



Supported Decision-Making Network of Ohio – SDMNO

Meeting
June 11, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Attendees: Dawn Bilpuch, Dana Charlton, Elizabeth Claggett, Lisa Comes, Amy Freeman, Derek Graham, Jason Harris, Alicia Hopkins, Carolyn Knight, Hadia Kahn, Boo Krucky, Elizabeth Lambert, Catie Lewis, Stephanie Leppert, Alex Lomicka, Jessica Norwood, Alissa Otani-Cole, Barb Sapharas, Celia Schloemer, Kristy Stepp, Nate Turner, Shirella Walls, Elizabeth Wietmarschen, Renee Wood, Josh Young.

Minutes recorded by Ann Neu.

12:00 - **Welcome and Opening Comments** – Lisa Comes

- Lisa welcomed new members to SDMNO and explained its purpose in Ohio, emphasizing its efforts to encourage supported decision-making for people with disabilities regardless of guardianship status. Lisa reviewed the format of this meeting, current updates, and encouraged staying for the breakout rooms.

12:05 – **Storyteller: Krystal Albright** – Amy Freeman/Celia Schloemer

- Celia stated Krystal would not be attending this meeting and wanted the group to state what have you done to advance conversations around the concept of supported decision making.
 - o Amy discussed a cross-agency team planning a July 10th event focused on supported decision making for young people. Link to the flyer with event: <https://secure.smores.com/n/8pbe1-fall-events-at-greenfield-high?ref=email>
 - o Jessica shared an event focusing on self-advocacy, self-determination, and employment, highlighting the positive responses from participants.
 - o Dana from OSDA talked about incorporating supported decision-making into the OSDA Project STIR™ training using resources provided on the SDMNO website.
 - o Shirella shared a recent conversation with an individual who did not need a guardian, emphasizing the importance of supported decision making.
 - o Nate discussed his ongoing support for the County Board Governance Initiative, advocacy, and self-determination, and the need for community leadership.
 - o Lisa shared her experience at the Innovation Summit and a successful ISP meeting with a young adult, highlighting the importance of informal support.
 - o Dawn suggested exploring supported decision-making for the elderly and their families.
 - o Catie Lewis attended day 3 of Project STIR™ training for youth in transition in Cincinnati and saw the engagement of all the students. She attended a two-day conference where state transition consultants focused on transition and employment training using Charting the LifeCourse.

- Tammy discussed an upcoming mapping towards transition in Lima in August. It is geared towards 13–17-year-old students, educators, and support staff working towards their future goals and will have a booth with available information. Information listed below.

AUGUST 13, 2025

AUGUST 13, 2025

1:00pm-4:00pm

Apollo Career Center (3325 Shawnee Rd. Lima, OH 45806)

REGISTER WITH TAMMY SMITH-ZACK AT 419-221-1385, EXT. 2869

- Alissa provided an update on a multi-agency planning showcase to support building relationships between students at the county level (OOD, County Boards, School reps, etc.). and having all the teams work on their goals throughout the year.
- Celia mentioned a training for supported decision-making for family navigators and successfully used the five steps promoted by Project STIR™.

12:15 - **Advancing Supported Decision-Making: Exploring Family and Self-Advocate Perspectives to Reduce Reliance on Guardianship** – Jeanne Novak and Catie Lewis (Catie gave the update on Jeanne’s behalf.)

- This fall, we will be launching a survey of Ohio parents, guardians, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to gather perspectives on supported decision-making (SDM) and guardianship. Two teams are currently working to develop the surveys.
- On May 28, we held our first Self-Advocates Meeting to review and discuss one of the surveys. This survey asks about how individuals make decisions, who (if anyone) helps them, their familiarity with SDM, and any experiences they may have had using it. The conversation was engaging and full of insightful suggestions that were incorporated into the survey draft.

- Because the first meeting was so productive, a follow-up session is scheduled.

Next Self-Advocates Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 18

Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Zoom link: <https://bgsu-edu.zoom.us/my/novak>

If you’re interested in being part of the conversation, please join us! If you need accommodations to participate, feel free to email me at jnovak@bgsu.edu.

12:35 - **Advocacy efforts for Supported Decision-Making in Ohio Statute** – Shirella Walls, APSI

- The legislators will be going on break in June and will have updates on SB5 this fall.

