

Supported Decision-Making Network of Ohio – SDMNO

Website link: <https://www.sdmno.org/>

Vision: All people will have control over their decisions, including getting the support they need to make and carry them out.

Mission: To increase awareness and understanding of supported decision-making for all Ohioans through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

March 12, 2025 - 12:00 to 1:30

MINUTES

Welcome and Opening Comments – Celia Schloemer

19 participants (approximately 25% of attendees were people with disabilities)

Story: Stephanie Leppert– Amy Freeman

Stephanie, an outreach and advocacy associate at the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, has been with the organization for five years and lives independently with a roommate. She enjoys various activities and is an advocate for supported decision-making. Stephanie and her family decided on supported decision-making, with her mom helping with finances. They consulted with the local school and other families in the disability community. Last week, Stephanie testified at the State House in support of the Supported Decision-Making bill. She encouraged others to gather as much information as possible when making decisions about guardianship or supported decision-making. Amy also mentioned two links for Stephanie's testimonies: 1) APSI's Supported Decision-Making Toolkit on the DoDD website and 2) Stephanie's and others SDM testimonies at the State House. Shaye also shared her experience advocating for Medicaid and transportation in Columbus.

Update on SDM Grant Award to APSI: Shirella Walls

Shirella recommended that we visit the dedicated page for the SDM Toolkit on the 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>

Review of New Additions to SDMNO Website & Face Book –

Josh and Amy

Amy and Josh discussed the progress of their social media posts and the need for

increased engagement. They also mentioned the use of AI for content creation and the importance of the SDMNO website. Josh highlighted the updates on the website and the need for progress reports. Jenn suggested educating the Family and Children First's Councils about supported decision making, which was well-received.

Age of Majority IEP Guidelines – Catie L and Amy F
No updates at this time.

Strategic Plan and Next Steps - Breakout Rooms: Update & Review of SDMNO Strategic Plan: Josh

Josh outlined the three groups formed for the organization's development: **Internal/Financial**, **Outreach**, and **Learning/Growth**. He emphasized the importance of these groups in enhancing the organization's capacity, reaching target audiences, and staying updated on relevant news and developments. Josh also encouraged more members to join the Internal/Financial group to discuss board confirmation, meeting structure, and funding opportunities. He mentioned the need for volunteers to assist with the website and Facebook page updates. The conversation ended with Josh opening the breakout rooms for the groups, and members were encouraged to join the one that best suited their interests.

Internal/Financial

Josh will explore free or discounted online services for nonprofits (e.g. Canva, Zoom, Constant Contact, Mailchimp, AI tools)

Dana will look at OSDA's membership structure and develop a proposal for SDMNO memberships and dues

Dana to set up a bank account for SDMNO

Learning and Growth

Celia led a discussion on the Learning and Growth group's progress, focusing on decision-making and guardianship in Ohio. The group decided to start with Josh for information on these topics. They also discussed a survey of parents to understand what they already know, with the aim of sharing new information about the age of majority and supported decision-making. The group also considered

learning from the parent mentor groups and other states' resources. Jessica brought up the topic of guardianship and voting, which was added to the list of things to consider.

Next SDMNO meeting April 9, 2024 - 12:00 to 1:30