

GOOD NEWS IS EARLY THIS WEEK BECAUSE WE ARE CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

We at SDMNY are thankful for so much:

For all the support from New York State, from the 5 year grant from DDPC that gave us the opportunity to test, adapt and refine a facilitation model developed around the world, to the OPWDD implementation grant that is now allowing us to design and test a service delivery system that can be used state-wide;

For the private funders, the Ford Foundation, Far Fund, Taft Foundation, Open Society Foundation and S. Peter Hoguet Foundation that sustained us in the “bridge year” transition during Covid;

For the New York State Legislature for passing a ground-breaking SDMA statute that protects people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) against discrimination by third parties, but also against exploitation and abuse, and to Governor Kathy Hochul for signing it into law;

For Hunter College President, Jennifer Raab and the City University of New York for providing us with a home over the past 8 years;

For our partner from the beginning, the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation, and especially to Ann Hardiman, for all their work on behalf of SDM;

For the lawyers and staff at our partner Disability Rights New York (DRNY) and at Mental Hygiene Legal Services (MHLS) for their advocacy on behalf of people with IDD and SDM as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship;

For our colleagues around the world who work tirelessly in support of the human right of legal capacity, who inspire us, and from whom we continue to learn;

For our great team, present and past, who believe in our mission and work every day to make that human right a reality for people with IDD in New York;

And, especially, for all the Decision-Makers, their families and supporters who have trusted us and whose achievements prove that everyone has the right, and the capability, with support, to make their own decisions, regardless of disability.

THANK YOU ALL; AND WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING!