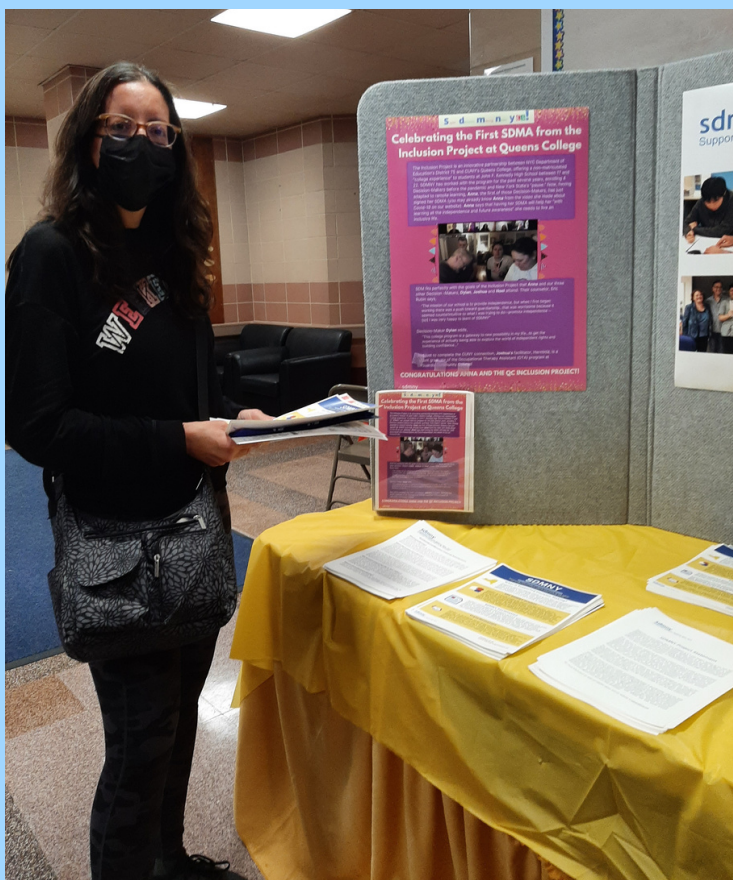


SDMNY GOES LIVE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 MONTHS!

After 20 months of dealing with the limits of Zoom and other platforms, we finally got to meet some prospective Decision-Makers and their families face-to (masked) face. We were so excited when our friends at the John F. Kennedy Jr. School/Queens College Inclusive Education Program invited us to participate in their Transition Fair last Saturday.

Our booth, with blow-ups of Good News, was very popular, and people were especially attracted by the poster featuring a graduate of the program, Decision-Maker Anna, who many of them knew or remembered.



Parent Lisa visits SDMNY booth



Transition Fair organizer Eric Rosenberg and SDMNY's Stephanie Penceal

SDMNY Project Coordinator Stephanie Penceal reported on the enthusiasm of families and prospective Decision-Makers alike. Parents found the pending SDMA law, and the likelihood that decisions made pursuant to SDMA's would be legislatively recognized, an important consideration in thinking about SDM as an alternative to guardianship. Here's what one parent had to say:

"What brought me over to the table...I wanted to see what you guys offer... people need to understand that not every child is severely disabled where they can't be in charge of their own say, so this is extremely important, that... childrenas they become adults, can make decisions with support."

We've been very successful with students from this program in the past (see Good News [2/26/2021]) and the opportunity to meet a whole new crew was energizing and inspiring. Thanks to Eric Rosenberg, Nicole Vasquez and Eric Rubin for the invitation, and their commitment to providing alternatives to guardianship for their students!