

Supported Decision-Making and other alternatives to Guardianship- Keeping Individuals with Disabilities and Aging Adults in Charge of their Lives

AGENDA

Time	Description	location
10:00 am	Welcome Keynote: Myths about Guardianship- What are the values we hold important to living a life with dignity and respect? Who can use Supported Decision- Making and how Self- Determination can improve the quality of one's life. Leah Ortiz	Suite 1, 2, 7, 8
10:30	Supported Decision-Making and other alternatives to Guardianship: Keeping individuals with disabilities and aging adults in charge of their lives. Panel will provide an overview of Wisconsin's Supported Decision-Making Agreement Law and other alternatives to Guardianship. (Panel: Mitch Hagopian, Tami Jackson, Janet Zander)	Suite 1, 2, 7, 8
11:00	Wisconsin's Supported Decision-Making Pioneers: Stories from families using Supported Decision-Making (Panel: Ben and Pam DeLap, Lisa Pugh, George Zaske)	
11:30	Question and Answer Time: All our morning presenter will be available for Q & A	
12-1:00	Lunch 1-1:15- Transition	Suite 1, 2, 7, 8
1:15-2:30	BREAKOUTS	
	Supported Decision Making Agreements: The Nuts and Bolts In this session participants will learn exactly what Wisconsin's new Supported Decision-Making Agreement law does and how to fill out the form. We will also discuss where and how you might use it. (Mitch Hagopian, George Zaske)	Suite C
	Conversations with Families and Caregivers The process of guardianship is one that should be considered as a last resort, yet often it is the first option presented to families or is what families have always thought they must do. This session will discuss the common myths about what guardianship does (or doesn't) accomplish and share creative ways to spark the necessary conversations with families and caregivers. Leave with a better set of tools to help families better understand alternatives to guardianship including ways to support their loved ones to retain essential rights that promote independence and improve quality of life. (Leah Ortiz, Lisa Pugh, and Beth Swedeen)	Suite D
	How to have the conversation about decision-making options ADRCs, direct service staff, teachers, attorneys, and other trusted professionals are often the first point of contact for individuals and families looking for information and guidance on decision-making options. These conversations can be part of a person's advance planning, in response to emerging issues or crisis, or post crisis. Learn strategies on how to have these important conversations with individuals and families that help them assess and choose the option that best fits their daily lives, honors their relationships and desire to have control over their lives, and provides the support they want. (Tami Jackson, Janet Zander)	Suite E
	Legal Decision-Making Options and Statutory Considerations in the Guardianship Process This presentation will give an overview of legal decision-making and supportive options in Wisconsin. An overview of statutory requirements for guardianship will be detailed, including a discussion of factors to consider in the appointment of a guardian. The presentation will include a discussion of the intersection between supported decision-making and guardianship. This legal focused presentation is intended for an advanced audience. (Kate Schilling)	Suite F
2:30-2:45	Transition	
2:45-4:00	REPEAT BREAKOUT SESSIONS	

SPEAKER BIOS

Ben DeLap Ben is a 2019 graduate of Oshkosh West High School; he focused on taking marketing, business and leadership courses. He is most recently a new employee with Silver Star Brands, a marketing company. Ben's new responsibilities include checking outgoing packages for accuracy in fulfilling the orders. Ben is also a graduate of Yippe (Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment). He used many of his leadership skills as a volunteer ambassador for the sponsors and exhibitors of the 2019 Circles of Life Conference. Ben has created personal relationships with several legislators as he advocated in Madison for laws that affect him as a person with a disability. It is very important to Ben to maintain independence as an adult, he leads his life using the Supportive Decision Making option, and it allows for support when needed but creates all possible opportunities for him to make his own decisions in the life he dreams about.

