

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

**Corissa Pittman, CYVYC Supported Decision-Making Youth Ambassador
Mary Shehan, Community Inclusion Coordinator, Michigan Developmental
Disabilities Council**



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Outcomes for Today

- **A brief explanation of the differences between SD-M and Guardianship**
- **More in depth look at tools to address decision-making concerns**
- **See ‘real life’ examples on how to use the tools to support the life each young adult wants**
- **See where this information can show up on an IEP**

What Does the Law Say About Guardianships...

Shall be utilized only as necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the individual...

And shall be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and autonomy in the individual.

MCLA, Chapter 6



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

§300.320(b) Transition services. Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team, and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include—

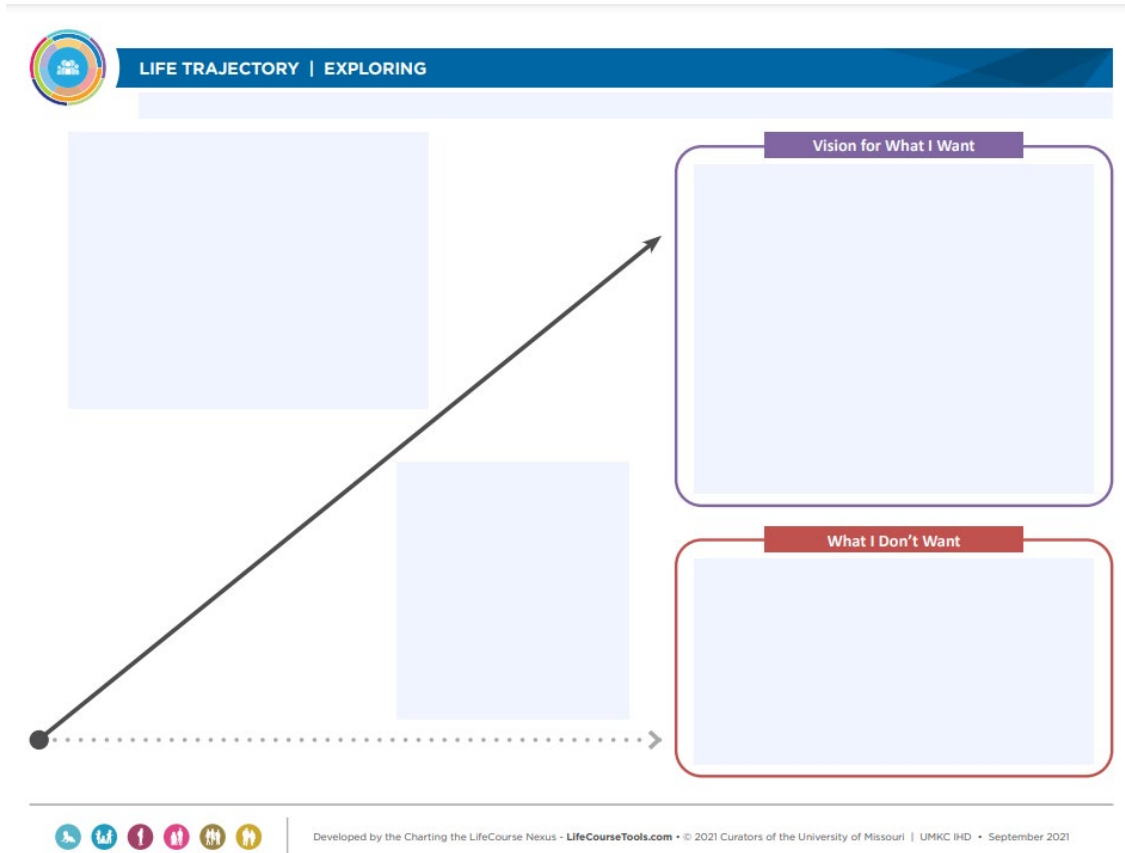
- **Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate, transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and**
- **(2) The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.**

Meaningful Connections

Clear and meaningful connections must be established between what the student is learning in high school and what he or she will be doing after leaving high school.

- **Postsecondary goals are outcomes. They are age-appropriate and measurable.**
- **Align annual goals with adult outcomes (postsecondary goals)**
- **Transition Services are activities. They assist the student in reaching the goal.**

Tool: Life Trajectory: Exploring



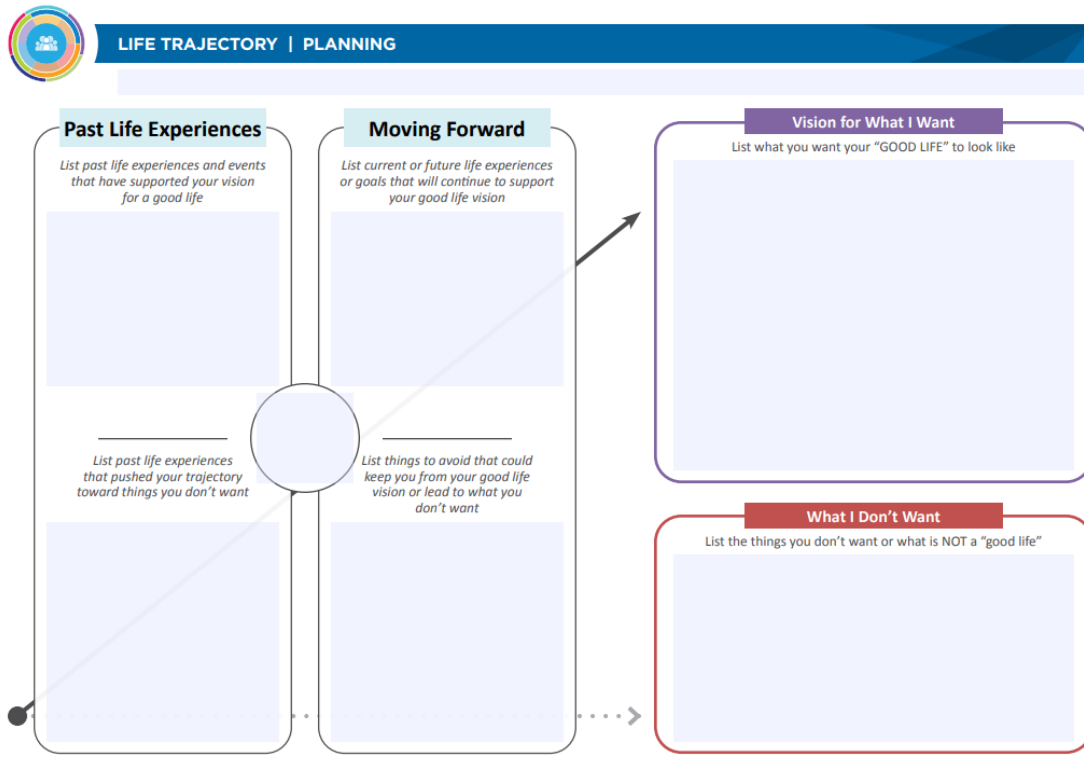
What is your vision for the life you want?

