

A NEW MENTOR'S FIRST SDMA SIGNING



Fateema

We were delighted when Fateema joined us last March, bringing expertise from her three years as a Special Ed 1:1, and her current studies at Queens College where she is pursuing a MEd in School Psychology and BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) certification. Our part time Mentor position enables her to juggle her studies, and even to continue as a ComHab worker for some of her former students. Although all of this is clearly a heavy lift, Fateema takes it on with enthusiasm, saying “It is a happy life to be working with the special needs community.”

All our mentors are required to complete three successful SDM facilitations before they actually begin mentoring others (with, of course, close supervision) and Fateema is no exception. Last week she celebrated her first completed facilitation when Decision-Maker Sari signed her SDMA.



Sari with her parents, Mentor Jenna, Supporters Stefanie and Marc, Supporter Nina, Supporter Ashlynn, Supporter Justin, Supporter Ilene, Facilitator Fateema

By all accounts, Fateema and Sari were a great match. Sari is 20, and lives in Bellmore with her parents, sister and 2 dogs; she is a senior in high school with hopes to attend Farmingdale State College. Sari is a proud and vocal member of the LGBTQ community, who “loves her individuality” and names “rainbow” as her favorite color! Fateema describes Sari as “a delight!” and “one of the sweetest and kindest people I’ve had the pleasure to meet.”

In reflecting on the facilitation process Sari especially appreciated “that she got to do this with her family and that they all wanted to help her. She felt their attention and good intentions.” She is “excited about having support for her future decisions” and plans to use her SDMA to “remember and use her supporters for advice whenever she needs it.” Fateema is equally enthusiastic, saying “Facilitating Sari’s SDMA was a special experience personally, because she was my first Decision-Maker... Her family has rallied around her to offer their support throughout the process. Sari has proclaimed how and who she wishes to receive support from, and her supporters respected her decision. I am excited to hear how the SDMA has benefited Sari in her future.”

We share that excitement, as we do for all our Decision-Makers!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARI, HER SUPPORTERS, AND FACILITATOR FATEEMA!