

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

Almost 5 years ago we were blessed to be introduced to an extraordinary organization of people with disabilities, Outside Voices Theatre Company (OVTC), that describes itself this way:

We are about advocacy, empowerment, out-of-the-box-thinking and disability pride. We chose our name because we believe that VOICES from the OUTSIDE deserve to be heard. We believe in access. We will not use our quiet, inside voices to get your attention.

We loved their mission, their energy, and their unquestionable talent, and persuaded them to work with us in creating our first training videos for facilitators. Next, at our request, they wrote and produced three short videos explaining SDM in a compelling, and sometimes hilarious way.



Supporterman vs. The Substituter



Out to Lunch

When we began work on a training module for mediators (see Good News [3/19/2021]) we wanted to begin a conversation about implicit bias—that is, unconscious biases that everyone has, but may not recognize – and once again we turned to the Company to create a short film that could raise consciousness and begin an important dialogue. We’re hoping to further develop and expand that work, but in the meanwhile, we have proposed another project that the Company just unanimously voted to do with us.

A question that we’ve heard on a number of occasions is “what happens when a Decision-Maker wants to add a new supporter?” The SDMNY facilitation process is over, so how will they learn what it means to truly support someone with I/DD instead of trying to make decisions for them, to respect their autonomy and embrace the “dignity of risk”? To respond to what is clearly a need we hadn’t thought about earlier, we’re embarking on a new set of materials, including videos on which we will collaborate with OVTC, that will be available on line for Decision-Makers and their supporters to use going forward.

We have learned so much from our colleagues at OVTC, and our work is much the better for our partnership with them. We celebrate their willingness to join us on this new project, and we highly recommend that you **CHECK THEM, AND SOME OF THEIR FABULOUS WORK, OUT** on [their website](#).