

# Missouri Medical Rights Workgroup

exploring decision-making options for patients with developmental disabilities

The American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, Spectrum Institute, and the Alternatives to Guardianship Project have convened a workgroup to explore medical decision-making options available to adults with developmental disabilities.

Workgroup participants include a wide range of stakeholders in Missouri, including self advocates, parent advocates, and representatives from disability rights advocacy groups, disability services organizations, state and local government agencies, and professional and trade associations representing the interests of a variety of health care providers.

The workgroup will identify ways in which patients, families, and providers can work together to protect the medical rights of this patient population while also respecting the ethical and legal duties of health care professionals.

The workgroup will meet monthly by zoom. For six months, meetings will focus on medical rights publications of the Alternatives to Guardianship Project. Workgroup discussions will identify areas of agreement as well as issues needing further exploration. Discussions will attempt to build a consensus for best practices to enhance the medical decision-making rights of adult patients with developmental disabilities so that guardianship recommendations are only made by health care providers when truly necessary. Compliance with disability nondiscrimination laws will guide these discussions. When the discussion phase is complete, a report will share the results of the workgroup's deliberations.

Workgroup participants include individuals from the following organizations: Missouri Association of Public Administrators, Missouri Protection and Advocacy, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services, Community Health Worker's Association of Missouri, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri State Medical Association, University Health Lakewood Dental

Services, University of Missouri School of Social Work, Missouri State University School of Social Work, The Arc of the Ozarks, and Missouri Coalition for Oral Health. Also participating are the Chief Medical Director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Information Specialist Director of the Developmental Division of the Department of Mental Health.

See: [Roster of Participants](#)

**About the Organizers.** The American Academy on Developmental Medicine and Dentistry ([AADMD](#)) is a national association of medical professionals who provide services to patients with developmental disabilities. [Spectrum Institute](#) is a nonprofit engaging in research, education, and advocacy to protect the medical rights of this patient population. The [Alternatives to Guardianship Project](#), a function of Hulme Resources Inc., is funded by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to identify and promote feasible alternatives to guardianship.



## Workgroup Coordinators

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