

A FAMILY WORKS TOGETHER TOWARD AN SDMA SIGNING

Andrew is 25, and a student at Queensborough Community College in the Melissa Riggio Scholars Program, studying theater and music. He likes sports, movies, cooking, music (especially pop and hip-hop) and, as facilitator Karen reports, "so much more!" He also has a wonderful family of mom Lorna, dad Rich and brother Keith; they worked closely with him and Karen in completing his SDMNY facilitation process, and in celebrating his SDMA signing last weekend (where Keith also promised Andrew that he would "always have Andrew's back!")



Facilitator Karen, Mentor Joan, Supporter Keith, Andrew, Supporters Lorna and Rich

An important part of the facilitation process is what we call "mapping," which we use to "unpack" how decisions are made by everyone, the seven steps that go into every decision, and how by "mapping" those steps, Decision-Makers can identify where they may need support in different areas, and which steps they are able to do on their own.

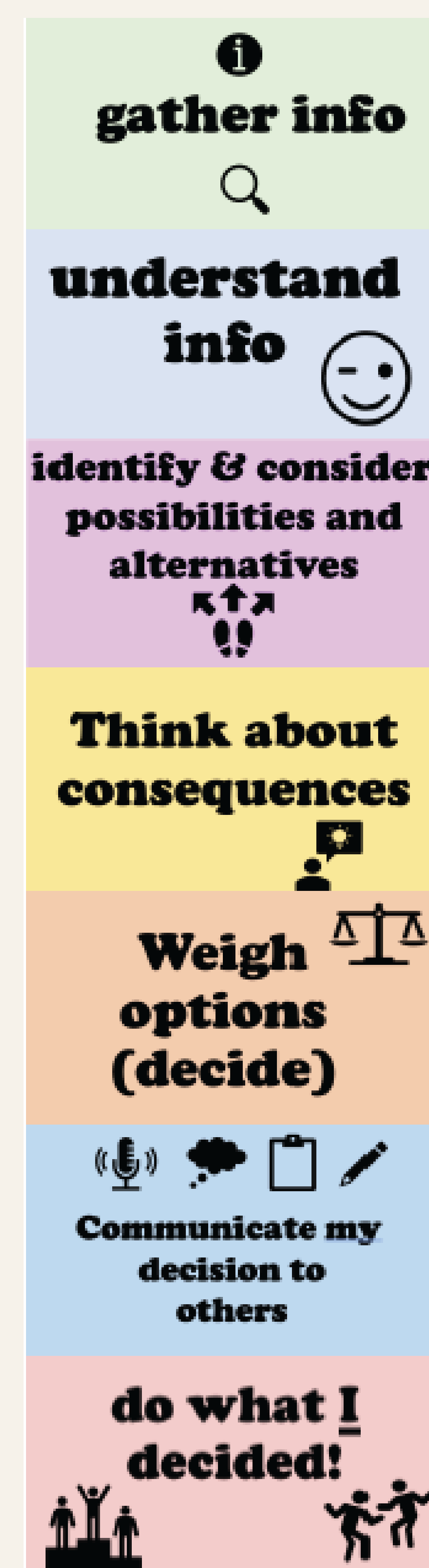
According to Lorna, Andrew already had a lot of clear ideas about what he wants and doesn't want for himself, and that instead of making decisions "on the spot" he takes his time to make them. As part of Phase 1, Andrew worked on mapping with facilitator Karen, but Rich got involved as well. In Phase 3, while reviewing the decision-making steps and discussing support around them, Rich talked about how he and Andrew explore previous decisions Andrew has made and how they turned out as a way of thinking about current and future decisions. The discussion that ensued ended up as part of the SDMA; in it, Rich agreed to support Andrew in

"Gathering information, including exploring how things went from [Andrew's] previous experiences/decisions."

Karen summed up the process this way:

"I am excited about Andrew's path as a Decision-Maker! He has gathered his Supporters together, and identified the ways he wants their support with incredible thoughtfulness. His supporters' respect for his autonomy & growth has been incredible to witness."

We are always excited to see how the facilitation process we have designed and piloted over the past 7 years resonates with Decision-Makers and their families, and how the tools we have created enable Decision-Makers to make their own decisions with the support of trusted people in their lives.



CONGRATULATIONS-AND THANKS FOR THIS AFFIRMATION- TO ANDREW, HIS FAMILY AND FACILITATOR KAREN!