

Lafayette Town Hall Guardianship Roundtable Notes

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What does Guardianship mean to you?

- Loss of civil rights
- Entire loss to control their own life
- Greater risk of institutionalization, segregation, loss of financial autonomy
- Forced into situations they don't want or have no say in
- There is a bias in the legal and medical community

Role of the CILs

- Centers for Independent Living should not be involved in guardianships except to restore capacity
- Look at who is obstructing people from using skills

Redesigned System

- Speak to SA first
- Involve a truly independent advocate with no skin in the game; an advocate for independent living; an independent third-party
- Need recourse to challenge; checks + balances
- Monitor GALs and judges on how many guardianships are approved versus directed annual redetermination at least
- Require SDM and more intentional capacity restoration
- Allow as much self-determination as possible
- Require potential guardians to be educated on alternatives and supports

What needs to be considered when discussing Guardianship?

- Person at risk needs to be primary driver of discussion
- Do they understand what it means to them
- Who is benefiting from the guardianship?

- Are other supports able to meet needs of person affected
- Who is really monitoring the guardian?

Is guardianship ever appropriate?

- Hard to think of an example of when a full guardianship would be appropriate
- CILs should not be guardians
- CIL has a unique disability rights role
- Guardianships are in conflict with what CILs stand for; guardianships are not independence

What's the purpose of this round table?

- What are we doing with this info?
- Don't want this to waste time and be shoved in a drawer

Use Supportive Decision Making

- System needs robust checks and balances