

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

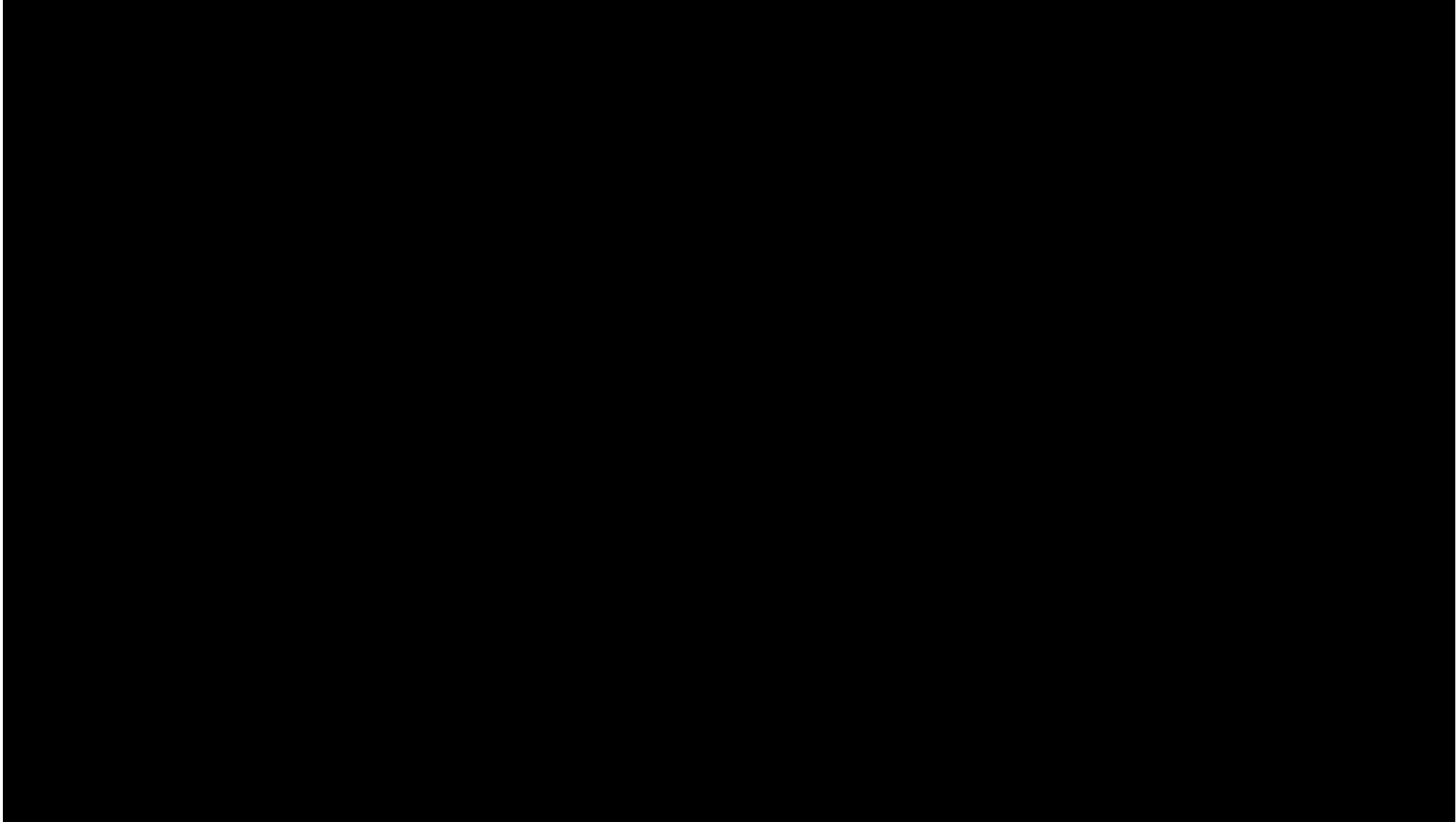


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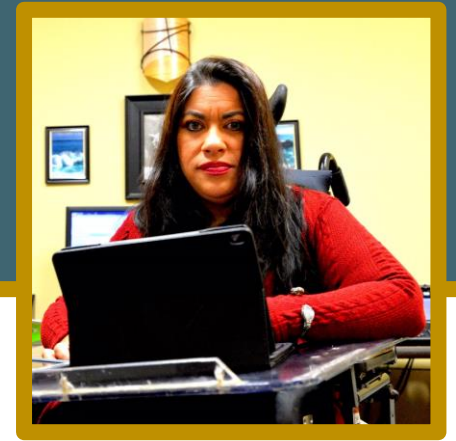
Outcomes for Today

- **Basic overview of Supported Decision-Making**
- **Basic overview of the Charting the LifeCourse Framework**
- **Using LifeCourse tools to support Supported Decision-Making**
- **See ‘real life’ examples on how to use the tools to support the life you want.**
- **How to support others in achieving their good life: A Peer Mentors perspective**

Video



One Adult's Experience



Bonnie didn't start out being such a strong self-advocate

During her senior year, she worked at a chemical factory doing administrative work

She was told she could never make enough money to support myself and that I should go on disability

The advice she got, was that because of her disability, she should aspire to more

She didn't have enough guidance or support at that time, to know that was not true

She didn't have allies who were educating her about finances

At age twenty, she ran away to Mexico, because her mother had passed away, and her Aunt threatened to take guardianship of her

Now, her my life is very different than many people expected

National Core Indicators (2017-2018)

Adults with developmental disabilities served:



