

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month, which means not only celebrating the diversity within our community, but also committing to protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ people, with, and without, disabilities. An important part of the right to make your own decisions is the right to choose your identity, how you live in the world, and who you love. So it is not surprising that a number of our Decision-Makers who identify as LGBTQ are advocates for both SDM and LGBTQ+ rights.



Yarrow recently signed their SDMA, but they have been involved in LGBTQ+ advocacy for quite some time. A gifted writer, they have used social media, including blogs, to educate others about the complexities of issues about gender and sexual identity and disability.

Gerald is an activist who we first met at a SANYS conference where he was prominently wearing a rainbow symbol, and who continues to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ+ people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Louis proudly identifies as both autistic and queer and enthusiastically embraced SDM, and his SDMA as a tool that will enhance his ability to work against the discrimination that, as he notes still unfortunately exists against the LGBTQ+ community.

Our friends at ASAN (The Autistic Self Advocacy Network) have recently made a new guide for LGBTQ+ people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, *Rights and Respect!*, that is a terrific resource in the ongoing work of ensuring dignity, non-discrimination, and inclusion for everyone. You can find the guide [here](#). So

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH AND THANKS TO ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO WORK FOR EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.