Pam DeLap is a business owner, actively involved citizen and a proud parent and grandparent. Pam uses many of the same approaches in her profession as a Financial Strategist and Advisor as she does her disability related action and service. Pam looks for ways to connect, serve and empower others. Pam has worked with the team of advocates in passing the Supported Decision-Making Law. She has led training in her community on the Supported Decision-Making Agreement and continues to work with the resource team to educate families and other stakeholder entities around the state. Pam is a parent of an adult child with a developmental disability who currently uses supported decision making. pdelap5@gmail.com

Tami Jackson is the Public Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison for the WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, where she works to improve public policies—including Medicaid, long-term care, transportation, civil rights, and other issues—that result in greater self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities. Tami led the team of advocates that developed and worked to pass Wisconsin's Supported Decision-Making agreement legislation and is part of Wisconsin's supported decision-making training and resource development team.

Tamara.Jackson@wisconsin.gov

Mitch Hagopian is an attorney with Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), Wisconsin's protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities and mental illness. His areas of practice include community based long-term care services and supports for people with disabilities, guardianship and protective placement, and prevention of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities. He is a frequent presenter on supported decision-making and the promise it offers people with disabilities.

Leah Ortiz, LMSW-Clinical has worked in the field of Social Work for the past 13 years. Prior to becoming a clinician, she was a Police Officer and served in the U.S. Army, providing Leah with a unique approach to her work. Leah joined The Arc's network in 2015 and since then has become a leader in her State for disability related issues and concerns, she has spoken at the state and national conferences. Leah has trained nearly 600 professionals in her County within this year about the alternatives to guardianship. Due to this training, her County has changed the process in which one would seek a guardian over a person with an intellectual or developmental disability, enabling The Arc of Calhoun County to reduce the number of DD guardianships in the County. leah@thearccalhoun.org

Lisa Pugh is the Executive Director of The Arc Wisconsin and is also a former Kennedy Foundation Fellow who worked as a disability policy advisor in the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Education. She was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Since joining The Arc Wisconsin in 2017 Lisa has promoted evidence-based Future Planning for families and professionals statewide and co-chairs the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance. She was a leader along with other organizations in the passage of Wisconsin's Supported Decision-Making law. She is the parent to an adult daughter with I/DD who uses supported decision-making. pugh@thearc.org

Kate Schilling is an attorney and the Legal Services Manager at Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., where she oversees the Senior Medicare Patrol, the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center, and the Elder Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney program. She works predominantly in the areas of elder law, public benefits, and consumer law. Previously, she was in private practice in New Richmond, Wisconsin, where she practiced in estate planning, Medicaid benefits, guardianship, and general civil litigation. Kate is a board member of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder & Special Needs Law Section, the Public Interest Law Section, and a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Prior to attending law school, Kate coordinated supports for adults with developmental disabilities, and she currently serves as a volunteer guardian for a woman with a disability living in Madison. She is also a volunteer at high school mock trial events, local free legal clinics, and Wills for Heroes. Kate is also the proud parent of a seven-year-old son with special healthcare needs. guardian@gwaar.org

Beth Swedeen is the Executive Director of The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and works on statewide disability-related program development and public policy, including research and evaluation of strategies that maximize the ability of people with disabilities to make choices about their lives. She leads the Living Well health and safety statewide initiative, which includes a focus on building self-advocacy and protective skills in people with developmental disabilities and promoting supported decision-making, both as a practice and as a legal option. She has an adult daughter who uses supported decision-making and other tools to support making her own choices. Beth.Swedeen@wisconsin.gov

Janet Zander has been serving as the Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator for the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) for the past six years. In this role, she coordinates the agency's advocacy and public policy objectives and works to maintain a culture of advocacy within the organization and the aging units within the 70 counties (all but Dane and Milwaukee) and 11 tribes in its service area. Through her involvement with the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network and the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin disability organizations, she is also active in statewide advocacy efforts with and for older adults and people with disabilities.

Prior to joining the GWAAR team, Ms. Zander was employed with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Portage County for 20 years, served as the director of social services for a skilled nursing facility, managed a CBRF for people with serious mental illness, and worked in a federal grant funded self-sufficiency program for a community action agency. Janet.zander@gwaar.org

George Zaske is an attorney who works with families to help plan for the future for their child with a disability. He is a proud parent of an adult son with developmental disabilities who is currently employed in his community. A seasoned conference presenter on guardianship, supported decision making and the importance of community-based services for individuals with disabilities. He also has an M.B.A. in finance. george4545z@yahoo.com

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