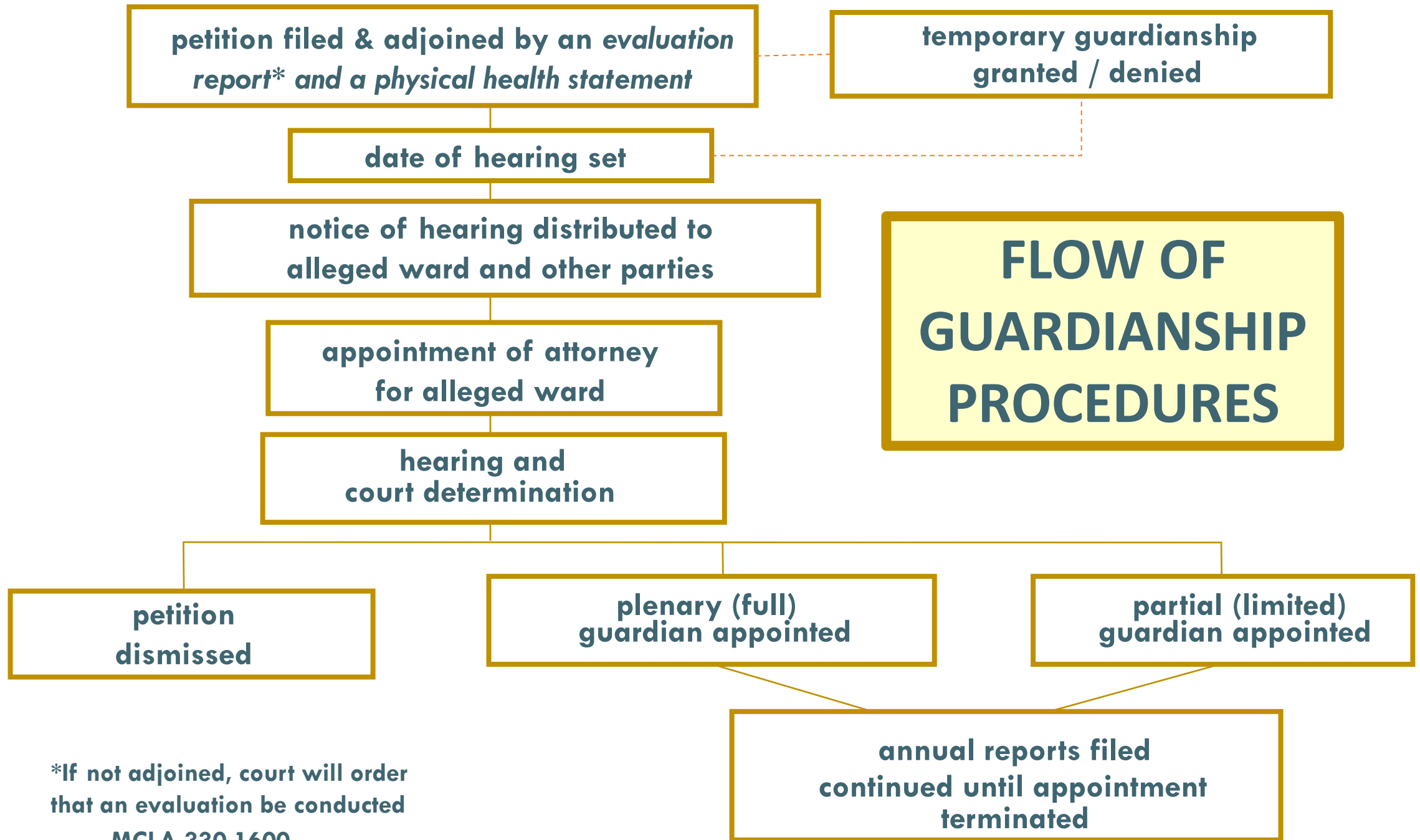
Michigan: 81% Have A Guardian



Nationally: 43% Have A Guardian

What is Guardianship anyway?

Guardianship is a legal situation under which one person, or an entity exercises power over, and on behalf of, another person. That person is called a “ward”.



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**

The Person's Potential Rights in Jeopardy

- Deciding where to live
- Consenting to or preventing any medical and health care or treatment
- Determining when and how to travel
- Spending money
- Making changes in educational or vocational programs
- Participating in legal issues (e.g., contracting or filing lawsuits, buying or selling property)
- Giving permission to have a picture taken and shown for publicity purposes

What are the main concerns with decision-making?

Concerns involving:

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

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



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**

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

Some Decision-Making Supports

- **One-on-one discussion**
- **Circles of support**
- **Pictures and videos**
- **Role-playing/practice**
- **Peer support**
- **Assistive technology**
- **Interpreters**
- **Supported Decision-Making tools can be formal or informal**

Other Supports and Tools

- **Person-centered planning**
- **Self-determination**
- **Release of information forms**
- **Supported decision making agreements**
- **Power of attorney**
- **Medical power of attorney/advanced directive**
- **Representative payees and other financial tools**
- **Trusts**

What is Charting the LifeCourse

What is Charting the LifeCourse?

Created to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages

- *develop a vision for a good life*
- *think about what they need to know and do*
- *identify how to find or develop supports*
- *discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live.*



Holistic Focus Across All Life Domains

People lead whole lives made up of specific, connected, and integrated life domains that are important to a good quality of life. Life domains are the different aspects and experiences of life that we all consider as we age and grow.



Achieving Outcomes for Connected Life Domains



Daily Life and Employment
(school/education, employment, volunteering, routines, life skills)



Healthy Living
(medical, behavioral, nutrition, wellness, affordable care)



Community Living
(housing, living options, home adaptations and modifications, community access, transportation)



Safety and Security
(emergencies, well-being, legal rights & issues, guardianship options & alternatives)