What do you not want?

Share with other members of your IEP team.

Think about if goals or activities take you to the life you want or the life you don't want.

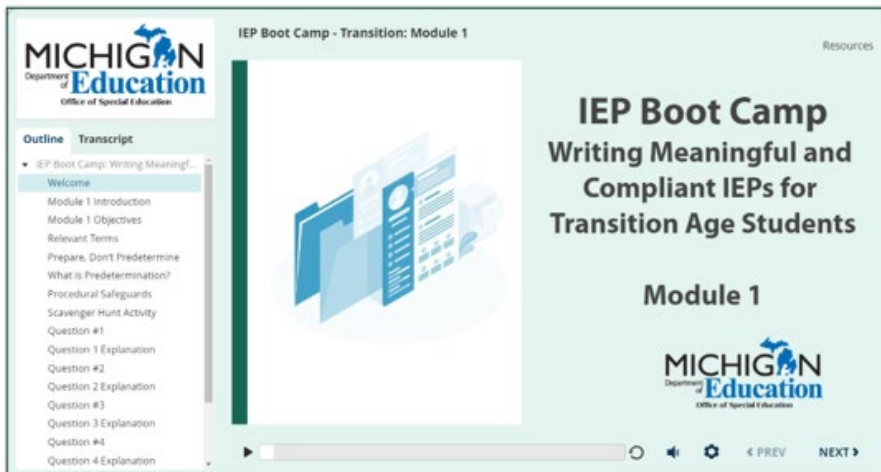
Tool: Life Trajectory: Planning



The Trajectory Planning Tool highlights your past life experiences that are leading or moving you away from your vision and then provides space for current goals and activities to focus on or avoid moving forward.

Office of Special Education Training

- **The student is presumed to be competent to act on their own behalf**
- **The district is presumed to have been, and is continuing to, educate the student to live a self-determined life**
- **School personnel should NOT try to persuade the parents to obtain legal guardianship over the student**

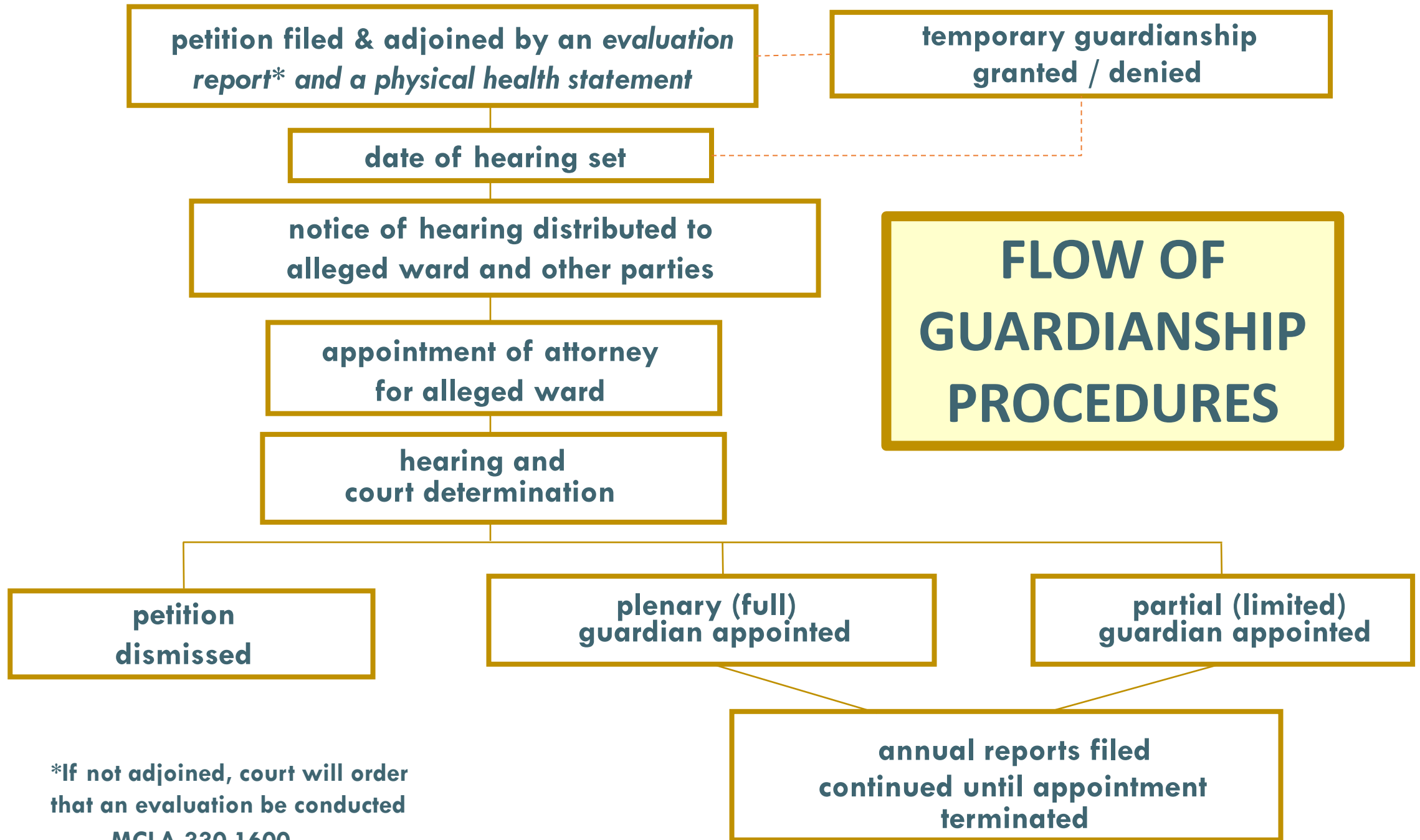


The screenshot displays a training module interface. At the top left is the Michigan Department of Education logo. The main title is "IEP Boot Camp - Transition: Module 1". The central content area features the text "IEP Boot Camp Writing Meaningful and Compliant IEPs for Transition Age Students" and "Module 1". Below this is the Michigan Department of Education logo. A sidebar on the left contains a table of contents with items like "Welcome", "Module 1 Introduction", "Module 1 Objectives", "Relevant Terms", "Prepare, Don't Predetermine?", "What is Predetermination?", "Procedural Safeguards", "Scavenger Hunt Activity", and four questions with their respective explanations. A navigation bar at the bottom includes a progress indicator, a play button, a settings gear, and "PREV" and "NEXT" buttons.

