

A MENTOR COMPLETES HER THIRD FACILITATION AND CELEBRATES A VERY HAPPY SDMA SIGNING

SDMNY's current OPWDD implementation grant is testing the use of salaried mentors to ensure excellent, consistent, accountable facilitations, with the mentors we have hired (Good News [9/9/2022]) required to undergo rigorous training. Part of that is successful completion of at least 3 facilitations, and we're delighted that the first of our mentors reached that goal last week.

Jenna was a successful volunteer facilitator during our earlier DDPC grant, so she definitely had a leg up. When, last week, she completed her second facilitation since joining the project in September, she became our first official mentor, and will now be sharing her skills and experience with facilitators from around the state. SDMNY staff who reviewed the SDMA she helped create were full of praise for the care and thoughtfulness that obviously went into it; Decision-Maker KyRee and his supporters were equally enthusiastic about what KyRee had accomplished.



KyRee with his mom and sister, Jenna, and Jennifer

KyRee, who just turned 18 in May came to us through our friends at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI). His mom, Kimberly, says "the more research I did, the more I felt like this would be a good fit for KyRee. KyRee is very self-sufficient and he can advocate for himself. He is level-headed, and he can make decisions. So I didn't want to strip him of his rights, where for every little thing he has to ask my permission. He has the right to do the things he wants to do in his life." KyRee loves playing video games, especially on Nintendo Switch, and bonded with Jenna early on in the facilitation process when she shared her Nintendo 64 from the 90's, so it was a really good match!

Kimberly says she is grateful to SDMNY for helping her avoid guardianship, and we are grateful to her for introducing us to KyRee. KyRee says he is excited to be able to use his SDMA as he prepares to apply to college next year. And Jenna says "I loved working with KyRee and seeing him open up and begin to make his own decisions during the process. I am confident he'll be successful as he gets ready to decide what college he wants to attend! His mom Kimberly and sister Kaadiana are amazing supporters who are so committed to helping KyRee make these big choices."

CONGRATULATIONS KYREE, YOUR SUPPORTERS, AND FACILITATOR/MENTOR JENNA!