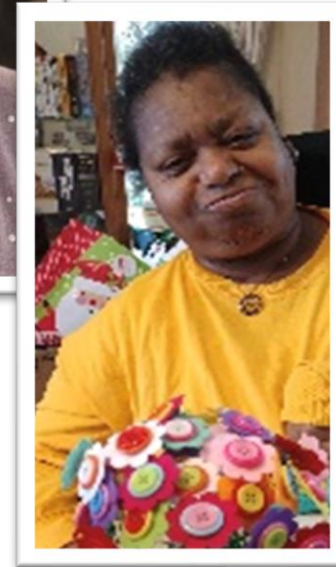
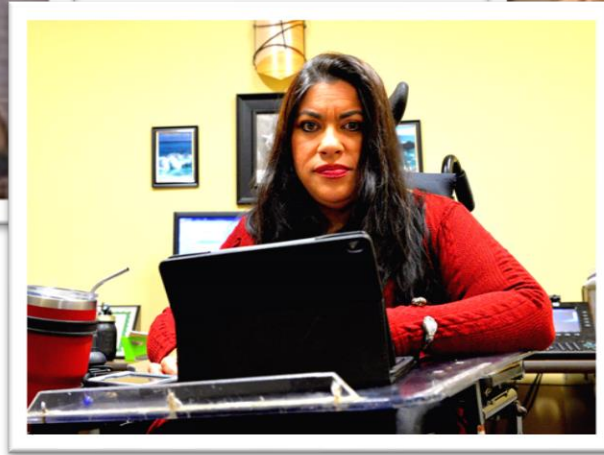


Social and Spirituality
(friends, relationships, leisure activities, personal networks, faith community)



Citizenship and Advocacy
