

The Future is Now: Leveraging Enabling Technology to Transform I/DD Supports

NASDDDS Conference, November 2025





Cathy Robinson
Associate Director, Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Don Shirley
President, SafeinHome
Services, LLC

Chris Patterson
Co-Owner/Founder, Night Owl Support



Today's Learning Objectives

- Provide general overview of Indiana's Innovation Pilot Project (IPP) initiative and included pilots, as well as resulting products.
- Share framework for maximizing one-time grant opportunities into long-term systems improvements.
- Overview of the barriers that limit use and uptake of remote supports today as well as the benefits of remote supports.
- Methods for expanding the implementation of remote supports, as well as promoting education and awareness in their state.



“On a sentimental note, it is promising to see a group of grantees come together with the state to so productively collaborate on ways to improve services for people with disabilities. Aside from the tangible deliverables, one of the most impactful takeaways for this grantee has been the spirit of Hoosiers coming together to help support individuals with disabilities in a way we have not seen before.”



IPPs provided an Opportunity To:

- Demonstrate new service models that could be expanded.
- Build private/public partnerships to expand opportunity for employment and community engagement.
- Investigate unique ways of meeting needs of individuals seeking or receiving services from DDARS/BDS.
- Explore ways of improving the lives of Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



DDARS Guiding Framework & Considerations for IPPs

1102 Taskforce Recommendations

Waiver Redesign Initial Concept Paper & Path Forward

Future Direction with Waiver Transition

FSSA Spend Plan Areas of Priority

Ability to Implement, Measure, & Report on Outcomes and Demonstrate Proof of Concept

Major Themes of IPPs

- Information and Skill Building for Individuals
- Community Partnership/Community Change
- Supporting those who Support
- Support Through Technology
- Modifying our Current Models of Services and Payment (Music Therapy, Shared Living, Behavioral Support, Employment Related System Transformation)



-
- Two of the IPP grantees aimed to enhance utilization of Remote Support services in the state. This included providing an opportunity to explore new means and methods to address the needs of Hoosiers with disabilities and helped inform an ongoing effort to transform waiver supports and services.
 - These grantees, Night Owl Support Systems and SafeinHome, will highlight their grant projects and detail their impact on Hoosiers with disabilities. With the grant period having ended, DDARS will share how they are leveraging findings to inform ongoing systems transformation.



Indiana's **Innovative** Choice

**Real People.
Real Impact.**





Indiana's Innovative Choice: **Expanding Service Access**

- Used ARPA funding to **increase access** to Support Services
- Opened doors for people who needed support but had none
- Chose people over paralysis in a workforce crisis

Meet Nevaeh

- 14 Years Old
- Central Indiana
- Enjoys free time after school
- Often home alone, on evenings & weekend
- At risk for exploitation
- Wants to feel safe and secure



Nevaeh: Life with Remote Supports Services

- Regular check-ins ease anxiety
- Reminders support daily routines
- Biometric door lock gives peace of mind
- Today: safe, secure, and supported



The SafeinHome **Innovation Pilot Project**

Delivered **an immediately available, person-centered** support model

Provided services to people on waitlists **and in rural communities**

Increased use of Remote Supports to **expand service access** and independence



Demonstrated **a potential future waiver models** and innovative approaches

Advanced Indiana's goals for independence, self-determination, and learning



Supporting Everyday Independence

- Choosing where to live
- Choosing when support is needed
- Deciding how to spend time
- Confidence in daily routine

Future Opportunities: **Scaling Service Impact**

- Expand service access to reduce waitlists
- Embed Remote Supports in case manager onboarding as a standard option
- Improve the workforce crisis by reallocating DSP capacity



People Are Waiting. Support *Can* Start Now

- Remote Supports are proven, reliable, and scalable
- Indiana demonstrated what's possible with innovative funding choices
- Expanding access today reduces waitlists and strengthens the workforce
- Policy decisions now determine how many people move from waiting to living independently

Remote Supports Curriculum

CRSE

NOSS





Current Challenges

Guardian/Case Management
Resistance

Turnover – RS Since 2009,
Organizational Knowledge Limited

Lack of Process Awareness

Who Can Succeed with Remote
Supports

Proposed Solution

CRSE.IN – Remote Supports Online Education Platform

- Provider-Agnostic
- CAIRSS-Aligned
- State-Specific
- Competency-Based
- Compact & Thorough



CRSE.IN

Content

Fundamentals of Remote Supports

Benefits of Remote Supports

Who Can Benefit from Remote Supports

Roles and Responsibilities

Speaking with the Team

How Remote Supports Work in Indiana

Evaluation Method

Pre- and Post-Course Assessments

Ordinal Response Options

e.g. "Not Very Prepared", "Somewhat Prepared",
"Prepared", "Very Prepared"

