# The Supports Intensity Scale: Utilizing a Standardized Tool in Promoting Individualized Outcomes

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## Objectives:

- 1. Identify effective methods for the practical application of concepts related to improving the delivery of services for persons with developmental disabilities
- 2. Identify advances in clinical assessment and management of selected healthcare issues related to persons with developmental disabilities
- 3. Identify and emphasize attitudes that enhance the opportunities for persons with DD to achieve their optimal potential
- 4. Develop strategies to promote community inclusion in meeting the needs of persons with developmental disabilities.

Notes:

## **SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE®**



Utilizing a Standardized Tool in Promoting Individualized Outcomes



## **GETTING ACQUAINTED...**

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## **AGENDA**

- Overview of SIS®
- Supports Defined
- Shifting Paradigms
- Promoting Individual Outcomes
- Successful Implementation
- SIS® Administration
- Questions



## What is the SIS®?

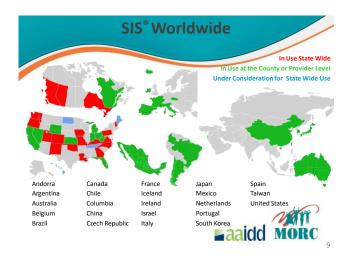
A standardized assessment designed to measure the **pattern** and **intensity** of supports a person (16 years and older) with intellectual disabilities needs to be successful in community settings.

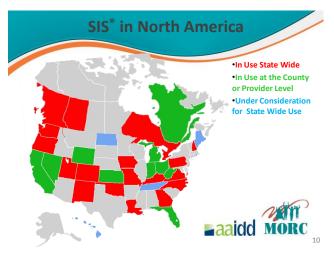
#### Where did it come from?

Developed by AAIDD over a 5 year period from 1998 to 2003 in response to changes in how society views and relates to people with disabilities. Released in 2004.



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## Why the SIS® Makes Sense

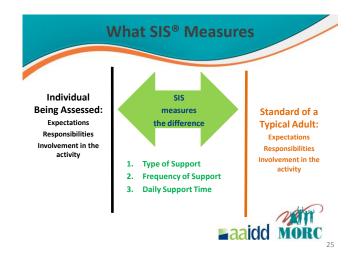
- SIS provides <u>practical information</u> using a common language.
- SIS is <u>comprehensive</u>: evaluates the pattern and intensity of needed supports in 6 Life Activity Domains (common to ALL persons), protection and advocacy activities, and exceptional medical and behavioral support needs.
- SIS <u>involves the individual</u> as a vital source of information.













## **Steps to Success**

- Clarity of Vision
- Staff Training
- Staff Selection
- Internal Protocols
  - "Internal/External Quality Controls
  - "Evaluation/Improvement Plan
- Administration & Information Tools





## **Support Needs**

## Comprehensively Evaluates the Pattern and Intensity of needed supports in:

- 6 Life Activity Domains common to all adults
  - ✓ Home Living Activities
  - ✓ Community Living Activities
  - ✓ Lifelong Learning Activities
  - ✓ Employment Activities
  - √ Health and Safety Activities
  - ✓ Social Activities
- Protection and Advocacy Activities
- Medical and Behavioral Support Needs





## Conclusion

- Questions & Answers
- Discussion
- Contact Information



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### **Supports Intensity Scale® | FAQ's**

What is the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS)? The SIS was developed over a five year period under the auspices of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (formerly AAMR). It is a nationally recognized, standardized tool for individuals ages 16-72 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. SIS measures support needs in 85 life activities, and behavior and medical needs areas.

**How is it completed?** A trained interviewer completes the SIS in a face-to face interview format with at least two respondents who know the person well. The person being assessed may also participate as appropriate. The interviewer consolidates the information provided into the standardized form for scoring.

**How much time does it take to administer SIS®?** Each SIS interview is unique, time is dependent upon the interviewer and participants. Due to the comprehensive nature of the tool an interview is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The meeting results in relevant information useful for developing an individual's plan and necessary supports.

**Can anyone administer SIS?** The SIS should be administered by a professional who has completed a 4-year degree program and is working in the field of human services (for example, case manager, psychologist, social worker). However, under exceptional circumstances, others who have experience conducting individual assessments and possess an extensive knowledge of behavior rating or psychological testing principles may be acceptable.

**Is a SIS® reliable?** The SIS® was normed nationally on 1306 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. When administered by trained interviewers, the SIS has a .87 inter-rater reliability co-efficient. Since release in 2004, over 10 states and 4 Canadian provinces have adopted the use of the SIS as part of their service planning and/or funding allocation process.