(valued roles, making choices, setting goals, responsibility, leadership, peer support)

So, how do LifeCourse tools fit within the topic of Supported Decision-Making?



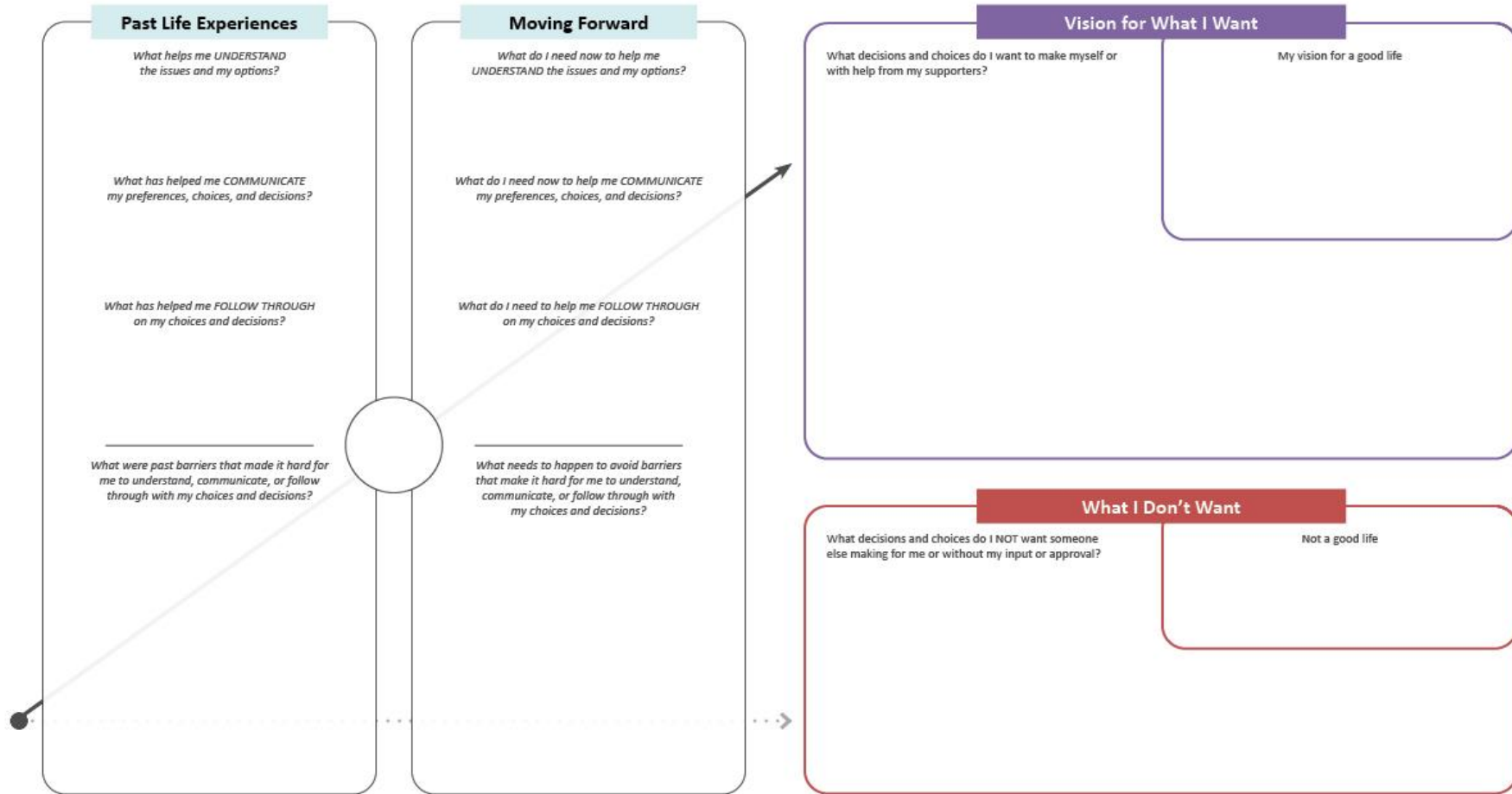
So, how does this thinking fit with Council values on Decision-Making?

