**Project Summary: Understand**

**Tagline**

*"From Diagnosis to Understanding"*

**Objective**

Understand is a platform designed to provide comprehensive resources and community support for individuals diagnosed with various conditions later in life, including neurodiverse conditions, mental health disorders, and significant physical changes. The platform aims to educate users about their diagnoses, guide them through the next steps, and connect them with a supportive community.

**Target Audience**

* **Primary**: Individuals diagnosed later in life with conditions such as autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder, and significant physical changes (e.g., loss of sight, hearing, or limb, stroke survivors).
* **Secondary**: Families and caregivers of individuals diagnosed with these conditions, seeking to understand and support their loved ones.

**Key Features**

* **Educational Content**: Access in-depth articles, videos, and guides covering a wide range of conditions, focusing on late diagnosis and significant life changes.
* **Community Stories**: Share personal stories, experiences, and challenges related to diagnosis or life changes, allowing others to learn from and connect with similar experiences.
* **Resource Directory**: Discover a curated list of services, organizations, and tools tailored to specific needs, providing users with practical support and guidance.
* **Discussion Forums**: Connect with others facing similar challenges, share advice, and find support through community interactions.

**High-Level Benefits**

* **Knowledge Empowerment**: Equip users with the information they need to better understand their conditions and navigate the complexities of late diagnosis.
* **Community Connection**: Foster a sense of belonging and support by connecting users with others who share similar experiences.
* **Resource Accessibility**: Provide easy access to valuable resources, helping users and their families take informed steps towards managing their conditions.

**Project Scope**

* **In-Scope**:
  + Development of the front-end using React for a responsive and user-friendly interface.
  + Development of the back-end using Django to handle user authentication, content management, and community features.
  + Integration with MySQL for secure data storage.
  + Deployment on platforms such as AWS Amplify and Heroku for front-end and back-end hosting, respectively.
* **Out-of-Scope**:
  + Advanced features like personalized recommendations or AI-driven insights.
  + Development of mobile apps.
  + Support for conditions not related to neurodiversity, mental health, or significant physical changes.

**Milestones**

* **MVP Development**: Build a minimum viable product (MVP) with core features like user authentication, content management, and basic community interaction.
* **Beta Testing**: Release the MVP to a small group of users for feedback and refinement.
* **Full Launch**: Deploy the platform publicly, with full features and resources available.

**Next Steps**

1. **Finalize Design Documents**: Create detailed design documents that outline the system architecture, database schema, and UI/UX design.
2. **Develop Scope Document**: Clearly define the boundaries of the project, including deliverables and milestones.
3. **Begin Development**: Start the implementation of the MVP, focusing on the key features outlined in this summary.