This week we held our 12th facilitator training, the third we’ve done remotely. While we miss the one-on-one and the energy that comes from really being together, our increasingly skilled use of Zoom has had a benefit the in-person training did not—the ability to include participants from around the state. We loved meeting and working with Savannah and Jennifer, from Lifetime Assistance, an excellent provider agency in Rochester, Sheree and Deborah, both from the Westchester Institute for Human Development, one of the 3 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) in the state, Kadiatou and Porscha, MSW students, and Chris, BSW student at Hunter’s Silberman School of Social Work here in NYC. Though bringing a variety of skills and experiences, and separated by geography, they were united in their enthusiasm, energy, and commitment to the right of all persons to make their own decisions, regardless of disability.

Welcome to our 7 new facilitators, and good luck as you are assigned your Decision-Makers and start the transformative work of SDMNY facilitation!