

1. Provide a brief introduction of the project and overall goal to accomplish by end of year 1

The Supported Decision Pilot Project has an overall goal to increase the use of supported decision-making as a least restrictive alternative to legal guardianship among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families or caregivers. To achieve its goal, the supported decision-making by the project will educate people about supported decision-making agreements and will propose legislation that will recognize supported decision-making as a least restrictive alternative to legal guardianship.

During year one of the grant, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, The Arc of Arizona, and Arizona Center for Disability Law aimed to complete four objectives including:

- Write a white paper outlining the issues and concerns parents and caregivers, people with IDD, and relevant stakeholders face when dealing with legal guardianship
- Establish a two-year strategic plan outlining goals and objectives for the supported decision pilot project
- Create curriculums for parents and caregivers as well as people with IDD and their supports, social service providers and medical staff, and continued legal education for legal stakeholders
- Draft proposed legislation recognizing supported decision-making as a least restrictive alternative to legal guardianship

2. Provide a status of all the key tasks, what has been accomplished to date and what is remaining to fulfill in the last quarter.

SWI and its partners The Arc of Arizona, and ACDL are in the process of completing all four objectives. In terms of completing the white paper, all relevant stakeholders are still being interviewed to get a clear understanding of the issues and concerns people face when dealing with legal guardianship. The white paper should be complete by the end of June and submit it to the advisory committee for final approval.

The advisory committee has provided guidance to the pilot project partners in developing a two-year strategic plan. A draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the advisory committee in July for their feedback and approval. Once the advisory committee approves a strategic plan, they will be submitted to the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council for their approval.

The curriculums for the pilot project are still being developed. The content of the curriculum depends on the issues and concerns identified during the interviews and forums for the legal guardianship white paper. SWI and its partners aim to create the curriculum within the last quarter of year one.

The grant partners have been in contact with Arizona State Sen. Brophy McGee to draft a bill recognizing supported decision-making as a least restrictive alternative to legal guardianship. Spearheaded by The Arc of Arizona, the proposed bill will be based on legislation passed in other states and will address the issues and concerns facing parents and caregivers, people with IDD, and all relevant stakeholders. The arc of Arizona and its grant partners are in

communication with the senator and other partners to create a draft bill that will be submitted during the 2020 legislative session.

3. Provide a summary of the barriers to date

SWI and its grant partners have encountered a couple of barriers in meeting its objectives for year one of the grant. Those barriers include identifying the issues and concerns people face around legal guardianship using online surveys and developing draft legislation for supported decision making.

As part of the grant, a survey would be conducted of all relevant stakeholders to identify the issues and concerns people face around legal guardianship. When developing the surveys, advisory committee did not believe surveys would yield the type of information the grant partners were seeking. The advisory committee suggested using a different approach other than surveys to collect information.

A barrier encountered during the drafting of supported decision-making legislation involved working with a senator to draft a bill they felt comfortable sponsoring. Sen. Brophy McGee initially agreed to sponsor a bill for supported decision-making but insisted on developing a draft bill by January 2019 for the 2019 legislative session. This requirement did not meet our timeline as the grant partners had scheduled to work on a draft bill during the fourth quarter of year one of the grant.

4. Provide a summary of how those barriers will be addressed/overcome by the end of the first year of funding.

Barrier 1: To overcome the barrier of identifying the issues and concerns people face around legal guardianship, the advisory committee suggested we do interviews and forums instead of online surveys. By doing interviews and forums, there is a greater probability of getting the information we need. To this end, SWI and its partners are conducting interviews and forums of relevant stakeholders in northern, Central, and southern Arizona. The interviews and forums are still being conducted and will help develop the curriculum for supported decision-making.

Barrier 2: To meet the requirements of Sen. Brophy McGee, the grant partners worked with the advisory committee to develop a draft bill by January 2019. While the deadline for the senator was met, the senator did not feel comfortable submitting a draft bill considering she was sponsoring several bills during the 2019 legislative session and she did not have enough time to address some of the concerns she had with the draft bill.

The senator is still interested in sponsoring a bill around supported decision-making and would like to submit a bill during the 2020 legislative session. The grant partners will work with Sen. Brophy McGee staff during the summer of 2019 to address any issues she may have around supported decision-making and will develop a draft bill that will be submitted during the 2020 legislative session.