

# SDMNY HOLDS 12th FACILITATOR TRAINING

As everyone knows, excellent, well trained and mentored facilitators are at the heart of the SDMNY facilitation process. We've spent an enormous amount of time figuring out how to enable our volunteers to do this work, unlike anything else they may do in their lives, whether as social workers, direct service providers, counselors, mediators or moms. It's a unique role, and critical to the success of the project. Over the years we've developed lots of materials, from a Facilitator's Manual that is now over 100 pages long, to worksheets, Big 4 charts, mapping tools, templates for meeting notes and the like. Many of these tools have come out of the work that facilitators themselves are doing, and we like to think that each training we do gets better, and brings more and more resources to the work of facilitation.



Left to right: Stephanie, Joan, Kadiatou, Simge, Gina, Savannah, Deborah, Jennifer, Porscha, Chris, Sheree, Kris

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!**