

# Supported Decision Making Research at the University of Kansas

Karrie A. Shogren, Ph.D. ([shogren@ku.edu](mailto:shogren@ku.edu))  
Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D. ([Wehmeyer@ku.edu](mailto:Wehmeyer@ku.edu))

Beach Center on Disability / Kansas University Center on  
Developmental Disabilities



# A Framework for Research and Intervention Design in Supported Decision-Making

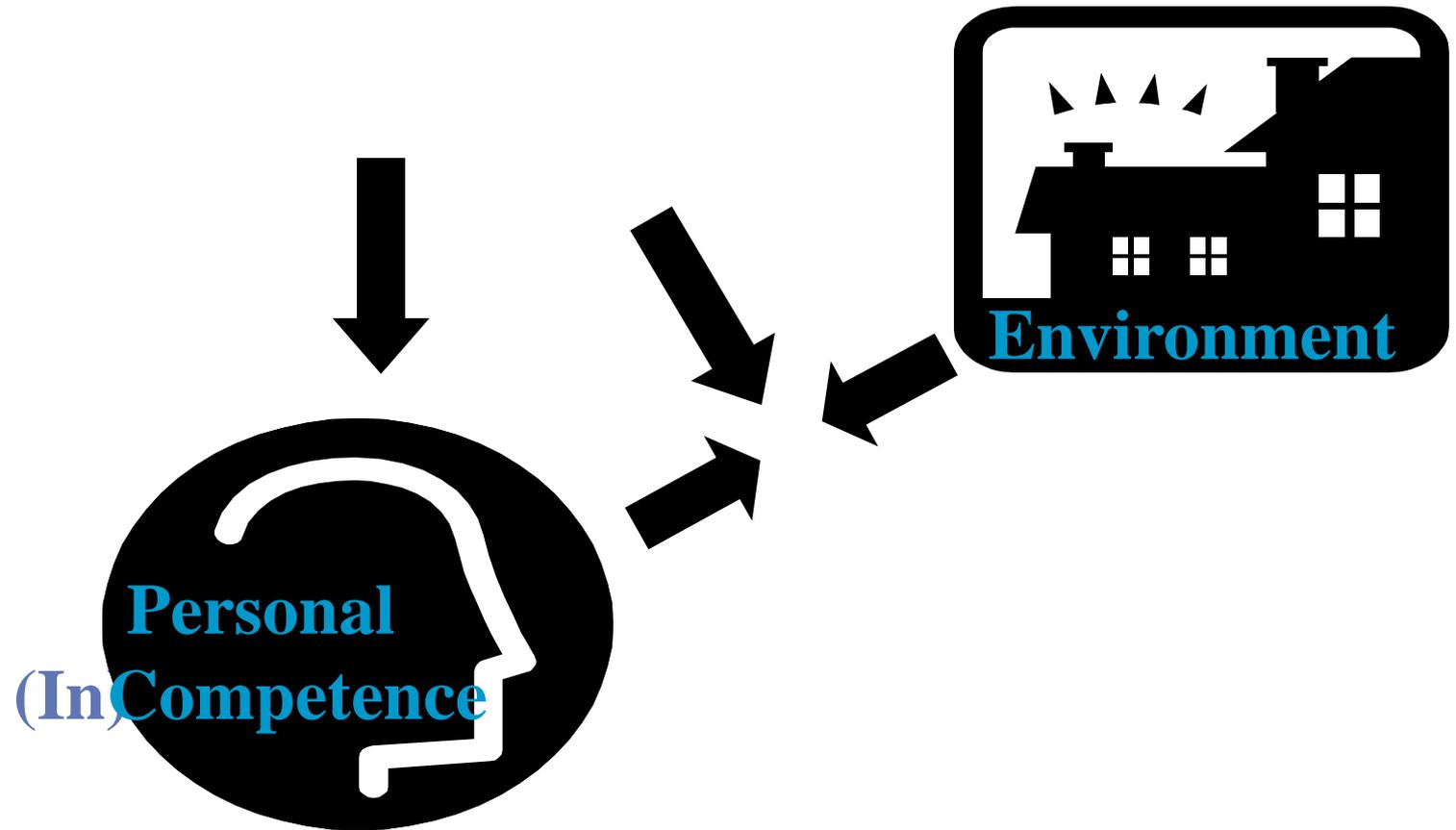
(Shogren & Wehmeyer, 2015)

- Three-pronged approach for designing assessments and interventions based on a social-ecological model of disability
  - Decision-making abilities
  - Environmental demands for decision making
  - Supports needed for decision making

