

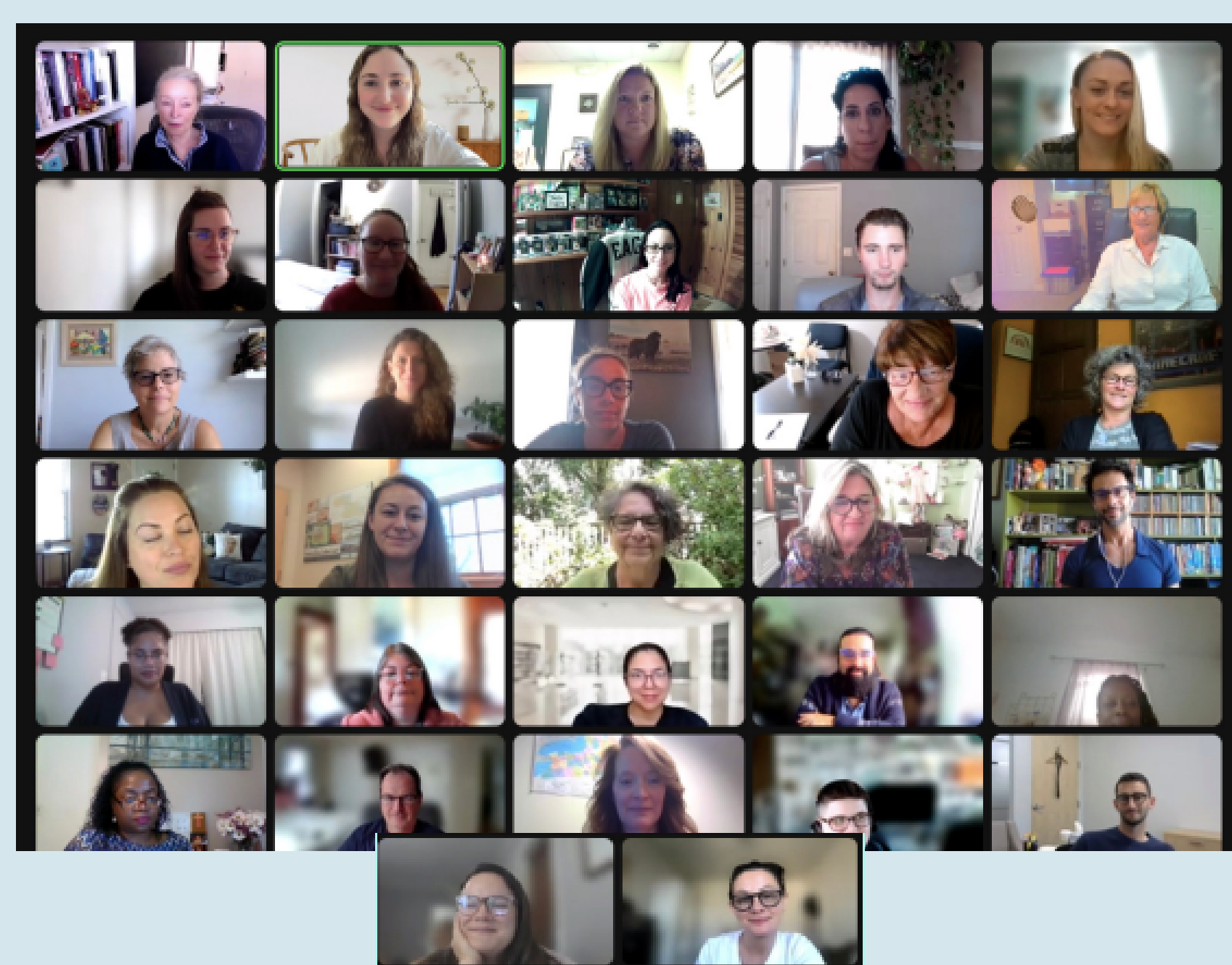
## SDMNY STORMS INTO YEAR 3 OF OUR OPWDD IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

After the miserable weather we've had this week, please forgive the pun, but remember that storms also bring energy and the conditions for new growth, and that's exactly how it feels at SDMNY as we enter the third year of our OPWDD grant.

We were blessed, in 2016, to be the recipients of a 5-year grant from DDPC that enabled us to develop and pilot our 3-phase SDM facilitation process, to educate stakeholders and policy makers about SDM, to develop the evidentiary base for the most progressive SDMA law anywhere, and to celebrate its enactment in 2022. And then, because of the promise of that new law for greater autonomy, self-determination and dignity for people with I/DD, we were blessed again when OPWDD gave us the means to design and pilot a facilitation service delivery system that could make SDM facilitation available to everyone in New York who wanted it.