- All adults have an equal right to make decisions that affect their lives and to have those decisions respected.
- Persons who require support in decision-making must be provided with access to the supports necessary.
- The choices and rights of persons who may require decision-making support must direct the decisions that affect their lives.
- Laws and legal frameworks must contain effective safeguards in relation to interventions for persons who may require decision-making support, including to prevent abuse and undue influence.

LifeCourse Supported Decision-Making Tools



LIFE TRAJECTORY | SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING



LifeCourse Supported Decision-Making Tools

CHARTING the LifeCourse



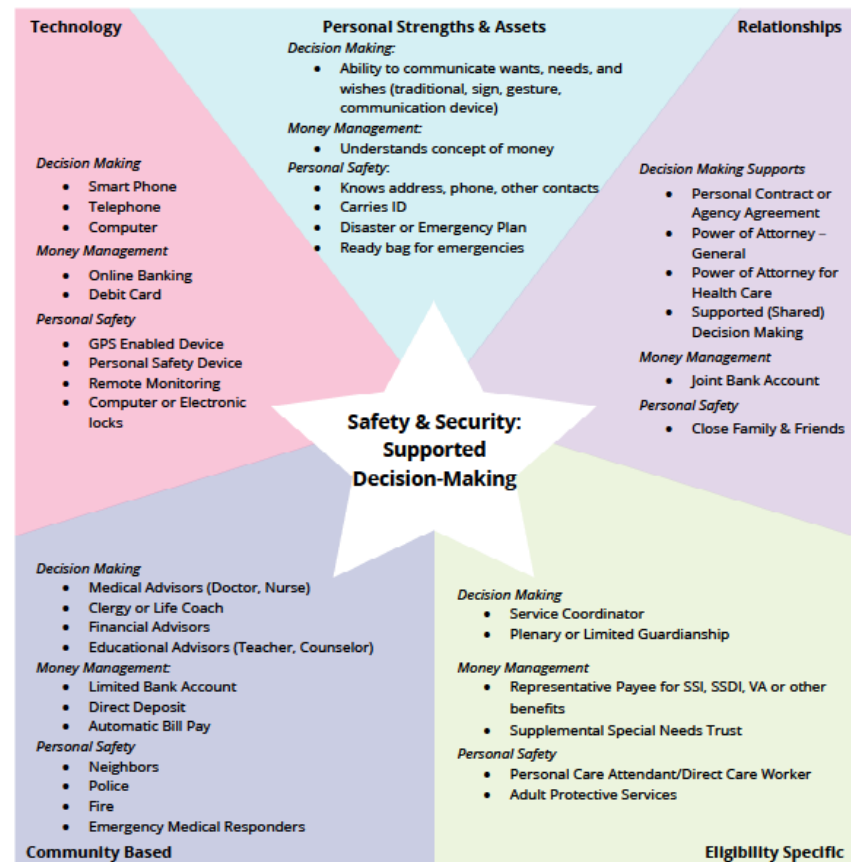
Tool for Exploring Decision Making Supports			
This tool was designed to assist individuals and supporters with exploring decision making support needs for each life domain.			
Name of Individual: _____			
Name of person completing this form: _____			
Relationship to individual (circle one): Self Family 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?			