My Experience with Guardianship

- **My first exposure to thinking about guardianship was when I applied to be a Youth Ambassador**
- **I had never spoken to my family about it before that**
- **It made me really start thinking about how I want to make decisions about my life as an adult**
- **I wanted to get involved because I want to make sure people get the information they need, to make decisions**
- **I applied to be a Youth Ambassador because I really enjoy advocating for people with disabilities like me**





FLOW OF GUARDIANSHIP PROCEDURES

*If not adjoined, court will order that an evaluation be conducted
MCLA 330.1600

Types of Guardianships

Types of Guardianship

- **Guardianship of the person**
- **Guardianship of the estate**
- **Conservatorship**

Scope of Guardianship

- **Plenary (full or total)**
- **Partial (limited)**
- **Combination of plenary and limited**

How Do You Feel When Your Rights Are In Jeopardy

- Deciding where to live
- Consenting to or, preventing any medical and health care or treatment
- Determining when and how to travel
- How you spend your money
- Making changes in educational or vocational programs
- Determining if and whom you can date
- What personal property you can own
- If and where, you worship

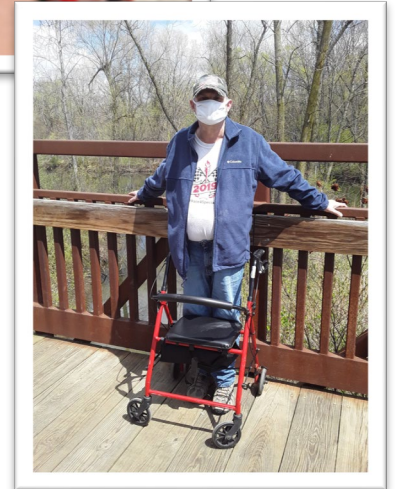
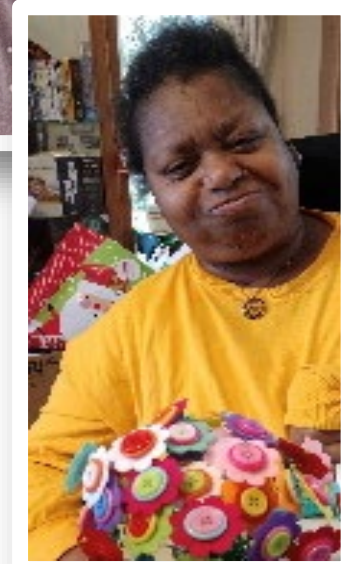
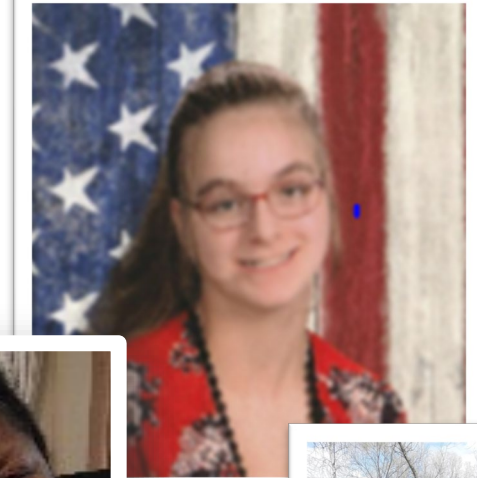
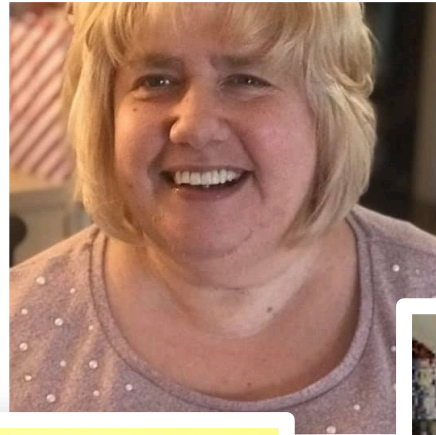
What is Supported Decision-Making anyway?

We all need supporters, helpers and consultants in our lives in order to make good decisions, whether we have a disability or not.

Supported Decision-Making

- ***Substituted* decision-making = guardianship, which limits rights, choices and freedom**
- ***Supported* decision-making = a process that enables people with disabilities to retain and exercise their rights and make and communicate choices in regard to personal and legal matters**

Remember, Supported Decision Making Is Used by ALL People



Getting Started with Supported Decision-Making

Step 1) Start the conversation

Step 2) Identifying who is willing and able to assist

Step 3) Plan and communicate

Step 4) Set up agreement

Step 5) Let everyone know

Tools To Help See A Person's Vision

Knowing What The Vision Is



Name of Person Completing: Jeanine

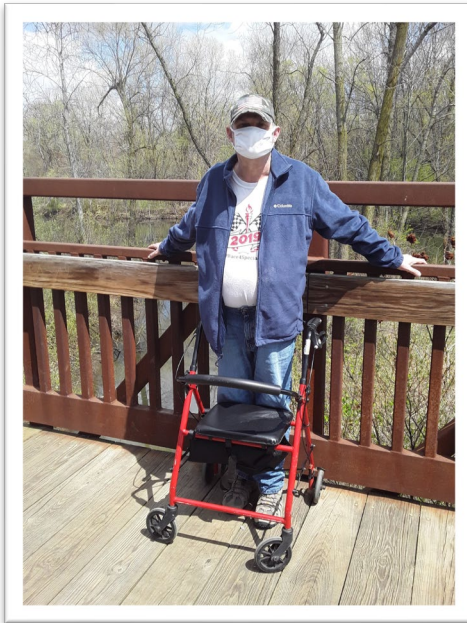
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On Behalf of:

LIFE DOMAIN	DESCRIPTION	MY VISION FOR MY FUTURE	PRIORITY
	Daily Life & Employment: What do I think I will do or want to do during the day in my adult life? What kind of job or career would I like?	I received my ADA coordinator Certification in June 2024 and I would like to get a job using my certification. I want to continue working with Michigan DD Council doing presentations on various topics, Disability Rights Coalition as an LFI ambassador, and Self Advocates of Michigan board member I recently have received a job opportunity in Detroit. It is a work from home position however, I will need to go to Detroit a couple times a month to attend meetings and training. Also, I will need to attend conferences for my job and to receive my continuing education credits for my certification.	
	Community Living: Where would I like to live in my adult life? Will I live alone or with someone else?	I would like to live in my own home with somebody. I always need to have someone with me because of my limitations to do my ADLs. I have a baclofen pump where if there are complications I need to get to my doctor in Grand Rapids.	
	Social & Spirituality: How will I connect with spiritual and leisure activities, and have friendships and relationships in my adult life?	Continue to go to camp, just being in the community learning new things, hang out in South Bend, continue to do presentations with DD council and other organizations	
	Healthy Living: How will I live a healthy lifestyle and manage health care supports in my adult life?	I know that I will always need help with ADLs which means that I need to hire proper staff to help with my needs. I currently have my mom but I know that I need others as well.	
	Safety & Security: How will I stay safe from financial, emotional, physical or sexual harm in my adult life?	I know that I will always need help and I will hire staff that I feel comfortable with because of the intimate things that I need help doing in my ADLs.	
	Advocacy & Engagement: What kind of valued roles and responsibilities do I or will I have, and how can I have control of how my own life is lived?	Continue to do DD council presentations, LFI, continue to work with SAM and other disability organizations. Keep disability movement going. The Advocacy dream - Accessibility would be a whole lot easier.	
	Supports for Family: How do I want my family to still be involved and engaged in my adult life?	I want my parents to have the support that they need to continue supporting me in things that I chose to do - looking for respite worker	

Tools to Start the SD-M Conversation

Work you can do
on your own



KEVIN

Life Trajectory Worksheet

Past Life Experiences

LIST past life experiences and events that supported your vision for a good life.