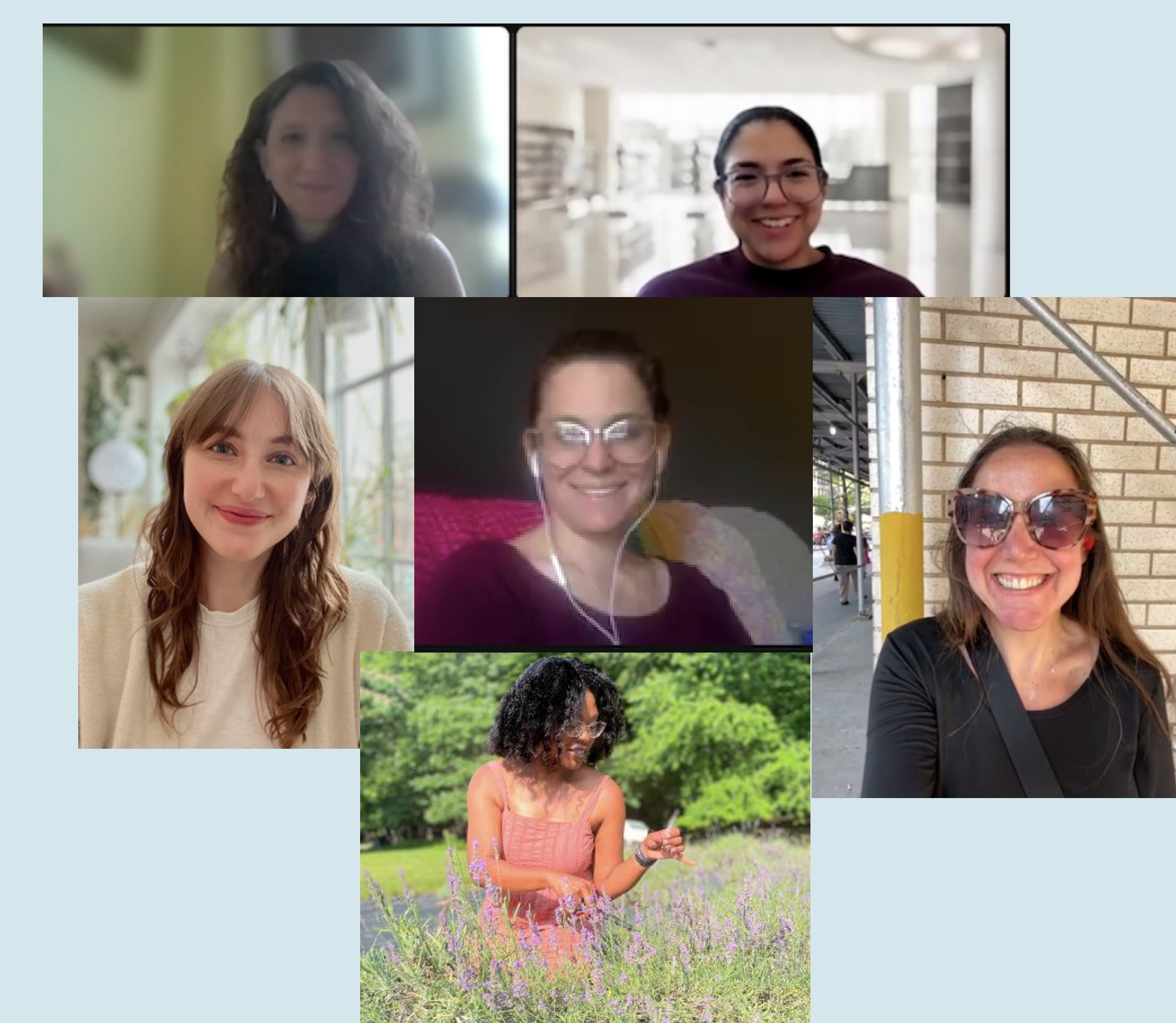
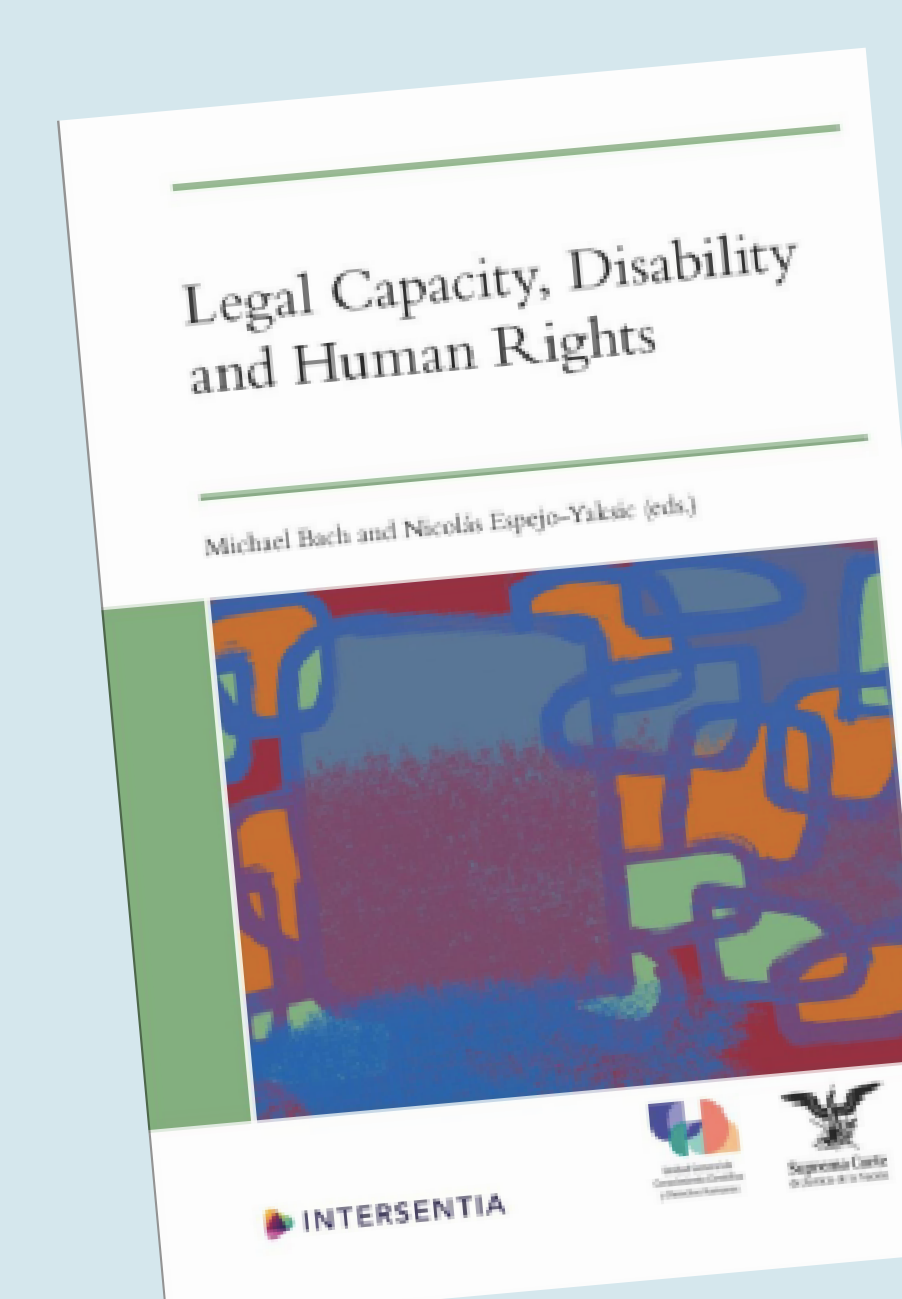


