

The Cooke School Presents: Supported Decision-Making as an Alternative to Guardianship

January 9, 2024

6-7:30 pm on

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7704760740>

OR

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Family members often believe that obtaining guardianship is the appropriate step for a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) in order to protect the individual and remain involved in that person's life. In reality, **guardianship takes away the person's rights** to make all the decisions in their lives. **Supported decision-making (SDM)** is a well-recognized alternative, enabling persons with I/DD to **make their own decisions with the support** of trusted persons in their lives. Now that the **New York State Legislature has passed a bill recognizing SDM**, people with I/DD who go through an **SDMNY facilitation process** and **develop Supported Decision-Making Agreements** will be **protected from discrimination** based on their disability.

Supported Decision-Making New York (SDMNY) began as a 6-year project funded by DDPC, to pilot the use of SDM to **divert persons at risk of guardianship**, and to **restore rights** to persons already subject to guardianship. Now under a **grant with OPWDD**, SDMNY has designed a model for delivering SDM facilitation services state-wide.

Meet SDMNY Associate Director Joan Cornachio and **two Cooke alums, who signed their Supported Decision-Making Agreements in 2018**, to learn how supported decision-making has been an effective process for many individuals on the spectrum and with other developmental disabilities in New York, as they strive for more inclusive and self-determined lives.

The presentation will explain how the SDMNY facilitation process works with people with I/DD, their families and friends to develop supported decision-making agreements (SDMAs) that may be used as a more empowering alternative to guardianship. They will also discuss the impact of the new SDM law.

A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Please RSVP to:

Nia Seda: nseda@cookeschool.org or Anne Mulhern: amulhern@cookeschool.org

For a preview of the work of SDMNY, please check out these short videos:

<https://sdmny.org/resources/sdmny-videos/>

<https://sdmny.org/resources/jessica-statement/>

sdmny

Supported Decision-Making New York