# Social-Ecological Understandings of Disability



# Social-Ecological Understandings of Disability



# Decision-Making Abilities

- Decision theorists define decision making as:
  - Choices among competing courses of action
  - Involves making judgement about which solution is best at a given time
- Steps to decision-making
  1. Identifying alternative courses of action
  2. Identifying the possible consequences of each action
  3. Assessing the probability of each consequence occurring
  4. Choosing the best alternative
  5. Implementing the decision

# Environmental Demands for Decision-Making

- In attempting to understand the factors that impact decision making abilities and the demands of the environment for decision making we used context as an integrative framework (Shogren, Luckasson & Schalock, 2015)
  - Reviewed the literature to identify person and environmental factors that impacted decision-making

<b>Personal Factors</b>	
<b>Sociodemographic characteristics</b>	Age, gender, education level, race/ethnicity, language
<b>Decision-Making Experience</b>	Exposure to previous decision-making opportunities, experience with previous interventions and outcomes
<b>Disability characteristics</b>	Cognitive functioning
<b>Co-occurring conditions</b>	Secondary medical conditions, medication side effects, behavioral support needs
<b>Emotional factors</b>	Perceived quality of life, level of stress, fear of making decisions, beliefs about decision-making capacity, concerns about impacting others
<b>Environmental Factors</b>	
<b>Accessibility of information</b>	Accessibility of information, manner of communication, complexity of intervention presented, time provided for communication, level of concreteness
<b>Complexity of Decision</b>	High vs. low stakes decisions, costs associated with recommendations, risk associated with decisions, timing of decisions (long term vs. crisis)
<b>Relationships with Providers</b>	Trust / existing relationship with medical or support provider, influence of support providers on decision-making (e.g., does the provider direct or facilitate)
<b>Opportunities for Decision-Making</b>	Degree to which personal preferences are respected in the environment, opportunity for choice in the environment, living in integrated settings (vs. congregate settings)
<b>Family Attitudes about Decision-Making</b>	Processes used by family of origin for making decisions, level of involvement of family in decision-making, attitudes toward decision-making of those with disabilities

# Needed Supports for Decision-Making

- Supports are defined as resources and strategies that enhance human functioning
  - Individualized and relate to specific need for supports
  - To enable supported decision-making must create systems of supports that enable individualized supports for decision-making based on the needs of a person

# Needed Supports for Decision-Making

- Reviewed the literature, focused on person-level supports for decision making
  - Communication and problem solving skills
  - Advocacy skills
  - Social networks
    - Person centered teams / planning
  - Decision making aids
    - Simplified info about medical decisions
    - Visual presentation of financial information

# Supported Decision-Making: ACL-funded Measurement Development

- Assessment Frameworks
  - Developing the Supported Decision Making Inventory System (SDMIS)
    1. Developed and piloting a 'suite' of means to measure factors related to personal decision-making skills and abilities, environmental and decision contexts, and decision-making supports needed.
      - a) Involves multiple formats, from self-report to interview to observational
      - b) Assuming multiple means (and thus an "inventory system" and not just a "measure") to support the implementation of SDM and the efficacy of efforts to promote SDM
    2. Multistep process
      - a) Conducted extensive literature review in three domains measured by the SDMIS (decision-making abilities, environmental demands for decision making, and supports needed for decision making).
      - b) Generated items/processes for assessment/measure
      - c) Pilot testing measure prior to use in Study 1 (next slide)
      - d) Develop user's guide

# Supported Decision-Making: NIDILRR-funded Research

- Study 1: Examining Mediating and Moderating Variables Impacting Supported Decision Making and Relationships Among Supported Decision Making, Self-Determination, and Satisfaction with Life.
  - Purpose: To explore the relationships among SDM, self-determination, choice opportunities, and satisfaction with life over time; determine the personal (i.e., age, gender, disability type and level of impairment, level of support need, education status, employment status) and environmental factors (i.e., opportunities for choice, residential placement, and provider policies and practices regarding SDM) that mediate and moderate these relationships; and the personal and environmental factors that most strongly predict SDM and its effect on self-determination, choice opportunities, community living and participation, and satisfaction with life.
- Study 2: Promoting Supported Decision Making-An Intervention Study and Evaluation of the Self-Determined Supported Decision Making Model.
  - Purpose: To develop and evaluate the efficacy of an intervention, the *Self-Determined Decision Making Model* (SDDMM) to enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to engage in self-regulated problem solving, goal setting, and goal attainment pertaining to making decisions in their lives.