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.



When Learning Life course Tools is new. Doing one about your own life is helpful.

Here's an example of how I took this tool and completed bout my own life.






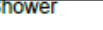
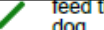

Integrated Support Stars can be used for many purposes


Here's an example of how
you can work through a
problem with it.



































Integrated Support Stars can be used for many purposes


Here's an example of how I took a person's star and developed a schedule with it.

 Chores
  Wake up
  Shower
  feed the dog
  breakfast
  Check in



INTEGRATED RESPITE SCHEDULE

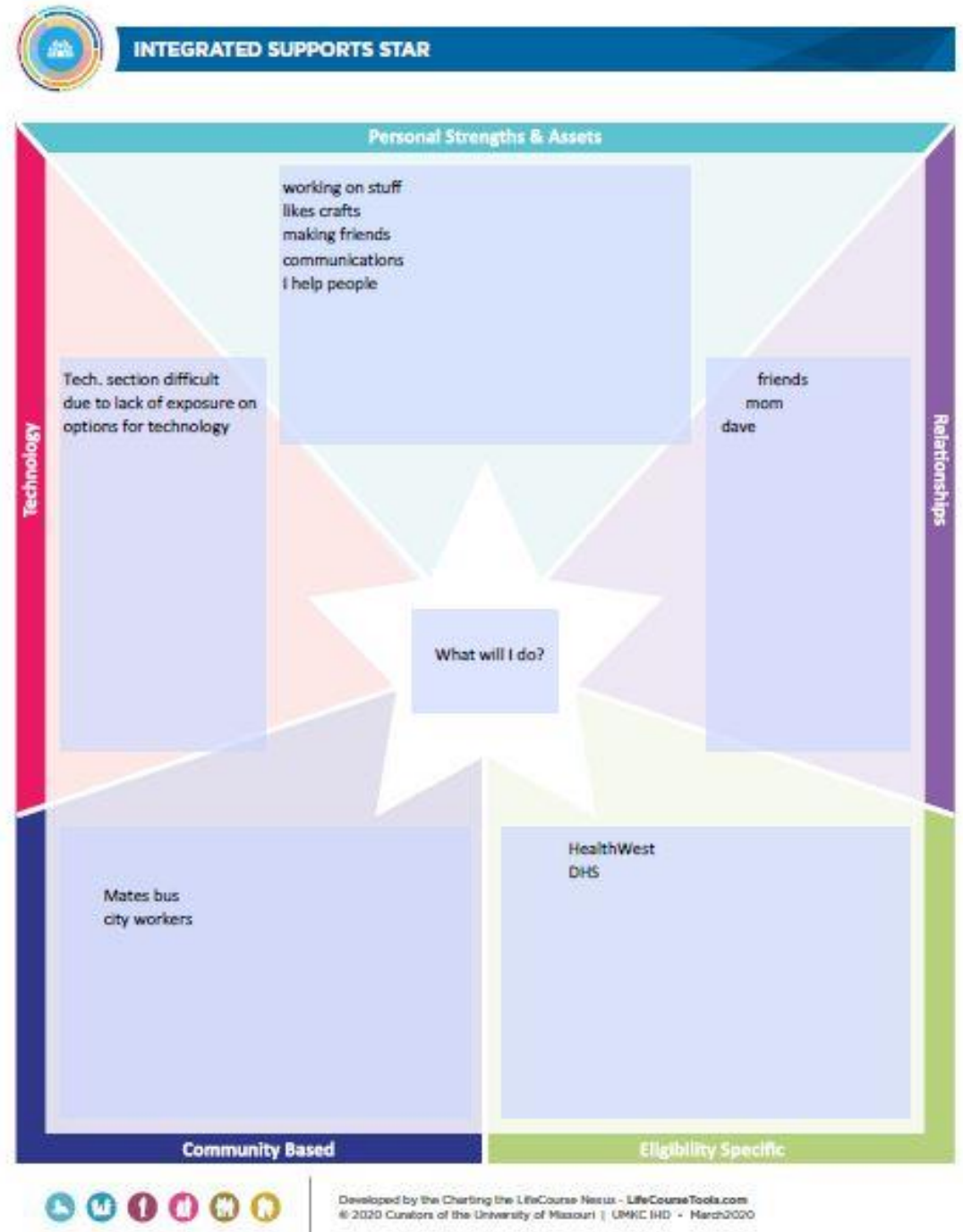
TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
6:00-6:30 AM							
6:30-7:00 AM							
7:00-7:30 AM	 						
7:30-8:00 AM	 						
8:00-8:30 AM	 						
8:30-9:00 AM	 						
9:00-9:30 AM							
9:30-10:00 AM							
10:00-10:30 AM							
10:30-11:00 AM							
11:00-11:30 AM							Help with dishes
11:30-12:00 PM							
12:00-12:30 PM							
12:30-1:00 PM							
1:00-1:30 PM							
1:30-2:00 PM			Help with/ garbage/Recycle				
2:00-2:30 PM	Set table help with it				laundry (1 & 3 sheets)	vacuum	
2:30-3:00 PM			Sweep kitchen entry way				
3:00-3:30 PM		vacuum					
3:30-4:00 PM	Help with dinner				Help with dinner		
4:00-4:30 PM				Vaccum			
4:30-5:00 PM	Dishes	Help with dinner		Dishes	Clean downstairs bathroom		
5:00-5:30 PM							
5:30-6:00 PM							
6:00-6:30 PM						Sweep hall + Downstairs	
6:30-7:00 PM							
7:00-7:30 PM						Clean + Vac Room	
7:30-8:00 PM							
8:00-8:30 PM							
8:30-9:00 PM							
9:00-9:30 PM							
9:30-10:00 PM							
10:00-6:00 AM							



Developed by the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus - LifeCourseTools.com
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Integrated Support Stars can be used for many purposes

Here's an example of how one person used the integrated star to help focus on problem solving.



The Wrap-up

- **Being a strong advocate, be involved in your own life, communicate what you want and don't want**
- **Plan using tools that work for you (Be Person Centered)**
- **Explore the supports that you will need to continue to be in charge, of your life**
- **Tie back into the ALL**
- **Start young and continue teaching/learning throughout life**
- **Don't freeze people in time**
- **How Peer Mentors could be involved**