Assign Values to Answer Options

e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4

Statistically Evaluate Learner Results

Paired-Samples Statistics

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Avg Score Pre-Course	1.5825083	101	.831873308	.0827744879
Avg Score Post-Course	2.4092409	101	.5193611206	.0516783602

“These results imply that the intervention had a meaningful impact on improving the measured outcomes.” – Dr. Allison Howland, IPP Technical Assistance

Paired-Samples t-Test

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower (95% Confidence Interval of the Difference)	Upper (95% Confidence Interval of the Difference)	t	df	One-Sided p	Two-Sided p
Avg Pre/Post	-.8267	.6337	.0660	-.9577	-.6957	-12.518	100	<.001	<.001

“The paired samples t-test reveal significant improvements from pre-test to post-test across all items and overall scores. Each pair shows a negative mean difference, indicating that post-test scores were consistently higher.” – Dr. Allison Howland



Remote Supports Service Impact in Indiana (2024)



543,824

Combined Service Hours

98.6%

Retention Rate

95.4%

Task Completion
Rate

NOSS

55.8

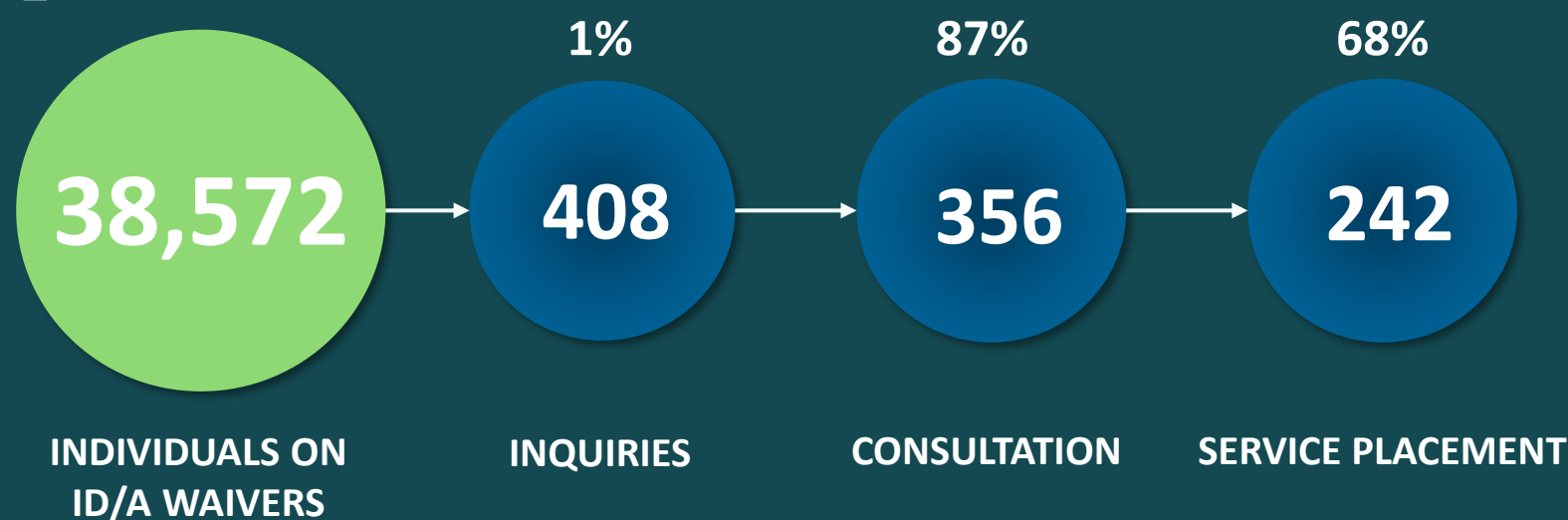
Avg Months on
Services

140

No. of Individuals Living
More Independently

Obstacles to Increased Remote Supports Utilization

- Awareness of Remote Support Services
- Case Manager & Guardian Understanding of Remote Support Services



Past & Present Considerations

- Expansion of Remote Supports into Family Supports Waiver
- Flexibility to use natural supports, family members as the “back up”
- Indiana's definition for Remote Supports
 - *Why it's important to include technical safeguards in regulations
(central station, backups, generator, etc.)



Future Considerations

- Reality of state budgets and necessity for finding workable, sustainable models for ensuring support for individuals
 - *Default support being in-home staff 24/7 is no longer sustainable
- Remote supports have demonstrated ability to reduce costs and alleviate impacts of staff shortage





