

3 DAYS, 3 PRESENTATIONS: SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

This has been an exceptionally busy week for us at SDMNY, with three separate presentations at three different kinds of events, for a variety of audiences.

First, as we reported on April 15th, today was the annual YAI Autism Conference funded by the NY City Council. Kris Glen and Joan Cornachio were part of a 3 ½ hour discussion on Guardianship and its Alternatives, in which every speaker agreed that SDM is a valuable and viable alternative to guardianship that constitutes a “less restrictive alternative,” and that should be tried before guardianship is sought. At last count, there were more than 600 attendees and the discussion generated a great deal of interest in SDM and SDMNY facilitation. The conference was recorded and will be made available on the YAI website in a few weeks; we’ll let you know.

Going back one day, Thursday was the annual NYS Special Education Task Force Conference run by our partners, Disability Rights New York with more than 100 attendees. Kris gave an overview of SDM, and SDMNY facilitation but the exciting part was hearing Joan and our Faculty Associate Professor Gina Riley discussing a model “Decision-Making Curriculum” that they have designed and are piloting in cooperation with the Cooke School. Although we’re planning one more iteration of the curriculum for next Fall, there were many questions about how soon it might be available for schools around the state to use as part of transition planning. We’ll be featuring news about that pilot soon, so stay tuned.

Going back one more day, to Wednesday, we did our first webinar for a Care Coordination Organization (CCO) Southern Tier Connect that was attended by care managers, other providers and parents. We are excited to be working with a CCO because care managers often may have the most contact with, and most personal knowledge about the needs of the people with I/DD with whom they work. As such, it’s incredibly important that they be aware of SDM, and, if Wednesday is any predictor, they are likely to enthusiastically embrace it for many of their clients, once they’ve heard how SDM enhances the autonomy of individuals with I/DD that they work with.



A real highlight of these presentations was being able to share a video, the first of a new SDMNY project, intended to amplify the voices of self-advocates. We’ll be reporting more on this video project here soon! SDMNY Decision-Maker Jessica talks compellingly about the fundamental right to make one’s own decisions, the dignity of risk, and the importance of SDM to enable people with disabilities to be the “architects of their own lives.” No one could say it better, as the organizers of the YAI conference recognized when they chose it to end the day on the highest possible note.

TO SEE JESSICA’S FABULOUS VIDEO, [CLICK HERE](#)