

MINUTES
November 7, 2022

Present: Deanne Gagne, Tanja Blicher-Ucran, Conor O'Brien, Rachel Ferreira, Karen Gasperini, Andrew Lamson, Heidi Showstead, Vincent DeJesus, Jacob Cohen, Marissa Silva, Kathy Gudmundson, Keith Wilcox, Kate Sherlock



1. Welcome

Deanne welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

2. Mission Statement/Minutes



Karen read the Mission Statement of the Coalition.



“The Coalition is for individuals with all disabilities to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is also an opportunity to become familiar with different services available from agencies in Rhode Island and learn what these agencies can do to support and meet the needs of individuals.”



Tanja read the September 2022 Minutes.



3. Presentation: Supported Decision Making **Presented by: Kate Sherlock, Sargent Center**

Supported Decision Making (SDM) is an alternative to Guardianship. SDM was passed by RI Legislature in 2019.

Who Can Use Supported Decision Making (SDM)?

Adult's w/disabilities who are able to express their decisions
Such expression does not have to be VERBAL

What is SDM?

A way for adults' w/disabilities to formally choose and appoint an eligible person(s) to be a supporter(s) to help them with any part of the decision-making process.

The supporters must be eligible and agree to fill the role.

The decision-making process includes: research, risks weighed, gathering all information to review, and make the decision based on all the information presented.

Why we like SDM?

- Protects decision-making autonomy
- Consistent with self determination
- Promotes independence
- Improves quality of life



Confidentiality

Supporters need authorization from the individual to access confidential information and sign SDM agreement form.

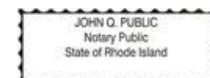
Supporters who access confidential information must maintain the individual's confidentiality.

SDM Agreement Form

Once you are ready to formally use SDM, an individual and their supporter(s) must fill out and sign the SDM Agreement Form.

There is a form in the SDM Act, it's NOT STATUTORY! But the form an individual use must include elements in the form from the Act. Also, it must not be inconsistent with the form in the SDM Act.

The SDM Agreement Form must be witnessed by 2 eligible people or a Notary Public.



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Change Your Mind?

If an individual changes their mind about some parts of the SDM Agreement, they may amend it and sign it again with their supporter(s) with 2 witnesses or Notary Public.

If they change their mind about using SDM, they can terminate the Agreement. The supporters may also change their minds about being a supporter and cancel their agreement.

Rhode Island has an **RI Supported Decision-Making How-To Guide**

Are you Eligible to use supported decision making?

- Do you live in RI?
- Are you an adult (age 18+)?
- Do you have a disability?
- Can you express your decisions? (expression need not be verbal)
- Do you need and want help with your decision-making process?

Yes to All? You may wish to use SDM!

Choosing Your Supporter(s)

Possible Choices:

- Family
- Friends
- Others who have knowledge or experience with the decisions you are making

Things to Think About:

- ✓ Who do you know and trust?
- ✓ Who is respectful of your decisions?
- ✓ Understands your communication?
- ✓ Shares your values?
- ✓ Willing to help you?



Supporters that are NOT Eligible

- ✓ Your current service providers unless they are also family
- ✓ Employer/Employee
- ✓ Anyone against whom you have obtained an order of protection from abuse or
- ✓ An individual who is the subject of a civil or criminal order prohibiting contact with you

Identifying Decisions, YOU May Need Help With:

- ✓ Disability-related support service decisions
- ✓ Healthcare decisions
- ✓ Residence
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Education



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- ✓ ISP
- ✓ Goals

APRIL

See you in April 2023!!

5. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at about 3 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Date: MONDAY, April, 2023 To Be Announced

Location: Warwick Public Library

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



Minutes submitted by Tanja Blicker-Ucran