

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING, AND SOME (partial) ENDINGS

2022 is almost over, and 2023 will surely bring changes to SDMNY, all good ones we hope. Our new mentors will be completing their facilitations and beginning actual mentoring, with a whole group of new facilitators from our partner agencies and attorneys; OPWDD will be drafting regulations that describe the facilitation process required to secure third party recognition of decisions made with SDMAs, incorporating our learnings over the past 6 years; and there will also be some changes in core SDMNY staff.



First, our founding Director, Kris Glen, who turned 80 this year, will, as planned, be going half time as of March 1 when we begin Year 2 of our OPWDD grant. We (and she especially) are excited to introduce her successor, Naomi Brickel, who is known to many of you as a fierce advocate for people with I/DD, a creative, highly effective and respected professional, and a superb manager, just what we need to carry on our work and let Kris begin a well-deserved semi-retirement.

We are fortunate to have worked closely with Naomi almost since the beginning of SDMNY when she joined our Advisory Council. Over the past several years, in her capacity as Associate UCEDD Director, Community Support and Public Policy Initiatives at The Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD), we have partnered with Naomi in several mini-pilots, including self-direction and self-advocacy training for our Decision-Makers. You'll hear more about—and from—Naomi in the coming year, but for now we're thrilled that she will soon be a full-time member of our SDMNY family.

We will also be welcoming a new Project Coordinator as our wonderful Stephanie Penceal moves on to the next chapter of her life. Luckily for us she's agreed to stay on part-time as we make the transition, and to stay connected to SDMNY even as she takes her considerable talents to new pursuits. So, this is definitely not a goodbye, but more of an appreciation of all that she has brought to SDMNY over the past 3 years. She has represented us as the voice of SDMNY in a number of our videos (having mastered broadcasting on WFUV as an undergraduate at Fordham); facilitated two terrific Decision-Makers; cheered us with humorous memes; explained astrological happenings (and warned us to take care when Mercury was in retrograde!) and inspired us by her commitment to hiking and yoga, which she combines by assuming an amazing pose whenever she gets to the top of a mountain, and shares with us through photos like this one.



**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR  
&  
PEACE, JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND EQUALITY IN 2023!**