Inclusive education
Manager of sports teams
Special Olympics
Church sports teams
Men's group
Adopting the Shehan's
Holidays with Shehan's
Payees that listen
Vacations with Shehan's
Lived in community
Worked in the community
Worked at Peckham
Trips with Rainbow Homes
Preplanning for PCP's
Makes friends easily

LIST past life experiences that pushed the arrow toward things you don't want.

Only child from first marriage
Father's death
Mother remarrying (six stepbrothers)
Mother passing away
Very infrequent contact with biological sibs
Biological sibs passing away
Never learned to drive
Low paying job

Future Life Experiences

LIST current/ future life experiences that continue supporting your good life vision.

Covid Vaccine
Rides to church
Walking weekly (PT)
Planning trip to see Ty
Being in Ty's wedding
Family Payee (Tom B.)
Dinners at Mary's
Holidays at Patty's
ABLE Account

LIST life experiences to avoid because they push you toward things you don't want.

Poor communication between family and professionals
Cable being cut
COVID Shut downs
Peckham closing
Fall (back an dhip injury)
Poor Health
Swallowing issues

Write current age here:
60

VISION for a GOOD LIFE

LIST what you want your "good life" to look like ...

I want to go back to work
I want to go to church
I want to be healthy
I want to see Ty
I want to have friends
I want to do sports
I want to watch sports
I want to drink fizzy drinks
I want to do "guy," things. (outdoor things, like camping, fishing, hunting)
I want money in my pocket
I want my bills paid
I want to go on trips
I want to say goodbye to people before they die.
I want to eat football food. (nachos, real beer or, rootbeer in a brown bottle," guy," snacks)
I want to walk every week
I want to live in my own apartment again. (in the community, with a friend)
I want big holidays. (overnights with family)
I want people to let me make my own decisions
I want people to explain my options

What I DON'T Want

LIST the things you don't want in your life...

don't want roommates changing all the time
don't want to be in pain
don't want to get the COVID
don't want to be alone
don't want to be without family
don't want to be treated like a baby

Tools To Help People Map Their Connections

Knowing Who Is In A Person's Chosen Family



MAPPING RELATIONSHIPS

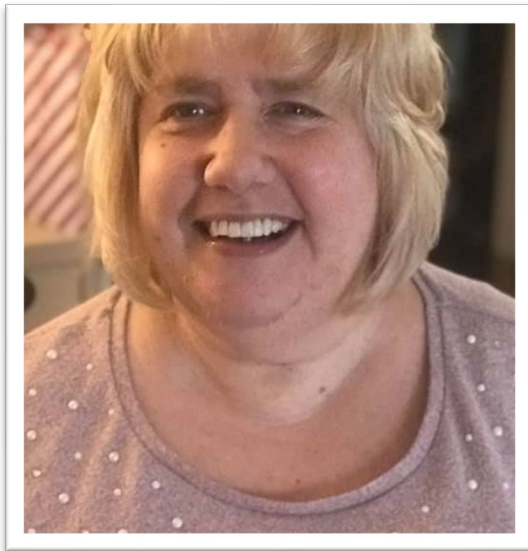
CARING ABOUT	Who serves in this role now?	Looking Ahead	Next Steps
Shares Love, Affection and Trust	Mary Shehan Patty Beranek Tom Beranek	Tyler Shehan Jessica Shehan Beverly Skrobe	Working on relationship with "Special friend Lisa" Kevin to discuss with Lisa, what she wants in their relationship Set up time to spend together
Spends Time and Creates Memories Together	Tom Beranek Tom Shehan Brenda Shehan	Patty Beranek Mary Shehan Tyler Shehan	I want more time to spend with Lisa I want Lisa to meet the whole family Set up date nights Plan sporting events with guys Set visit schedule with Beverly
Knows about Personal Interest, Traditions, Cultures	Mary Shehan Tyler Shehan Sister in Law, Beverly Skrobe	Patty Beranek Lisa Beranek	Beverly Skrobe Mary Shehan knows everything Tom Shehan knows birding Set up visual schedule for 2023. Get help to clean and organize room to view schedule

CARING FOR	Who serves in this role now?	Looking Ahead	Next Steps
Supports Day-to-Day Needs	Homecrest Manor Staff Ashley home manager Special Friend Lisa	Explore other daily/weekly supports	Get statement from doctors
Ensures Material and Financial Needs are Met	Tom Beranek Mary Shehan Patty Beranek	Get an ABLE Debit Card for easy ac	Order and get card sent to home
Connects to Meaningful Relationships and Roles	Mary Shehan	Finding time to get to know more pe	Work out weekly church attendance
Advocates and Supports Life Decisions	Mary Shehan Tyler Shehan	If something happen to sibs., I want	Discuss power of attorney & patient



Tools to Start the SDM Conversation

Work you can do
on your own



CHARTING the LifeCourse

Tool for Exploring Decision Making Supports

This tool was designed to assist individuals and supporters with exploring decision making support needs for each life domain.

Name of Individual: _____
 Name of person completing this form: _____
 Relationship to individual (circle one): Self Family Friend Guardian Other: _____
 How long have you known the individual? _____

For each question below, mark the level of support you need when making and communicating decisions and choices in the Charting the LifeCourse life domains.

I can decide with no extra support I need support with my decision I need someone to decide for me

DAILY LIFE & EMPLOYMENT

Can I decide if or where I want to work?			
Can I look for and find a job (read ads, apply, use personal contacts)?			
Do I plan what my day will look like?			
Do I decide if I want to learn something new and how to best go about that?			
Can I make big decisions about money? (open bank account, make big purchases)			
Do I make everyday purchases? (food, personal items, recreation)			
Do I pay my bills on time (rent, cell, electric, internet)			
Do I keep a budget so I know how much money I have to spend?			
Am I able to manage the eligibility benefits I receive?			
Do I make sure no one is taking my money or using it for themselves?			

HEALTHY LIVING

Do I choose when to go to the doctor or dentist?			
Do I decide/direct what doctors, medical/health clinics, hospitals, specialists or other health care providers I use?			
Can I make health/medical choices for my day-to-day well-being? (check-ups, routine screening, working out, vitamins)			
Can I make medical choices in serious situations? (surgery, big injury)			
Can I make medical choices in an emergency?			
Can I take medications as directed or follow a prescribed diet?			
Do I know the reasons why I take my medication?			
Do I understand the consequences if I refuse medical treatment?			
Can I alert others and seek medical help for serious health problems?			
Do I make choices about birth control or pregnancy?			
Do I make choices about drugs or alcohol?			
Do I understand health consequences associated with choosing high risk behaviors (substance abuse, overeating, high-risk sexual activities, etc.)?			
Do I decide where, when, and what to eat?			
Do I understand the need for personal hygiene and dental care?			