12:45 - **Update on ODEW “Age of Majority” Guidance** – Forms being revised,

renaming the title being discussed in Outreach Breakout Room -
Catie Lewis

12:50 – **SDMNO Resources - Facebook & other social media** – Outreach group – Lisa and Amy Mordaunt. Click here to check it out! Note that there is a brief demo of the “Padlet”. <https://padlet.com/lcomes/supported-decision-making-network-of-ohio-sdmno-dmro8jkhpe93c6m1>

- No updates to the website, but has it ready to go sdmno.org, which includes a countdown clock to each new meeting, an about us section, outreach for those to manage this site, need a small team to update the website and respond to messages, and update their Facebook page.

- o <https://www.facebook.com/SDMOHIO/> click now and “LIKE” the page

12:55 – **Review of New Additions to SDMNO Website** – Josh

- Josh confirmed that he set up the website and manages it himself but cannot continue to do it by himself.
- Dana suggested hiring someone with the technical skills would be beneficial and SDMNO could possibly apply for a discretionary grant now that SDMNO is a 501(C)(3) doing business in Ohio.

1:00 – **Strategic Plan and Next Steps - Breakout Rooms: Update & Review of SDMNO Strategic Plan:** Go to <https://www.sdmno.org/> for the strategic planning progress report document – lower left corner at the very bottom of the web page.

- **LEARNING, OUTREACH, AND INTERNAL FINANCIAL.**

Entered the breakout rooms at 12:34 p.m. Returned from break out rooms at 1:08pm.

- **Internal-Financial** – How do we develop greater capacity and adequate funding? Josh, Dana, Derek
 - o Josh shared the membership cost that OSDA uses. Information including what the membership includes, levels, or donate to support us. Anyone can participate without using money. Having the SDMNO board checking the emails received. Check out the SDMNO website for potential contributions or what the options are but there is much more to do around this topic.
- **Outreach** – How do we extend our reach to targeted audiences? Amy, Lisa, Catie
 - o Amy said we want to have an automatic response in place, getting back within a week, and add a disclaimer stating we are not attorney’s and can only offer advice.
 - o Another option could be creating an internship position to respond to any questions.
 - o Continue investigating supported decision making for older individuals.

- Learning and Growth – How do we as a network continue learning and growing?
Renee', Carolyn, Jason, Celia
 - Celia stated having Dana or Josh come next month to discuss what learning and growth is vs. outreach.
 - Data specific to Ohio was requested of how many agencies/groups have decision making roles. Elizabeth suggested gathering data on the importance of verbal vs. electronic termination of supported decision-making relationships.
 - The need for plain language versions of the proposed legislation.
 - Alissa to reach out to Derek to see if any data is available when guardianship is requested or any agency that may have this information.
 - Boo to reach out to Shirella at APSI, to see if she has any data.
 - Adding Supported Decision-Making for older adults to the next agenda.
- **LEARNING, OUTREACH, AND INTERNAL FINANCIAL.**
 - How would we go about sharing, impacting SDMNO, improve learning of others and Boo Krucky is the share information obtained from Texas.
 - Jason to work with Celia to get a list of all agencies with support decision making. Gathering data of those who currently use, modifying, or considering using electronic or verbal determination.
 - Celia announced a supported decision-making training with a cost of \$350, the week Sept 9, 16, 23, and 30th, 11-2pm, and starting Sept 9th.

1:15 - **Wrap Up** – Lisa Comes stated the Board meeting will be combined with this group to discuss dues. Two of the core group of SDMNO joined the board. Board meeting minutes will be going out after next meeting and posted on the website, however there is no scheduled board meeting in July.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Next SDMNO meeting – July 9th, 12:00 to 1:30.

Supported Decision-Making Toolkit on DODD website:

- This toolkit is available in English-<https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-You-and-Family>
 - Arabic, French, and Spanish -<https://dodd.ohio.gov/your-family/advocacy/SDM-Translations>
- **SDMNO PROJECTS** (Ongoing – Will be placed on the agenda as information or action is needed):
- Expert Evaluation
 - Info sheet on Supported Decision-Making
 - SDMNO Resource Website – Outreach group
 - Age of Majority IEP Guidelines – Catie Lewis
 - Restoration training
 - ORC 5126 Statute Changes – Derek Graham, Lisa Comes
 - Connect with youth ages 14 to 26 – Amy Freeman, Catie Lewis
 - Youth Advisory Council – OCECD

- Project STIR™ Pilot with Youth in Transition – OSDA