

Direct Connection



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**CONNECTING WITH THE
DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

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Supported Decision-Making

Imagine having your capacity to make decisions, sign contracts, vote, defend your rights in court, or choose medical treatments taken away simply because you have a disability. For many persons with disabilities, this is a fact of life, and the consequences can be grave. When individuals lack the legal capacity to act, they are not only robbed of their right to equal recognition before the law, they are also robbed of their ability to defend and enjoy other human rights. This statement was taken from [United Nations Enable](#), the official website of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD).

The Convention recognizes that some persons with disabilities require assistance to exercise this capacity, so states must do what they can to support individuals to make their own decisions. Supported Decision-Making is a movement that ensures individuals have the right to make their own life choices with the support network of their choosing.

With supported decision-making, the presumption is always in favor of the person with a disability who will be affected by the decision. The individual is the decision maker; the support person explains the issues, when necessary, and interprets the signs and preferences of the individual. Even when an individual with a disability requires total support, the support person should enable the individual to exercise his/her legal capacity to the greatest extent possible, according to the wishes of the individual.

This spring [Missouri AAIDD](#) will host Jonathan Martinis who will present a workshop in Columbia and St Louis Area (St Peters) entitled, *Beyond Guardianship: Supported Decision-Making by Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*. Mr. Martinis is the Legal Director of Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities and the Project Director of the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making.

Jonathan has over twenty years of experience representing people with disabilities to protect their legal and human rights. In 2013, Jonathan represented Margaret “Jenny” Hatch in the [“Justice for Jenny”](#) case – the first to hold that a person has the right to use Supported Decision-Making to make her own life choices instead of being subjected to a permanent, plenary guardianship.

More information about Supported Decision-Making can be found at: <http://supporteddecisionmaking.org/>

Remote Support Means Independence for Ronnie



For decades, Ronnie, who is supported by a Comprehensive Waiver administered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, said he wanted to live on his own, but he knew that he still needed some support to help him prove that he could get along by himself. Ronnie said that Rhonda Noe, Public Administrator, and Mike Hartman, Professional Manager from Chariton Valley Association, both took the time to listen and help him work toward his dream of living by himself. Remote support helped make Ronnie's dream come true.

Remote support is a versatile, technology-based service that is cost-effective and provides real time monitoring to assure the safety of someone from a remote location. State-of-the-art technology is used to operate systems such as live audio feed and home security services to meet each person's individual needs. Ronnie and his support team decided that remote support could help Ronnie achieve more independence.

Rhonda Noe said it well, "How do we know just how independent a person can be unless we support the person to find out?" She indicated that building remote support into traditional support increases the individual's ability to become self-sufficient and helps to ensure health and safety needs are met.

When asked what he would say to someone who was thinking about using remote support, Ronnie replied "Go for it, Just do it!"

Technology Innovations Webinar Archive Now Available

This webinar from the National Community of Practice on Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities explores how to think through the supports individuals and families use and how technology can be incorporated to aid independent living or support caregiving.

The webinar includes real life examples of technology that benefit people with disabilities and their caregivers. It also includes resources that are available to help individuals and families connect with technology that fits their needs.

Presenters included:

- David Baker, Missouri Assistive Technology
- Katie Hanley, Oak Hill Centers
- Ed Holen, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

To view the webinar and see featured resources and links from the presentation, visit:

<http://supportstofamilies.org/technology-innovations-webinar-archive-now-available/>