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CHARTING the LifeCourse

Tool for Exploring Decision Making Supports

This tool was designed to assist individuals and supporters with exploring decision making support needs for each life domain.

Name of Individual: AMIE KUPOVITS
 Name of person completing this form: AMIE KUPOVITS
 Relationship to individual (circle one): Self Family Friend Guardian Other: _____
 How long have you known the individual? _____

For each question below, mark the level of support you need when making and communicating decisions and choices in the Charting the LifeCourse life domains.

I can decide with no extra support I need support with my decision I need someone to decide for me

DAILY LIFE & EMPLOYMENT

Can I decide if or where I want to work?	X		
Can I look for and find a job (read ads, apply, use personal contacts)?	X		
Do I plan what my day will look like?	X		
Do I decide if I want to learn something new and how to best go about that?	X		
Can I make big decisions about money? (open bank account, make big purchases)	X		
Do I make everyday purchases? (food, personal items, recreation)	X		X
Do I pay my bills on time (rent, cell, electric, internet)			X
Do I keep a budget so I know how much money I have to spend?			X
Am I able to manage the eligibility benefits I receive?			
Do I make sure no one is taking my money or using it for themselves?	X		

HEALTHY LIVING

Do I choose when to go to the doctor or dentist?	X		
Do I decide/direct what doctors, medical/health clinics, hospitals, specialists or other health care providers I use?	X		
Can I make health/medical choices for my day-to-day well-being? (check-ups, routine screening, working out, vitamins)	X		
Can I make medical choices in serious situations? (surgery, big injury)	X		
Can I make medical choices in an emergency?	X		
Can I take medications as directed or follow a prescribed diet?	X		
Do I know the reasons why I take my medication?	X		
Do I understand the consequences if I refuse medical treatment?	X		
Can I alert others and seek medical help for serious health problems?	X		
Do I make choices about birth control or pregnancy?	X		
Do I make choices about drugs or alcohol?	X		
Do I understand health consequences associated with choosing high risk behaviors (substance abuse, overeating, high-risk sexual activities, etc.)?	X		
Do I decide where, when, and what to eat?	X		
Do I understand the need for personal hygiene and dental care?	X		

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Tools to Start the SDM Conversation

Work you can do
on your own

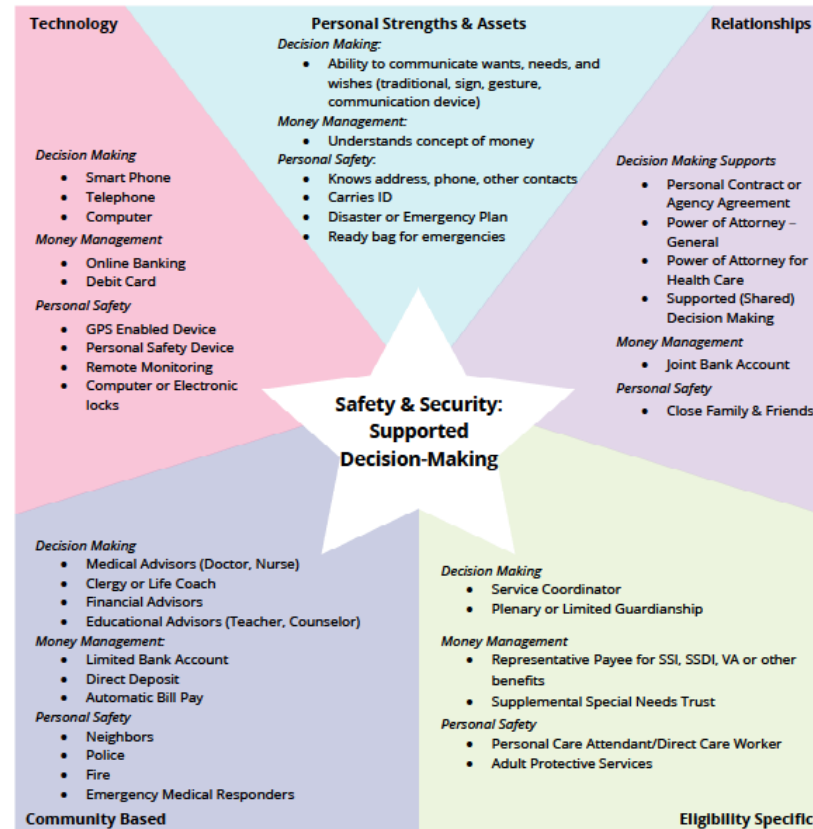


CHARTING the LifeCourse



LifeCourse Integrated STAR: Supported Decision-Making

When a person turns 18, they are presumed competent to make decisions about their life. Sometimes, a person might need help making decisions and staying safe. This star shows some of the ways people can be supported to be safe and secure while living an inclusive community life.



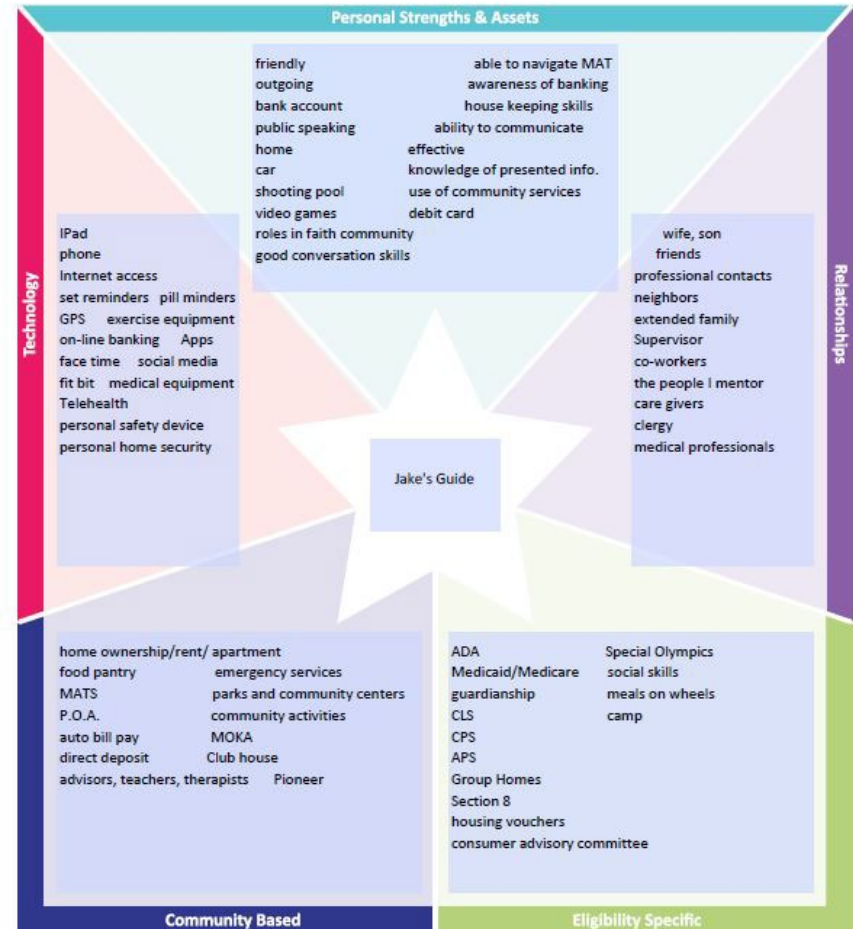
Access the LifeCourse framework and tools at lifecoursetools.com

Developed by the UMKC Institute for Human Development, UCEDD. More tools and materials at lifecoursetools.com.

