinar were:



Michael Kendrick has worked in many roles including Assistant Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, Director of Kendrick Consulting International for over three decades, and as the Director of Supported Decision Making for the Center for Public Representation. He has provided thousands of public presentations on topics such as leadership, supported decision making, key ingredients of service quality, self-directed service models, social movements, and has over a hundred publications on such topics.



Dana Lloyd currently serves as director of the Developmental Disabilities program at Georgia's Protection and Advocacy agency and leads Georgia's supported decision-making coalition. Dana is a state team lead for the Administration for Community Living (ACL)'s Center on Youth Voice Youth Choice, a national youth led Supported Decision-Making Project. Her career began providing direct support to people with disabilities to live full lives in their communities. She trains other professionals in principles of person centeredness and community building.



Jordan Anderson is 19 years old and a 2021 high school graduate. Jordan is a strong advocate for Supported Decision-Making and co-leads the Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice project for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. He has a dual role as a Co-lead and a Youth Ambassador for the project and is helping to spread the word on supported decision-making and alternatives to guardianship. Jordan is currently enrolled in Project Search.



Fil Clissa is a Senior Program/Policy Analyst at the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. She has worked in the disability community for over 40 years. Her work is focused on providing greater opportunities for people with disabilities to lead a Self-Determined life and to fully participate in their community. She is also the project manager for the statewide self-advocacy organization and works with their leadership team to strengthen Wisconsin's Self-Advocacy voice.



Nora Brahe has more than 30 years' experience working with health care delivery for individuals with disabilities. She has extensive knowledge of long-term care program design and service delivery for individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Her experience includes 17 years with the Medicaid long term care system and 21 years in community mental health. Currently, Nora is a member of the Colorado Office of Community Living at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF).



NCAPPS National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems



Lori Thompson has held multiple roles in the disability field over the last 36 years. She began her career as a Direct Support Professional serving individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The last 16 years she has been responsible for Medicaid long-term services and supports program policy development in her work with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Lori maintains an emphasis on person centered practices and self-determination and brings that passion into her daily work with stakeholders and the Department.