

Supporting Choice and Self-Determination: Less Restrictive Alternatives to Guardianship

Program Description

This program introduces Supported Decision-Making and other less restrictive alternatives to adult guardianship. It explores the relationships between choice, self-determination, and wellbeing, while recognizing there are situations and circumstances that appropriately call for partial or full guardianship.

The speaker shares examples of Supported Decision-Making arrangements, some formal and others informal, including simple steps to initiate their use.

North Carolina's Rethinking Guardianship Initiative is introduced as a resource hub for self-advocates, families, and professionals to learn more about guardianship and less restrictive alternatives.

This program can be provided as a 1-hour introductory presentation, or a 4-hour participatory workshop.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Explain why Supported Decision-Making (SDM) and other options are valuable to individual choice and self-determination.
2. Name and discuss SDM and other options available to support choice and self-determination.
3. Describe how to initiate use of SDM and other options to support individual choice and self-determination.
4. Discuss the Rethinking Guardianship NC initiative.

Target Audience

Healthcare professionals, educators, lawyers, and social workers as well as self-advocates and families

Contact Hours

1-hour or 4-hours

Program Agenda

1-hour presentation	OR	4-hour Workshop
		12:30 PM to 2 PM Choice and Self-Determination
		2:00 PM to 2:15 PM Break
		2:15 PM to 3:30 PM Supported Decision-Making (SDM)
		3:30 PM to 3:45 PM Break
		3:45 PM to 4:45 PM Other Options
		4:45 PM to 5:00 PM Rethinking Guardianship Initiative
		5:00 PM Adjourn

Faculty

Linda Kendall Fields, M.Ed., is a Clinical Associate Professor at the UNC School of Social Work in Chapel Hill. She has dedicated over 35 years to building communities that are responsive to the needs and contributions of older adults, people with disabilities and families in Minnesota, Oregon, Ohio,

Georgia, and North Carolina. During her career, Linda has used Collective Impact and other community engagement strategies to lead numerous health care, nonprofit and government initiatives aimed at supporting individuals and families living in the community and transitioning to the community from long term care facilities. In her capacity at UNC Chapel Hill, and as Coordinator of the Cares Program, she has been facilitating the statewide *Rethinking Guardianship* initiative since 2016; assisting the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) in improving aging & adult services workforce training, implementing the *Dementia Capable North Carolina Strategic Plan*; and *Building Home & Community-Based Service Capacity* with NC Medicaid's Money Follow the Person (MFP) Program.

OR

Alison Climo, MSW, Ph.D., is a community engagement specialist at UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work, Center for Aging and Adult Research and Education Services (CARES). From 2016 to 2022, she served as the coordinator for Age-Friendly Buncombe County. During that time, Alison helped form and facilitated the Housing Options for Aging in Place (HOAP) Working Group, which consists of professionals and community advocates with years of experience and expertise in health, aging, community services, planning, housing, and design. HOAP was featured on North Carolina Public Television's program NCimpact in March 2022.