SEPTEMBER 2016



INTEGRATED SUPPORTS STAR



Developed by the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus - LifeCourseTools.com
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What are the main concerns people express?

Concerns involving:

- **Education**
- **Safety**
- **Medical Decisions**
- **Finances**
- **Communication**
- **Sexuality**
- **Legal**

Release of Information Forms

When signed by an adult with a disability, ROI forms authorize parents (and other allies) access to student records, medical information and legal proceedings. This helps to ensure quality and continuity of services and care and enhances the supported decision-making process.

Assistive Technology (AT)

AT can make decision-making easier and help people live more interdependently in their communities.

A few examples:

- **Medication management devices**
- **GPS technology**
- **Virtual assistants, like Alexa**
- **Remote monitoring and control of environment**

Medical Power of Attorney

A medical power of attorney is a legal document in which you appoint an agent to make health care decisions on your behalf when you cannot make them for yourself.

Patient Advocates

A patient advocate is the name given to a health care power of attorney in Michigan. Other names include health care power of attorney, health care proxy and durable power of attorney for health care.

Advanced Directives

A Michigan advance directive is a document that lets a person select their end-of-life treatment options in the chance they cannot speak for themselves. This includes an agent that can be nominated to make health care decisions on the person's behalf in addition to treatment options and organ donation selections.

Other Financial Supports

- **Joint accounts**
- **Bill-paying services**
- **Automatic payment withdrawals**
- **Fiscal intermediaries**

Representative Payees

A representative payee is a person, agency, organization or institution the Social Security Administration selects to manage your benefits when it determines that you are unable to do so yourself or direct others to do it for you.

Trusts and Other Savings Accounts

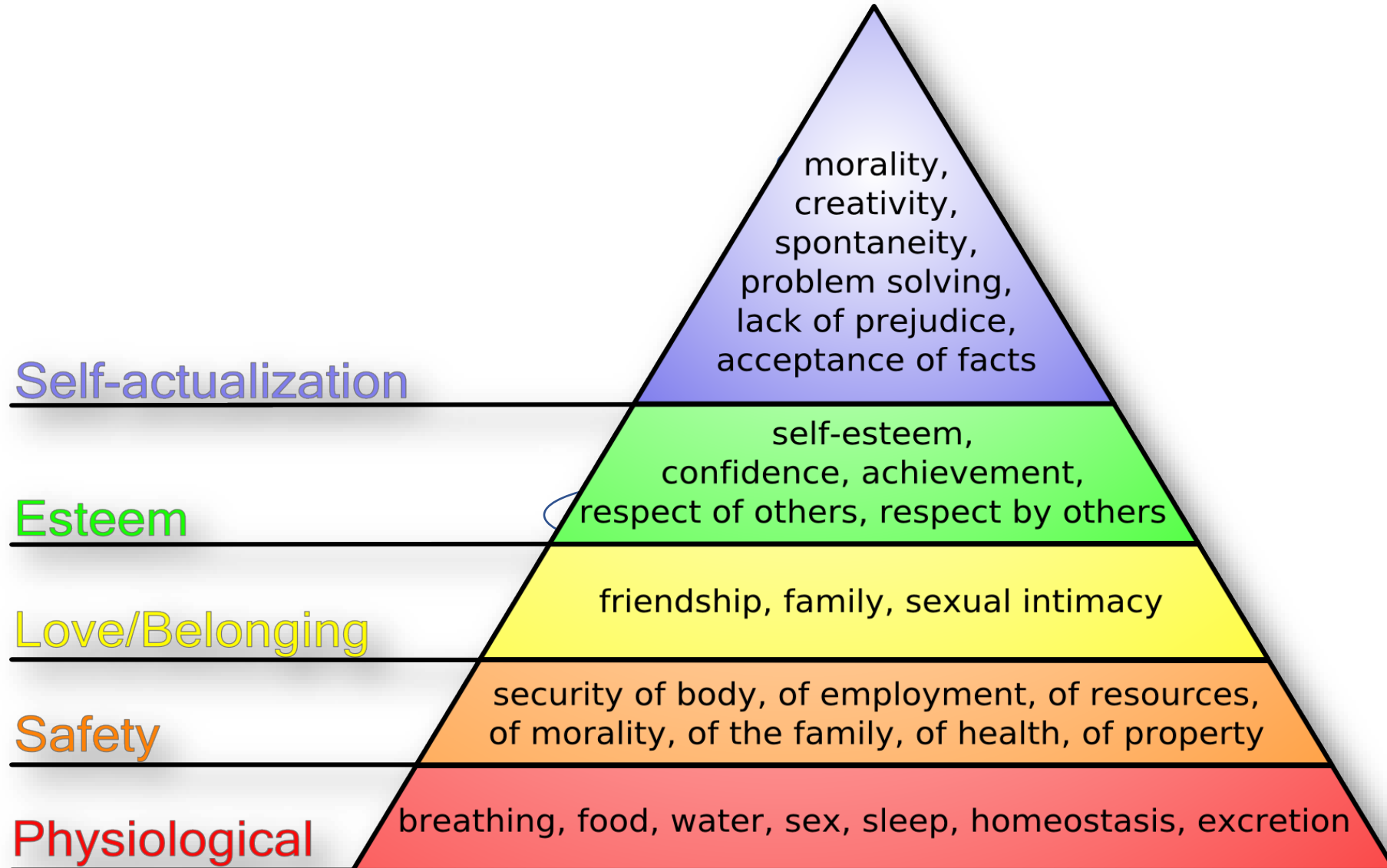
- **Special Needs Trusts**
 - Individual
 - Pooled
- **ABLE Accounts**



Types of Communication

There are many different ways we share information with one another. For example, you might use verbal communication when sharing a presentation with a group. You might use written communication when applying for a job or sending an email.

