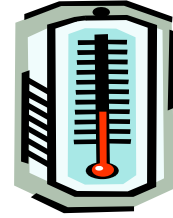


# Degrees of Mean



## What is “Degrees of Mean”?

“Degrees of Mean “is a presentation for individuals and their staff to learn together how to identify what makes a safe home and work environment and know what to do if they feel unsafe. Once there is an understanding of what is safe, presentation reviews what it means to experience being bullied, neglected or abused and what to do. Overall Degrees of Mean is to help individuals speak up and have a voice if they see something wrong.



## Why be part of “Degrees of Mean”?

Short answer – Knowledge is Power!

Over the last several years the DDS Self Advocate Coordinators have been assisting people to have a voice and speak out against abuse, neglect and bullying. People know that knowledge is power and if you

understand your rights you have the knowledge to speak up if you see something wrong.

The Self Advocate Coordinators ask the following questions:

1. Do you know what bullying is?
2. Do you know what neglect is?
3. Do you know what abuse is?
4. Do you have a “safe person” to talk to if you don’t feel safe?
5. Do you know how to advocate for yourself? – Speak Up and Speak Out!

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership (The Partnership) and The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) collaborated in 2013 to develop a training for individuals to be empowered about understanding how to speak up against abuse, neglect and bullying.

Working together to create materials to support:

- Developing safe and meaningful relationships
- Creating a positive environment
- Understanding their rights and responsibilities in order to make informed decisions
- Becoming valuable citizens in their community and self-advocates for their lives
- Building on strengths to become leaders in the community



## **Who should participate in hearing the presentation of “Degrees of Mean”?**

Everyone! Especially individuals **with** their support staff.



## **Who presents “Degrees of Mean”?**

This Power Point presentation is to be done by a support staff and an individual. It is important that a staff person and an individual present the information together. Some private provider agencies using this presentation have partnered their Human Resource staff and a self advocate who receives supports from their agency. Overview training on how to present this Power Point can be provided by the DDS Self Advocate Coordinators and the DDS Self Determination Directors.



### **Is there a video for this presentation?**

There is not a video of the presentation because we think presenting the information person to person is very important. There is a video that can be viewed prior to the Degrees of Mean presentation. “No! How!!” Co-written by Dave Hingsburger. It can be purchased from Diverse City Press for \$55.00: <http://diverse-city.com/dvds/> It is a dated video but it does make the point of speaking out with your voice makes a difference.



### **When should “Degrees of Mean” be presented?**

This simple Power Point presentation can be done anytime as long as there are 2 presenters – an individual and staff. Reviewing the material and making sure each person knows what they are saying and presenting is very important to make sure everyone at the presentation understands the information and knows how to speak up and speak out!