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>

- **The Arc US**

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

- **MiABLE**

miable.org

- **State Bar of Michigan**

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

Resources

- **Michigan Alliance for Families**

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition/>

- **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**

<http://www.Michigan.gov/ddcouncil>

- **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/>

Resources

Where to find help to get started with supported decision making

- **Contact: your local Arc chapter**

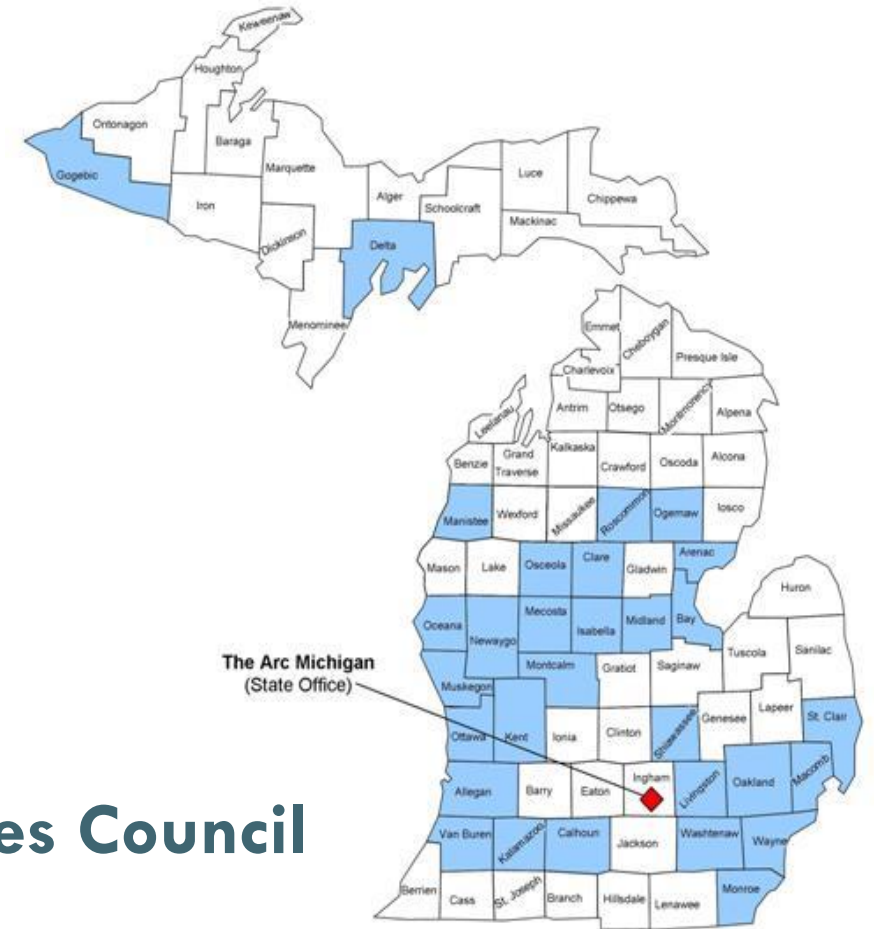
<https://arcmi.org>

- **Contact: the Michigan Alliance for Families**

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition/>

- **Contact: the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**

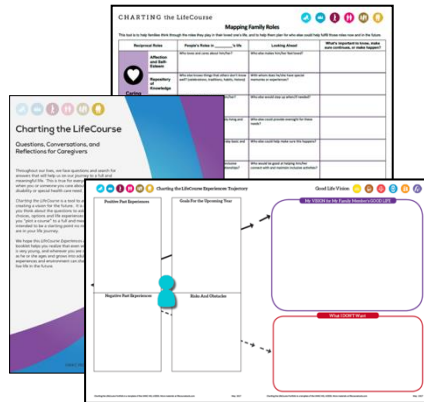
<http://www.Michigan.gov/ddcouncil>



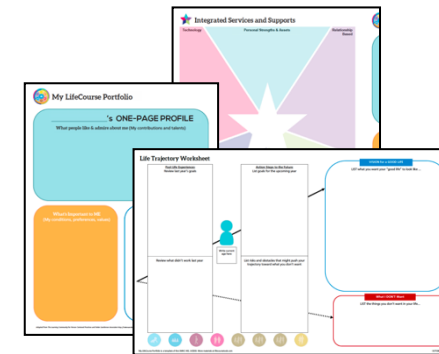
Planning for Life Outcomes and/or Service Planning



Self-Advocate Tools & Resources



Family Perspective Tools



Formal Planning Tools and Forms

Questions

**Thank you for your time and
attention!**

What questions do you have?

