

Purpose of DD Act (mission)

“to assure that individuals with DD & their families participate in the design & have access to needed community services, individualized supports... that **promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life**, through culturally competent programs authorized...unique **strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities** of such individuals.”

Additional Federal V.R. Policy

- January 22, 2001: RSA implemented the principle of integrated employment in a regulation that:

Prohibits placement in sheltered workshops or other segregated settings for “extended employment” from being counted as an employment outcome for the V.R. program.

Which Means

Before seeking or
recommending Guardianship:

**What Else Have You
Tried?**

Guardianship Is NEVER Needed

JUST

- “Because you have ____”
- “Because you’re ____ years old”
- “Because you need help”
- “Because that’s the way its always been”
- “For your own good”

Think About It

How do you make decisions?

What do you do if you're not familiar with the issue?

- Taxes?
- Medical Care?
- Auto Repairs?

What Do You Do?

So, Supported Decision-Making Is A Lot of Words For

Getting help when its needed

Just like you and me

Remember The Goal

EVERY person the “causal agent”
in **EVERY** decision in his or her
life.

- We all need help making decisions
- People with Disabilities may need more or different help but have the **SAME** rights

And

Women with intellectual disabilities exercising more self-determination are **less likely to be abused**

- Khemka, Hickson, and Reynolds, 2005

STIGMA!

Why are you hiding?

Never hide in fear from the
ignorance of others!



STIGMA!

Like the Matrix, it is
everywhere.

And if you look just a little
harder, you just might see it in
yourself!



STIGMA!

Do you feel okay?

Treat your symptoms, don't
hide them in embarrassment!



STIGMA!

What are you hiding?

Your sex

Sexual orientation

Your Age

Your Disability

Your Race

Political Affiliation

Your Religion

Your Weight



STIGMA!

Just because I'm not perfect
like you, doesn't mean I
would want to be as perfect
as you!

STIGMA!

Don't I know you?

Disability is more
common than you think!



STIGMA!

I'm standing right next to you, so you don't have to say it out loud so everybody can hear it!