Is there an electronic version of SIS available? Yes, SIS is available in two electronic formats. The SIS electronic scoring application, Venture, is a stand-alone application that can be completed on any Windows computer. SISOnline™ is a web-based application that can be accessed universally at <a href="https://www.siswebsite.org">www.siswebsite.org</a>.

What is MORC's relationship with AAIDD or the SIS Tool? MORC has partnered with AAIDD to provide qualified and experienced AAIDD certified trainers to your Michigan organization for SIS® interviewing, training, implementation, and/or consulting. We have worked with the Supports Intensity Scale since 2009. This was a logical progression tied to our philosophy and commitment to treat all people with dignity and respect and to promote community inclusion and full citizenship for individuals with developmental disabilities. With our trained staff, MORC has an established SIS interviewing program and support services. MORC SIS Trainers have experience in selecting and training new interviewers, maintaining interviewer reliability, and advocating on behalf of the tool. With an emphasis on efficiency, timeliness, and high quality service delivery, MORC staff has successfully completed over 1,600 SIS assessments over the past two years and trained over 14 interviewers.

Why should I consider in-depth SIS training for staff? Training workshops focus on ensuring the reliability of staff conducting SIS interviews. The SIS is only as effective as the interview conducted with the client, and it is critical that staff understand the intent of the Scale and learn interview techniques to glean relevant information for service plans. In an in-depth training workshop, trainers observe staff conducting interviews, offer critiques, and also conduct mock interviews to enhance understanding of the SIS interview process. AAIDD highly recommends that staff undergo training on the interview process to ensure SIS interviews are consistent with national standards of quality and reliability reinforcing a satisfactory experience for all stakeholders.

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## **Supports Intensity Scale® | Resources**

AAIDD SIS Website | http://www.siswebsite.org

**SISOnline™ Information |** http://www.siswebsite.org/cs/SISOnline

MORC's SIS Resources | Email: sis@morcinc.org Website: http://www.morcinc.org/sis

Table of Content of SIS User's Manual | http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISManualTOC.pdf

SIS® Case Study and Using the SIS to Develop Individualized, Person-Centered Support Plans

http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/DarleneSimmonsAAIDD.pdf

2008 AAIDD Information | http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/LatestSISpresentation.pdf

SIS administration FAQ | http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/PeggyFrequency&FAQ.pdf

SIS Case Studies provided by AAIDD | http://www.siswebsite.org/site/pdf/SISInterform&casestudy.pdf

#### Supports Intensity Scale® | White Papers

<u>Psychometric Properties of the Supports Intensity Scale™</u> | The purpose of this White Paper is to update the reader on three studies conducted to evaluate the reliability and validity of SIS.

Link: http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISWPPsychometric.pdf

Editors: Robert L. Schalock, James R Thompson, and Marc J. Tassé

Authors: Wil Buntinx, Virginie Cobigo, Colleen McLaughlin, Diane Morin, Marc J. Tassé, and James R. Thompson

Relating Supports Intensity Scale™ Information to Individual Service Plans From its inception, individual supports planning (ISP) was the major anticipated use of information related to the Supports Intensity Scale. This White paper presents four approaches to integrate the SIS-related data into person-centered planning.

**Link**: <a href="http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISWPISPs.pdf">http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISWPISPs.pdf</a> **Editors:** Robert L. Schalock, James R Thompson, and Marc J. Tassé

Authors: Jan K. Ivey, James A. LeVelle, James R. Thompson, Alan Tribble, Jos van Loon, and Steve Wrigley

#### International Implementation of the Supports Intensity Scale™

In this White Paper, authors from seven international communities share their experiences translating the Supports Intensity Scale into their respective languages.

**Link**: http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISWPInternational.pdf

Editors: Robert L. Schalock, James R Thompson, and Marc J. Tassé

**Authors**: Wil Buntinx, Luigi Croce, Yuval Ekstein, Climent Giné, Sue Holmes, Mélanie Lamoureux-Hébert, Mauro Leoni, Diane Morin, and Miguel Angel Verdugo

#### SIS™ Resource Allocatiokn: Four Papers on Issues and Approaches

One of the most complex issues faced by stakeholders within intellectual and developmental disability service systems is resource allocation. This White Paper updates the reader on both the rationale and critical issues involved in resource allocation decisions and the potential components to either agency or systems-level funding models.

Link: http://www.siswebsite.org/galleries/default-file/SISWPResourceAllocation.pdf

Editors: Robert L. Schalock, James R Thompson, and Marc J. Tassé

**Authors**: Jon Fortune, James A. LeVelle, Scott Meche, Donald Severance, Gary Smith, John Stern, Jos van Loon, Lisa Weber, and Edward M. Campbell

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