



TO: Morgan Whitlatch, Jonathan Martinis
FROM: Melissa Keyes, Legal Director, Indiana Disability Rights
RE: NRC-SDM Grant Final Report
DATE: August 30, 2019

Project Background and Summary

The goal of this project was to develop a multi-media advocacy campaign to increase knowledge and use of supported decision-making (SDM) in Indiana. The deliverables to achieve that goal include an easily accessible website that provides credible, Indiana-specific information about supported decision-making and other options for supporting self-determination in adulthood, as well as several short accessible videos explaining those concepts. The hope, or eventual outcome, is that the availability of these products will lead to an increased knowledge and use of less restrictive options for supporting decision-making, including SDM.

The proposed videos included:

- *What is Guardianship* – Will address: what is guardianship; circumstances where someone might need a guardian; what rights are removed and what rights remain for someone under guardianship; the different types of guardianship; what is involved in getting a guardianship; requirements for guardians; and how to terminate a guardianship. The video will provide basic information as a way to provide context for the later discussions of SDM and alternatives.
- *Alternatives to Guardianship* – Will address: the spectrum of support available in Indiana; best practices for using these various tools; benefits of each; comparing options; how to decide which option is best; how to implement the alternatives (who to contact); and how to change options. The video will use a combination of information, character/stories, and narration to deliver the information.
- *Supported Decision-Making* – Will address: the principles of SDM; who can use SDM; how to implement formalized SDM; and practicalities of SDM arrangements. The video will use a combination of information, character/stories, and narration to deliver the information.
- *Personal Stories/SDM Success Stories* – Approximately three stories of SDM successes or problems with guardianship will be highlighted. The video will use a combination of information, character/stories, and narration to deliver the information.

The project began with convening interested stakeholders to discuss desired content for the videos. Once the general framework for each video was defined, IDR staff met with the videographer to outline the storyboard and plan the scripts. IDR's Legal Director and project coordinator drafted the content of the videos and sought feedback on substance and language accessibility. As described in more detail below, the scripts needed revision to address changes to legislation as well as changes in

Equality Through Advocacy

The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Indiana

4701 N Keystone Ave
Suite 222
Indianapolis IN 46205
IndianaDisabilityRights.org

Phone: 317.722.5555
Toll Free: 800.622.4845
TTY: 800.838.1131
Fax: 317.722.5564



project direction. Once the scripts were finalized, the videos went into production. Finally, the videos were sent to post-production for editing.

Unfortunately, at the time of this report, the final videos identified above are not available as they are still in the process of being edited. The final products are anticipated to be available at the end of September, 2019 and will be promptly shared with the National Resource Center.

IDR currently has a website with some initial information about SDM and other alternatives (<https://www.in.gov/idr/2677.htm>). IDR is revising the current website to provide additional resources and to better organize that information for users. The re-launch of the website is delayed until the final video products are available. However, a mockup of the website is included as an attachment to this final report.

Changes, Modifications, and Lessons Learned

We learned early on that there is a tremendous need for basic information on SDM and other less restrictive alternatives. There was also a need for better information about guardianship and what it means. We also realized that there needed to be targeted messages based on the intended audience and we needed to capitalize on peer-to-peer information sharing (i.e., having parents talk to parents; attorneys talk to attorneys, etc.). This meant that we needed to tailor our videos to start with basic information rather than trying to be all encompassing for everyone.

We had many successes with this project. For one, we were able to capitalize on contemporaneous events to help enhance our videos. For example, Morgan Whitlatch presented at a training in Indiana so we were able to interview her for a national perspective on our Supported Decision-Making video while she was in town. A case where a client's rights were being restored had a status hearing during the period we were filming and with the Judge's permission, we were able to film a portion of that as well.

Another success was that during the time of this project, Indiana passed SDM legislation formally recognizing SDM as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship. The law also added a requirement to the guardianship petition process that a discussion of whether less restrictive alternatives had been considered or implemented. This was an incredible development in our state and one that IDR was proud to be a part of. However, it did necessitate some script changes and also delayed filming as we were waiting to see if the legislation would pass. The reason being, if the law passed, we wanted the videos to reflect the most up-to-date information about SDM in Indiana.

With the passing of the law, we also needed a new perspective on people's lived experiences using SDM. Because the law did not go into effect until July, 2019, we did not have very many people who were operating under SDM using the new statutory criteria. Therefore, we made the decision to delay the filming of individual experiences using SDM and instead focus more on a case study of Jamie Beck, who was the first person in Indiana to have her guardianship terminated in favor of using SDM. We will look for additional examples for future videos showing the lived experience under the new law.



Moving Forward – Sustainability and Replication

Moving forward, IDR continues to work with stakeholders to develop additional materials and ideas for videos. We are committed to ensuring information on SDM is available in an accessible and easy to navigate format. We have applied for additional grant funding to further this work. However, IDR has committed to continuing to host the website indefinitely.

Multi-media campaigns are a great way to provide information to a large number of people. Other states that are interested in generating their own resource website and videos have many excellent examples to pull from, now including Indiana’s website.

Revised Budget

The items that have been revised are identified in red below.

ITEM	COST ⁺	TOTAL
WEBSITE	\$1,500	\$1,500
Hosting/Maintenance (wrapped in to IDR’s yearly contract)	\$100/year	\$100
Content Development (partially funded by NRC SDM \$4000, in-kind time~ from IDR and project supporters)	\$4,500	\$4,500
VIDEOS (includes script-writing support, pre-production, and editing)		
What is Guardianship?*	\$3,000	\$3,000
Alternatives to Guardianship	\$7,000	\$7,000
Supported Decision-Making	\$7,000	\$7,000
SDM Success Stories (approximately 3)	\$3,000 each	\$9,000
ASL video integration	\$500 each	\$3,000
Spanish language integration	\$750 each	\$4,500
Content Development (partially funded by NRC SDM \$4000, in-kind time from IDR and project supporters)	\$6,000	\$6,000
HARD COPY MATERIAL (in-kind time from IDR and project supporters)	\$7,500	\$7,500
REVISED TOTAL		\$53,100

~ In-kind time was estimated using an average staff salary cost of \$30/hour.

After consultation with National Resource Center, we are seeking to amend our budget to reflect the staff time expended in content development of the website and videos as the products being partially funded by the NRC grant. To that end, approximately 150 hours were spent in content development for the website and approximately 200 hours were spent in content development for the videos. Those staff hours more than cover the NRC grant amount. The remainder of that cost was covered through in-kind by IDR.