



Supported Decision-Making Network of Ohio – SDMNO

November 12, 2025

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Attendees: Amy Freeman, Amy Mordaunt, Josh Young, Derek Graham, Tom Hess, Tammy Smith, Barbara Sapharas, Angela Thomas, Angie Chapple, Stephanie Leppert, Ann Neu, Jeanne Novak

12:00 - **Welcome and Opening Comments** – Josh Young

Value statement - We want a faithful representation of the work that we do and conversations we have in the meetings. At this point note taking (AI summaries, Otter.ai, etc.) is welcome as long as the person is present. If not present, such notetaking will be stopped. If any specific person cannot be present, but needs summaries, that person must reach out to one of the SDMNO core members.

- Welcomed new participant Tom Hess, Ohio Department of DD.

12:05 - **Storyteller** – A video was shared that Steve Pelton has finished with Dashiell Meier, California, about supported decision making and is approximately 5 minutes. Ways we can get this information out to young individuals is to invite Dashiell to talk about navigating doctor's appointments, etc. Josh noted that 5-minute videos may be too long but it may be best viewed with snippets that are shorter in length.

Dashiell: <https://vimeo.com/1125513673>

12:15 - **Update on SB35** – Josh Young

- **Derek Graham** – Ohio Senate Bill 35 (SB 35) has passed the Senate and is now under review in the House Children and Human Services Committee. Derek will continue to update on any progress.

12:20 - **Update on Alicia Hopkins Art Show** – Alicia Hopkins

- Alicia held an art show in Cincinnati back in October. All of the proceeds from selling her art work went to SDMNO, which was over \$400. She's at another event today to raise money for SDMNO. Ann will write a thank you to Alicia on behalf of SDMNO members.

12:30 - **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. Because we had a small number of participants, we decided to discuss the content of the breakout rooms as a whole group.

- **Internal-Financial** – How do we develop greater capacity and adequate funding? Josh, Dana, Derek

- Josh stated we received enough money for the Zoom account from Alicia Hopkins donation and from our non-profit status. We will have a different link for upcoming meetings.
- Outreach – How do we extend our reach to targeted audiences? Amy, Lisa, Catie
 - Amy Mordaunt, about Google Drive Doc, amy.mordaunt@thearcofohio.org <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScowyS9uxDq8L1xBWvt5Vv660KS MJX8d-tzL4nA6EAsFtwNig/viewform>
 - Angela Thomas stated she will share this survey form with her county board staff at their weekly meetings. Other areas where this can be shared is the PeopleFirst and Project STIR websites. Tom Hess said he would share with his list serves. Suggestions included writing a little bit about why you're requesting this and share using common language.
 - The storyteller video next month will be Lelise Kate Thornton, using a communication device.
 - Dashiell's video highlighted SDM because he recognized the need for support in reviewing documents before signing.
 - Josh was invited to a Transition Expo in Cincinnati, but he didn't have the time or have a coordinated effort to be at these events.
 - Angie Chapple stated there are state support teams teaching individuals about SDM, talk about it with their families, and empowering them to make their own decisions at a younger age. The ODEW are is having discussions with families about alternatives to guardianship, such as SDM. Tom said of those agencies ex. (ODEW, DD, OOD, ODMHAS, ODJFS, ODM) Employment First can make a unified approach to have them all at the table with the same SDM information.
 - Questions of where do families find out about guardianship and how do they get information? Angie Chapple explained in school transition meetings they discuss transferring of guardianship. Jeanne noted that many transition specialists come from teaching backgrounds and often lack the necessary resources to fully support youth and families. While perhaps one in ten may have access to adequate tools, this gap represents a significant opportunity for infrastructure development.
 - Angela Thomas has been publishing updates to the SDMNO website and her assistance with this has been beneficial and greatly appreciated.
- Learning and Growth – How do we as a network continue learning and growing? Renee, Carolyn, Jason, Celia
 - Nothing to report at this time.

12:45 – **Report on progress made in the past month and next steps:**

1:00 – **What else has happened that promotes SDM?**

- Josh assisted the Emerging Leaders group in Summit County develop their own strategic plan. He facilitated the conversation by explaining their options, providing different perspectives to consider, and presented information in creative ways, but the group made the decisions about their Mission, Vision, and Values.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Next SDMNO meeting – December 10th, 12:00 to 1:30

