



SARTAC

Self Advocacy and Beyond

SARTAC Fellows:

Advancing
Self Advocacy
through
Leadership and
Policy

John McCarty

Georgia

Supported Decision Making

Partnered with
Creative Consulting
Services
and
Georgia Advocacy Office





It's My Life: Expanding Supported Decision Making

- Supported Decision Making (SDM) enables a person to make his own decisions with assistance from a network of supporters
- Expand Knowledge and Use of SDM
- Develop a tool kit using my own case

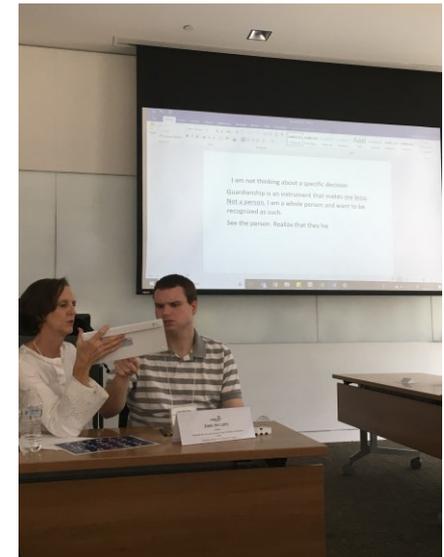
It's My Life: Expanding Supported Decision Making

Plan

- Present to CCS support coordinators
- Establish my own plan
- Restore my rights

Obstacles:

- Presentation scheduling
- Lots of presentations
- Adding to my toolkit



Wow! That turned out better than I hoped!

WHAT I LEARNED AS A FELLOW



- Parents believe guardianship is a magic shield
- Supporters have to be champions
- Old, ignorant bias continues
- I'm getting really good at writing and presenting
- Michelle's commitment: Whoa!

RESOURCES CREATED

- ▶ A toolkit for termination of guardianship
- ▶ A toolkit for supported decision making
- ▶ A PowerPoint with script
- ▶ Three videos.



BEGIN: THE TERMINATION PROCESS

- ▶ Contact information for GAO
- ▶ Attorney is necessary
- ▶ Link to other Protection and Advocacy Offices
- ▶ Established the process for the State of Georgia with Julie Kegley, Attorney at GAO

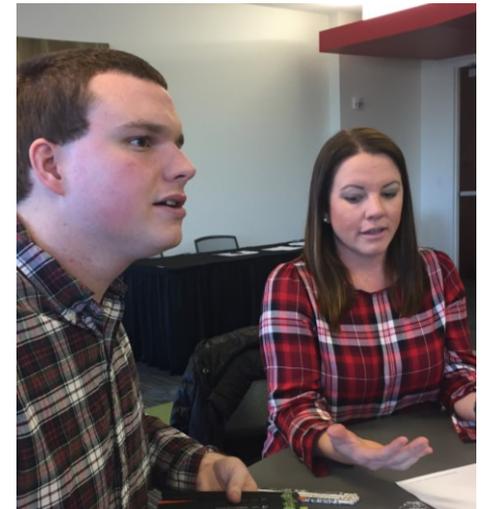


QUESTIONS: POTENTIAL ATTORNEY FOR GUARDIANSHIP TERMINATION

- ▶ List of questions to ask potential attorneys
- ▶ Determine if an attorney is the right one for your case
- ▶ Two attorneys and a probate judge helped me with these

PREPARE: COURT-ORDERED EVALUATION

- ▶ Questions to use to practice for the evaluation
- ▶ Instruments used in court to remove rights
- ▶ Documentation to share with an evaluator
- ▶ Practice answering potential questions
 - ▶ Confident
 - ▶ Overcome negative preconceptions



PRACTICE: QUESTIONS FOR COURT APPEARANCE

- ▶ Questions from my own case
- ▶ Practice answering potential questions
 - ▶ Confident
 - ▶ Overcome negative preconceptions



GETTING STARTED WITH SDM: HELPFUL RESOURCES

- ▶ Very brief subset of information available
- ▶ This is what I used in developing my own plan



SAMPLE: SUPPORTER LETTER

- ▶ Start a conversation or use as is
- ▶ This is what I used in developing my own plan



