

# MOVING FORWARD ON OUR NEW OPWDD GRANT

## SDMNY IS HIRING!

We've told you how excited we are about the new 3-year grant OPWDD awarded SDMNY at the end of last year (Good News [12/17/2021]) but we haven't had the time to tell you much about it—for the happy reason that there's been such a continuous stream of Good News! But now there's a reason, even if this isn't one of our usual Friday stories.



OPWDD believes in the facilitation model we have developed and hopes to create a service delivery system that will allow everyone in New York (not just the 150+ Decision-Makers we've been able to work with over the past few years) who wants SDMNY facilitation to have access to it. That means more than just "growing" our current SDMNY which, for budgetary and piloting purposes, has been a mostly volunteer operation. Based on our experience so far, we've come up with a design that would have paid facilitators coming from a number of different sources, including provider agencies and the private bar, as well as graduate professional students (like MSWs) who would be "paid" in academic credit. But if there's one thing we have learned, it's the importance of mentoring to ensure the highest quality, consistency and accountability in the facilitation process.

So, we've put salaried mentors pretty much at the center of the model, where they will work (almost always remotely) from a centralized Facilitation Training, Resource and Education Center (FTREC, rhymes with Patrick). We're currently hiring the first group of 3-4 part time mentors (half time/20 hours, quarter time/8.5 hours weekly) and hope some of you will be interested, or know someone else who might be. We've deliberately made these positions flexible and part-time because we'd like to attract parents of children with I/DD who might otherwise choose to be Self-Direction Brokers, or do other part time work connected with what they have learned as "experts by experience," (or perhaps even who have benefited by going through the process with their own adult children). We hope that some of our volunteer facilitators might be interested in changing roles, and of course we are open to others who share our commitment to everyone's right to make their own decisions, regardless of disability.

**You can access the job description [here](#), and please feel free to share with others. This is a great opportunity to begin to expand SDM facilitation, to enlarge our SDMNY team and to continue to make a difference in the lives of New Yorkers with I/DD and their families!**