

**Human Development Institute
Fund For Excellence**

Final Project Report/Summary

Date of report: February 1, 2017

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Title of Project: My Choice Kentucky: Exploring Supported Decision-Making in the Commonwealth

Project Start date: October 2015

Project End date: October 2016

Total FFE Project Budget: \$10,000 budgeted, not all funds were utilized

Brief summary of the goals of this project:

The primary goal of this project was to educate people in Kentucky about alternatives to legal guardianship, specifically, supported decision-making. The focus was primarily on adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities, their families, and service providers. Some outreach was also made to attorneys, judges, and public guardians. The goal at the end of every session or conversation was for people to understand that legal guardianship is not the only option for people who may need help making life decisions. Over time, the project also grew to include information about what guardianship is and isn't (dispelling myths). This work was done in conjunction with Kentucky Protection and Advocacy.

Brief summary of the outcomes/achievements resulting from this project:

The project achieved the stated goal of disseminating information about supported decision-making across the state. Presentations were made to advocates, family members, educators, provider groups, and other professionals. Additionally, The Primary Investigator (PI) was able to represent HDI's involvement in this growing movement on a national level. The PI was invited to attend a symposium on supported decision-making in Washington, DC and presented during a national webinar hosted by the National Resource Center on Supported Decision-Making.

A national leader in the supported decision-making movement, Jonathan Martinis, was brought to Kentucky twice using funds provided by this grant. Each time Mr. Martinis was able to make presentations to two distinct groups. His vast knowledge of supported decision-making as well as his enthusiasm served to increase interest in using supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship here in Kentucky.

Individuals and organizations and agencies are still requesting information and presentations about supported decision-making. Several people are requesting information regarding how to move forward with implementing the concepts discussed during presentations and trainings.

Did any products (e.g., materials, manuscripts, technology) result from this project?

There was a pamphlet produced about supported decision-making and the project. Additionally, a website and a Facebook page were created and those are still being maintained.

Has, or will, additional funding (e.g., external grants) be sought to sustain the project?

The PI is currently trying to work with the Kentucky Supreme Court to submit a grant proposal that would enable Kentucky to convene a group of stakeholder who would explore guardianship reform. Other funding streams are constantly being explored.

Has or will the project be continuing beyond the period of Fund For Excellence funding?

The project has continued beyond the funding period. Maintenance of the website and Facebook is ongoing. Requests for information and training about supported decision-making are still coming and those requests are being fulfilled when they can be accommodated during off-work hours. Conversations with individuals who support and promote supported decision-making across the country are ongoing. The hope is that these conversations and relationships will lead to formal partnerships and/or additional funding opportunities.