We are all human beings, so we are all sexual beings



Alarming Statistics

People with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate more than seven times higher than people without disabilities

(Department of Justice as cited by NPR 2018)

Power of Attorney

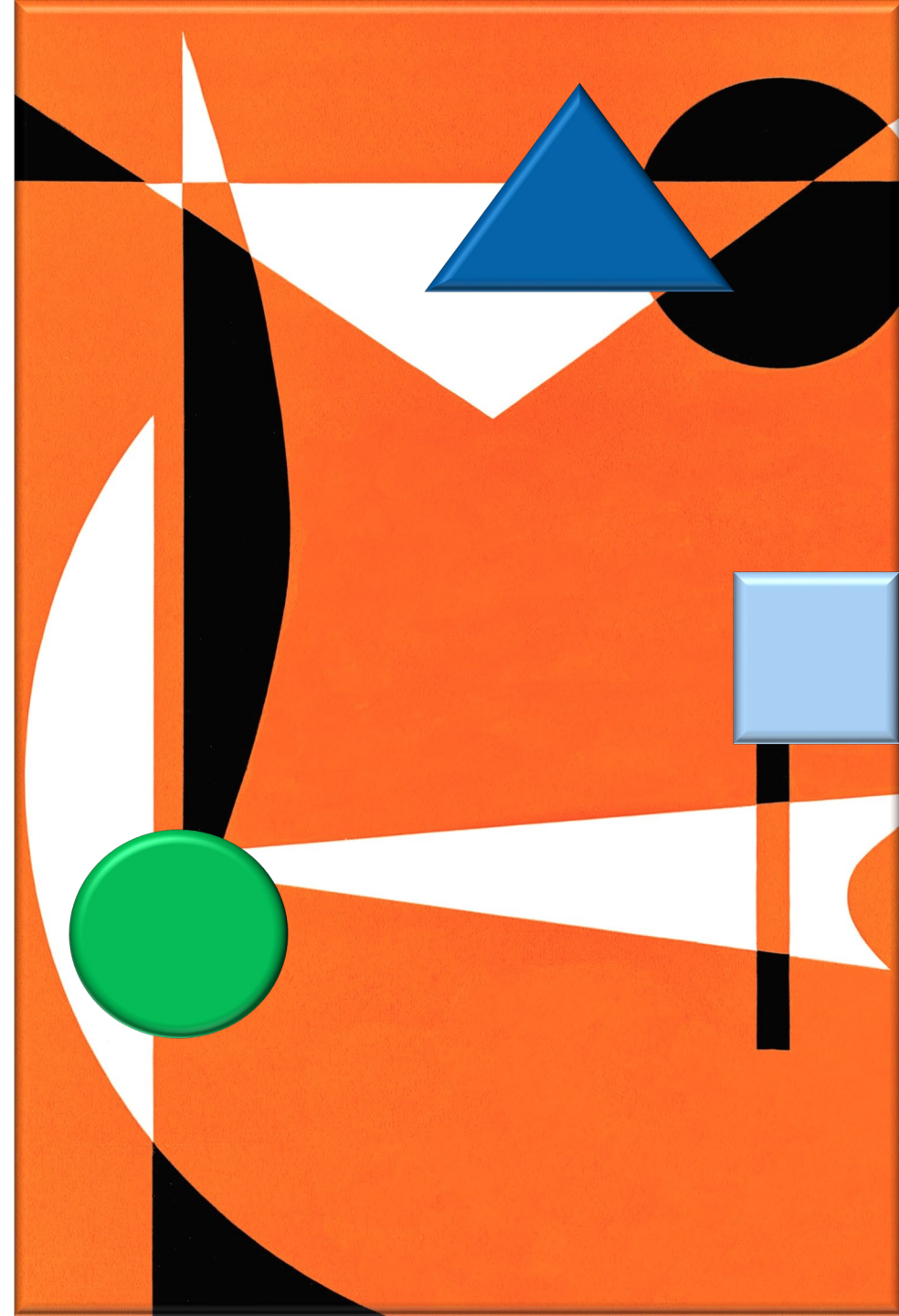
Power of Attorney is a legal document that can be used to give another person the authority to make financial transactions, enter into contracts, make legal decisions and sign legal documents on your behalf.

The Wrap-up

- **Be a strong self advocate**
- **Be person centered**
- **Begin young and continue throughout life**
- **Tie back into the ALL**
- **Don't freeze people in time**
- **Recognize what guardianship can and, can not do.**

CYVYC Youth Ambassador Initiative

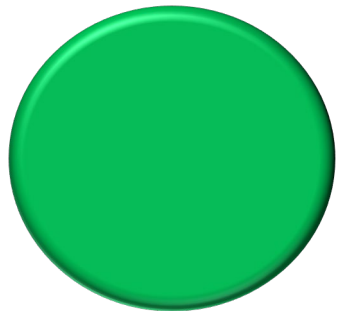
Michigan



Ambassador Selection

Intentionally Seeking Diversity:

- **Regions around our state**
- **Culture**
- **Type of disability**
- **Gender and gender identity**



MICHIGAN'S SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING YOUTH AMBASSADORS



Corissa Pitman-Age 14, pronouns they, them, from Ingham County Michigan

Corissa is a kind and happy student from Lansing in Michigan's, Ingham County. Corissa is 14 years old and in the 8th grade. Favorite things for Corissa are science and reading, and they very much enjoy advocating individually, and for others. Corissa has presented information on women's education and enjoys public speaking. As one of the youngest, supported decision-making Ambassadors in training, Corissa is looking forward to increasing individual advocacy skills as well as helping others to achieve their dreams for their adult lives. When asked why they applied to be an Ambassador, Corissa stated, "This is a great new opportunity for me to learn and give back to my community".



Jenna Lee-Age 16, pronouns she, her, hers, Ottawa County Michigan.

Jenna Lee is 16 years old and lives in Hudsonville MI. She attends Hudsonville High School and will be a Junior this fall. She has a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. Jenna volunteers at the Critter Barn in Zeeland, MI, caring for animals. She also helps with activities at the Laurels Nursing Home and helps at her church with food distributions. In her free time, Jenna enjoys watching YouTube, as well as acting, singing, and public speaking. She loves helping all people, including those with disabilities and is always ready to offer encouragement and a smile. Jenna is excited to be part of the Youth Choice project helping to spread the word on supported decision-making and alternatives to guardianship.



Kaiden Tolbert-Age 18, he his, from Wayne County Michigan.

Kaiden is a proud 2022 graduate of Redford Union High School in Michigan. He will be attending a local community college in the fall to study Education and Human Services. As a young adult with an Asperger's diagnosis, Kaiden found advocating for himself as well as others allowed him to participate in activities that may not have been available to him otherwise. Several years with The Boys Theater of Detroit gave Kaiden the confidence of public speaking and tackling his stage fright. He has been honored to work with the Detroit Chapter of the NAACP and the Living and Learning Enrichment Center of Northville, shadowing a Camp Counselor. Kaiden also worked in the Center's Mod Market where they employ and train individuals with special needs. In his free time Kaiden enjoys bike riding, going to the movies, out to eat and spending time with family and friends.



Jeanie Rowe-Age 20, she, her, from Cass County Michigan.