We've spent the past two years figuring out how to do that, to scale up a pilot implementation in a complicated regulatory system with numerous and diverse players and funding streams. At the same time, we need to maintain the integrity of a process that requires training, mentoring and supporting facilitators from a variety of sources across the state. and the ability to document and justify the value of SDM facilitation for our community and for the state as a whole.



We've rethought, re-structured and refined our facilitator training, and then refined it again, using the best practices of both asynchronous and "live" remote learning. We've held five major trainings over the past two years, resulting in 75 new facilitators from across the state who are enthusiastic about the change they can make, and equipped with an ever-growing toolbox of resources that will enable them to do so. In the past year alone we have developed contracts to provide facilitation services with 10 provider agencies, 3 Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs); 2 Self-Direction brokers, and 4 members of the private bar (Good News 7/14/2023).

We have hired and trained a cadre of paid mentors who are able to share and reflect on their experiences, guaranteeing the consistency and integrity of the facilitation process. We have developed new tools and resources to educate and recruit prospective Decision-Makers and their families to this now proven alternative to guardianship. We have done the difficult and sometimes exhausting work of creating an information and data collection system (eVerro) that will house all of the data and documentation from all facilitations that have been completed during the duration of the project, and enable us, our funder, and our evaluators to access everything they need to know about what's working, and what may need further tweaking (Good News 1/19/2024). We have educated the judiciary and the Bar, and now count the Surrogates among our strongest supporters. Our work has been recognized and celebrated nationally (Good News 5/19/2023) and internationally (Good News 3/22/2024).



But there is so much exciting work still to be done, from expanding on the design and piloting of decision-making curricula in special ed (Good News 11/4/2022) and post-secondary inclusive education (Good News 10/13/2023) to developing robust materials for capacity building in supporters, to educating stakeholders and the general public about New York's SDMA law and regulations. We promised OPWDD that we would design and test a delivery model that was effective, accountable, fiscally feasible, and most of all, able to provide people with I/DD in New York with the supports they need to make their own decisions and to have those decisions legally recognized. With the wind (forgive the pun again) behind us, we're well on our way!

**HERE'S TO EVEN GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS IN YEAR 3!**