



UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2022



From June through December 2022, the Alternatives to Guardianship Project has provided consulting and training services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. It has also been developing working relationships with thought leaders and organizations that provide services to or advocate for the rights of people with developmental disabilities. The following is a list of project activities.

June through August 2022:

- Began the 1:1 free consultations/mediation for 32 individuals and/or their families/caregivers; out of the 32 participants, there were only 4 that decided guardianship was the best fit and no longer wanted to continue any further consultation;
- Attended Real Voices Real Choices Conference and handed out information on our project and upcoming opportunities;
- Attended MOWINGS quarterly meeting;
- Made connection with Morgan, Cape Girardeau , Cole county Public Administrators for collaboration and referrals. Also have been invited to their MO Public Administrators Conference in April of 2023 to provide a presentation;
- Contracted professional for research and consultation and developed an advisory board that consists of several professionals across the country who will provide input on current and future project tasks/activities;
- There are 7 individuals and their families that have completed their initial services and originally had full guardianship in their future planning and through our consultation and education, have decided to try a lesser restrictive alternative and have already put it into place. 5 Supported Decision Making agreements, and 2 Power of attorney over Medical and Financial.
- We are actively working with two individuals under full guardianship and their families in working towards rights restoration. We will continue to work with them on the SDM plan and gather data that will assist them if/when they go to the court requesting restoration.
- On our website, there is a “What’s New” section link that states what we have worked on and any trends in other states.
- We have completed sending survey letters to stakeholders in the state requesting documentation on past activities, resources, data regarding alternatives to guardianship and how they reached Missourians with I/DD in order to capture previously collected data and statistics to enhance our project research.
- Met with Down Syndrome Innovations to discuss collaboration and referrals for our project.

September through November 2022:

- This quarter we held steady with 1:1 free consultations/mediation for 37 individuals and/or their families/caregivers; 35 caregivers/family members were provided 4 hours of 1:1 consultation and training on all aspects of guardianship vs. alternatives. 7 individuals with I/DD participated with their family/caregiver during the consultation/training sessions, and 2 support coordinators requested and went through our consultation program separate from the individual/family groups;
- We attended the MACDDS Conference and handed out information on our project and upcoming opportunities;
- We presented at the What's Next Workshop in partnership with Summit Futures Foundation;
- We attended LSR7 (Lee's Summit School District) Transition Fair to provide information regarding Guardianship and Alternatives;
- Completed our advisory board with several professionals across the state with a history of advocacy with alternatives to court appointed guardianship;
- Continue ongoing social media posts;
- Update What's New section of website and share with public and stakeholders;
- Interviewed specific court judges, attorney, and Public Administrators for research and production of data that will be used in further project activities and advocacy;
- Attended MACDDS;
- Attended high school transition fair;
- Presented at What's Next Workshop at Summit Future Foundation;
- Continue to collaborate with "Voices for the Voiceless", Rita Richards advocacy group in North KC;
- Collaborated with Summit Futures Foundation, Cassidy Jobe, on her What's Next Workshop for transition planning Collaborated with Spectrum Institute to network and pass out information at the national ARC conference in Denver (Tom Coleman attended and networked with national stakeholders —passed out information on our project).
- We have been awarded SB40 funding from Jackson and Platte Counties to provide initial case management tasks and this will include information and training/consultation on guardianship and alternatives. This will supplement our 1:1 4 hour consultation that is provided through MODDC grant in order to continue longer term supports for those who do not yet have Medicaid;
- Continue to provide latest data/research to DOJ that is needed for their investigation