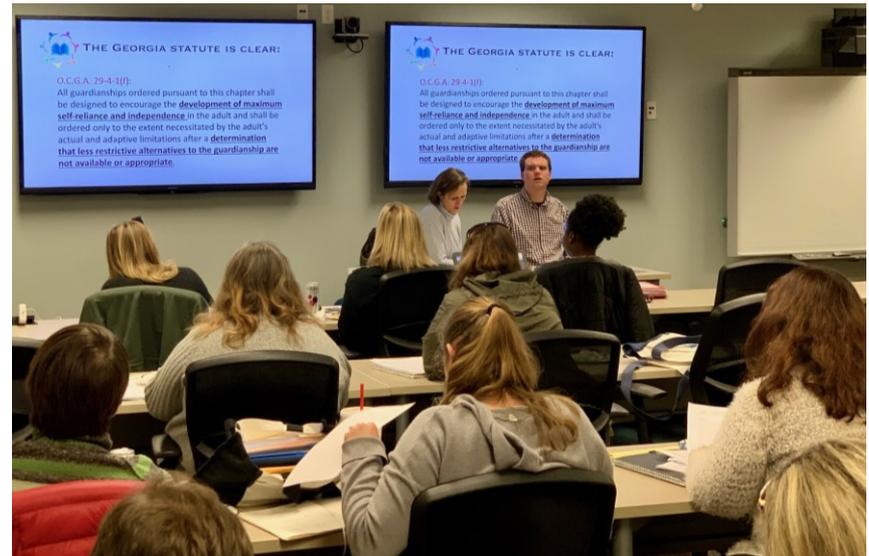
BRAINSTORMING

- ▶ List of questions to get you started with “what do you already know?”
- ▶ This is what I used in developing my own plan



POWERPOINT WITH SCRIPT

- ▶ General presentation with an embedded script
- ▶ Ready to be used
 - ▶ Modify for the audience
 - ▶ Use as is
- ▶ Research
 - ▶ GAO
 - ▶ CCS
 - ▶ NRC SDM



VIDEOS

- ▶ Brainstormed the ideas
 - ▶ GAO
 - ▶ CCS
 - ▶ Multi-media journalist
- ▶ Scripts
 - ▶ The Process of Terminating Guardianship
 - ▶ Why Supported Decision Making Matters
- ▶ Outlined – Parent / Professional Perspective



LEADERSHIP & POLICY RESULTS



ROLE: CREATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

- Brainstorming
- Research
- Editing
- Reviewing
- Scheduling
- Copies
- Computer
- Projector

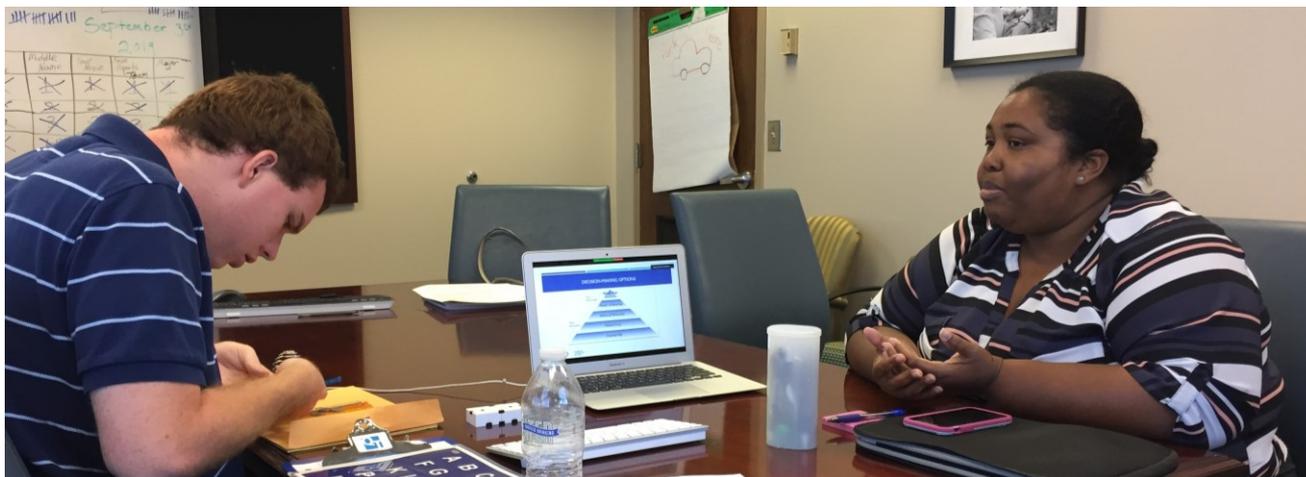


ROLE: CREATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

- Moved forward the mission of CCS
- Service providers, family members and people receiving services
- Guardianship is not necessary
- *“Never underestimate the skill sets of any person once their passion has been identified! “*
- Establishing a consulting business
- Hiring John for additional free-lance work

ROLE: GEORGIA ADVOCACY OFFICE

- Brainstorming
- Research
- Broad access
- National groups and conferences
- Toolkit development
- Video production and costs



EMPLOYMENT RESULTS OR GOALS

- ▶ Lean into my passion; don't give up
- ▶ Public Speaking and Consulting



Sangha Unity Network, Inc.



EMPLOYMENT RESULTS OR GOALS



- ▶ Continued collaboration with GAO



Q&A

You have

Questions

We have

Answers



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The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) seeks to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self-advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership. The resource center is a project of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the oldest national self-advocacy organization in the country. SARTAC is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance, funded by the Administration For Community Living – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The information in this product was written to provide guidance for self-advocates and their allies to assist in understanding policy issues affecting their lives. It is not to be used to determine a person's legal rights or an organization's legal responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, as amended or any other federal, state or local laws written to protect the rights of people with disabilities.