SARTAC Fellows:
Advancing Self Advocacy through Leadership and Policy
John McCarty
Georgia
Supported Decision Making
Partnered with Creative Consulting Services and Georgia Advocacy Office
• Supported Decision Making (SDM) enables a person to make his own decisions with assistance from a network of supporters

• Expand Knowledge and Use of SDM

• Develop a tool kit using my own case
Plan
• Present to CCS support coordinators
• Establish my own plan
• Restore my rights

Obstacles:
• Presentation scheduling
• Lots of presentations
• Adding to my toolkit

Wow! That turned out better than I hoped!
WHAT I LEARNED AS A FELLOW

• Parents believe guardianship is a magic shield

• Supporters *have* to be champions

• Old, ignorant bias continues

• I’m getting really good at writing and presenting

• Michelle’s commitment: Whoa!
RESOURCES CREATED

- A toolkit for termination of guardianship
- A toolkit for supported decision making
- A PowerPoint with script
- Three videos.
BEGIN: THE TERMINATION PROCESS

- Contact information for GAO
- Attorney is necessary
- Link to other Protection and Advocacy Offices

- Established the process for the State of Georgia with Julie Kegley, Attorney at GAO
QUESTIONS: POTENTIAL ATTORNEY FOR GUARDIANSHIP TERMINATION

- List of questions to ask potential attorneys
- Determine if an attorney is the right one for your case
- Two attorneys and a probate judge helped me with these
PREPARE: COURT-ORDERED EVALUATION

- Questions to use to practice for the evaluation
- Instruments used in court to remove rights
- Documentation to share with an evaluator
- Practice answering potential questions
  - Confident
  - Overcome negative preconceptions
PRACTICE: QUESTIONS FOR COURT APPEARANCE

- Questions from my own case
- Practice answering potential questions
  - Confident
  - Overcome negative preconceptions
GETTING STARTED WITH SDM: HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Very brief subset of information available

- This is what I used in developing my own plan
SAMPLE: SUPPORTER LETTER

- Start a conversation or use as is
- This is what I used in developing my own plan
BRAINSTORMING

- List of questions to get you started with “what do you already know?”

- This is what I used in developing my own plan
POWERPOINT WITH SCRIPT

- General presentation with an embedded script
- Ready to be used
  - Modify for the audience
  - Use as is
- Research
  - GAO
  - CCS
  - NRC SDM
Brainstormed the ideas
- GAO
- CCS
- Multi-media journalist

Scripts
- The Process of Terminating Guardianship
- Why Supported Decision Making Matters

Outlined – Parent / Professional Perspective
ROLE: CREATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

- Brainstorming
- Research
- Editing
- Reviewing
- Scheduling
- Copies
- Computer
- Projector
ROLE: CREATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES

• Moved forward the mission of CCS

• Service providers, family members and people receiving services

• Guardianship is not necessary

• “Never underestimate the skill sets of any person once their passion has been identified! “

• Establishing a consulting business

• Hiring John for additional free-lance work
ROLE: GEORGIA ADVOCACY OFFICE

- Brainstorming
- Research
- Broad access
- National groups and conferences
- Toolkit development
- Video production and costs
EMPLOYMENT RESULTS OR GOALS

- Lean into my passion; don’t give up
- Public Speaking and Consulting
EMPLOYMENT RESULTS OR GOALS

- Continued collaboration with GAO
Q&A
You have Questions
We have Answers
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The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) seeks to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership. The resource center is a project of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the oldest national self-advocacy organization in the country. SARTAC is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance, funded by the Administration For Community Living – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The information in this product was written to provide guidance for self advocates and their allies to assist in understanding policy issues affecting their lives. It is not to be used to determine a person's legal rights or an organization's legal responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, as amended or any other federal, state or local laws written to protect the rights of people with disabilities.