Jeanie Rowe is a 20-year-old student in the Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District in Cass County, Michigan. Jeanie has always had a desire to help others reach their full potential and wants them to know that they are not alone. She is currently training as a Peer Mentor at Woodlands Behavioral Health, where she will provide support to peers who also receive services there. "I am a strong advocate for all people with disabilities in all aspects of their lives". Helping people understand their right to make their own choices, was very appealing to her and what drew her to become a Supported Decision-Making Youth Ambassador as well.

Resources

- **SSA Resources**

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/>

<https://www.ssa.gov/payee/>

- **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance**

<https://miwipa.org>

- **MiABLE**

miable.org

- **State Bar of Michigan**

<https://www.zeekbeek.com/SBM>

- **The Arc US**

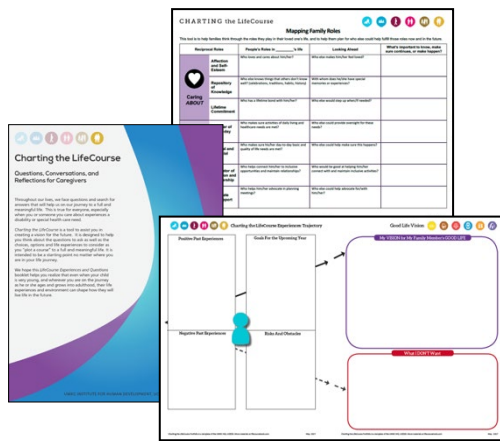
https://thearc.org/find-resources/?search_resource=&audience=searchAudience&type=searchtype&topic=family-support-and-future-planning



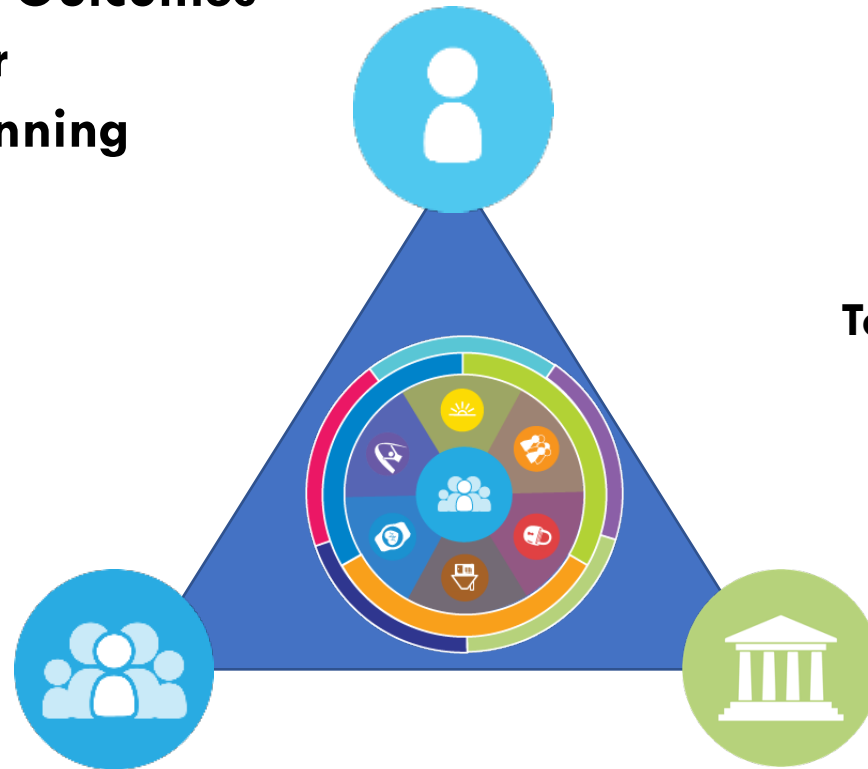
Resources

- **Michigan Alliance for Families**
<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition/>
- **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**
<http://www.Michigan.gov/ddcouncil>
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability/supported-decision-making/sdm-toolkit>
- **Special Needs Trust Information**
<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/special-needs-trusts-30315.html>
- **Joint Banking Information**
<https://finance.zacks.com/put-restrictions-joint-bank-account-11439.html>
- **Power of Attorney Information**
<https://michiganlegalhelp.org/>
- **WIPA Projects (See Handout)**

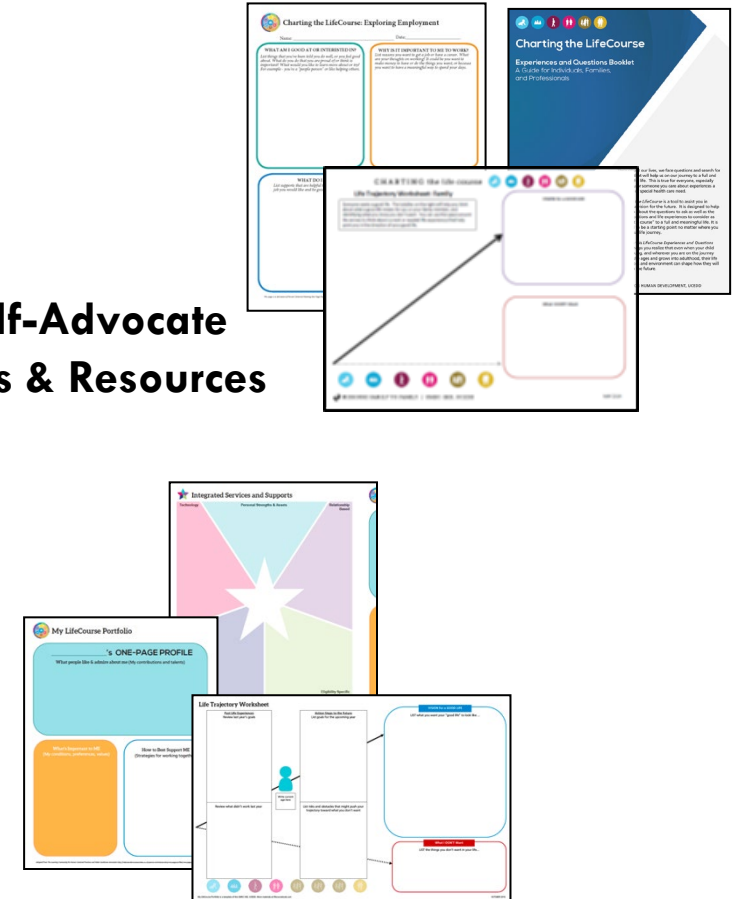
Planning for Life Outcomes and/or Service Planning



**Family Perspective
Tools**



Self-Advocate Tools & Resources



**Formal Planning
Tools and Forms**

Questions

спасибо 谢谢
GRACIAS
THANK YOU
ありがとうございました MERCI
DANKE धन्यवाद
شُكراً OBRIGADO



**What questions
do you have?**



Presenter Contact Information



Corissa Pittman

CYVYC Youth Ambassador

pittman.corrissa@gmail.com



Mary Shehan

Michigan Developmental

Disabilities Council

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