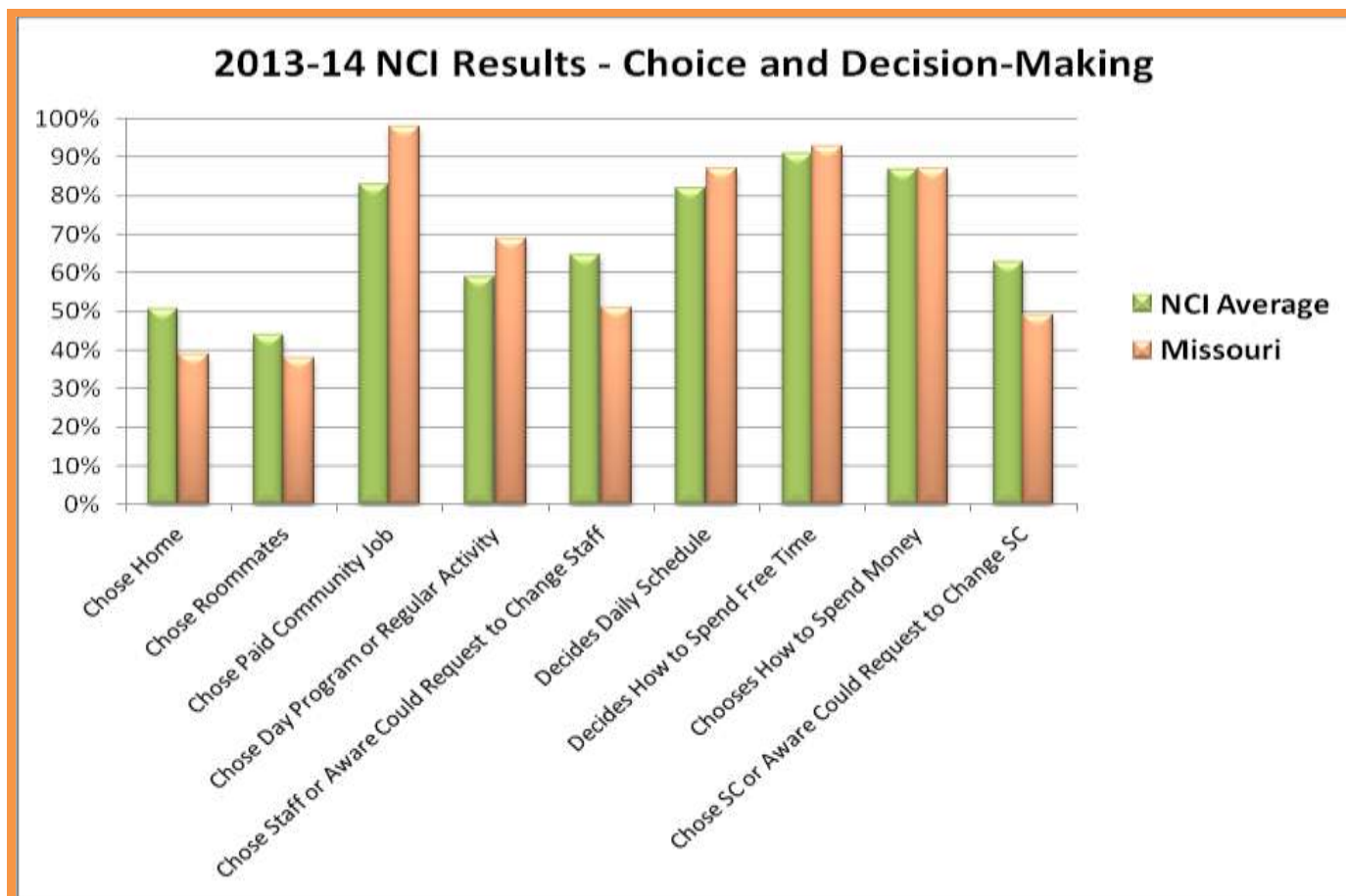


National Core Indicators (NCI) Choice and Decision-Making

National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HRSI). NCI supports NASDDDS member agencies in gathering a standard set of performance and outcome measures that can be used to track agencies' own performance over time, compare results across states, and establish national benchmarks.

An important focus of NCI is the gathering of information directly from service recipients through a variety of surveys. Each year, staff members at the Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) administer the Adult Consumer Survey (ACS) to a random sample of individuals 18 and over receiving at least one service in addition to case management. Interviewers meet with individuals to ask questions about where they live and work, the kinds of choices they make, the activities they participate in within their communities, their relationships with friends and family, and their health and well-being.

Choice is just one topic that is analyzed for states by NCI. It is important that people make choices about their lives and are actively engaged in planning their services and supports. Missouri DD plans to use NCI data to drive quality improvement initiatives. State and national results for the NCI Adult Consumer Survey can be found online at: <http://www.nationalcoreindicators.org>.



Community Calendar

March 23, 2016 – Save the Date – Supported Decision Making with Jonathan Martinis, Columbia, MO – More information will be posted on the MOAAIDD website: <http://moaaidd.org/>

“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

-Rosa Parks

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
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Improving lives THROUGH
supports and services

THAT FOSTER self-determination.

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH