

# sdmny

Supported Decision-Making New York  
Hunter/CUNY | NYSACRA | DRNY | Arc of Westchester

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# What Is Supported Decision-Making?

- Supported decision-making (SDM) is “a series of relationships, practices, arrangements and agreements of more or less formality and intensity designed to assist an individual with a disability to make and communicate to others decisions about the individual’s life.”
  - Robert Dinerstein (2012)



# SDM Is Another Alternative to Guardianship

- Common alternatives include:
  - representative payeeships
  - authorized representation
  - joint or limited bank accounts
  - credit or ATM cards with preset limits
  - powers of attorney
  - healthcare proxies
- SDM is ***not*** intended to “replace” guardianship—it’s another tool in the toolbox



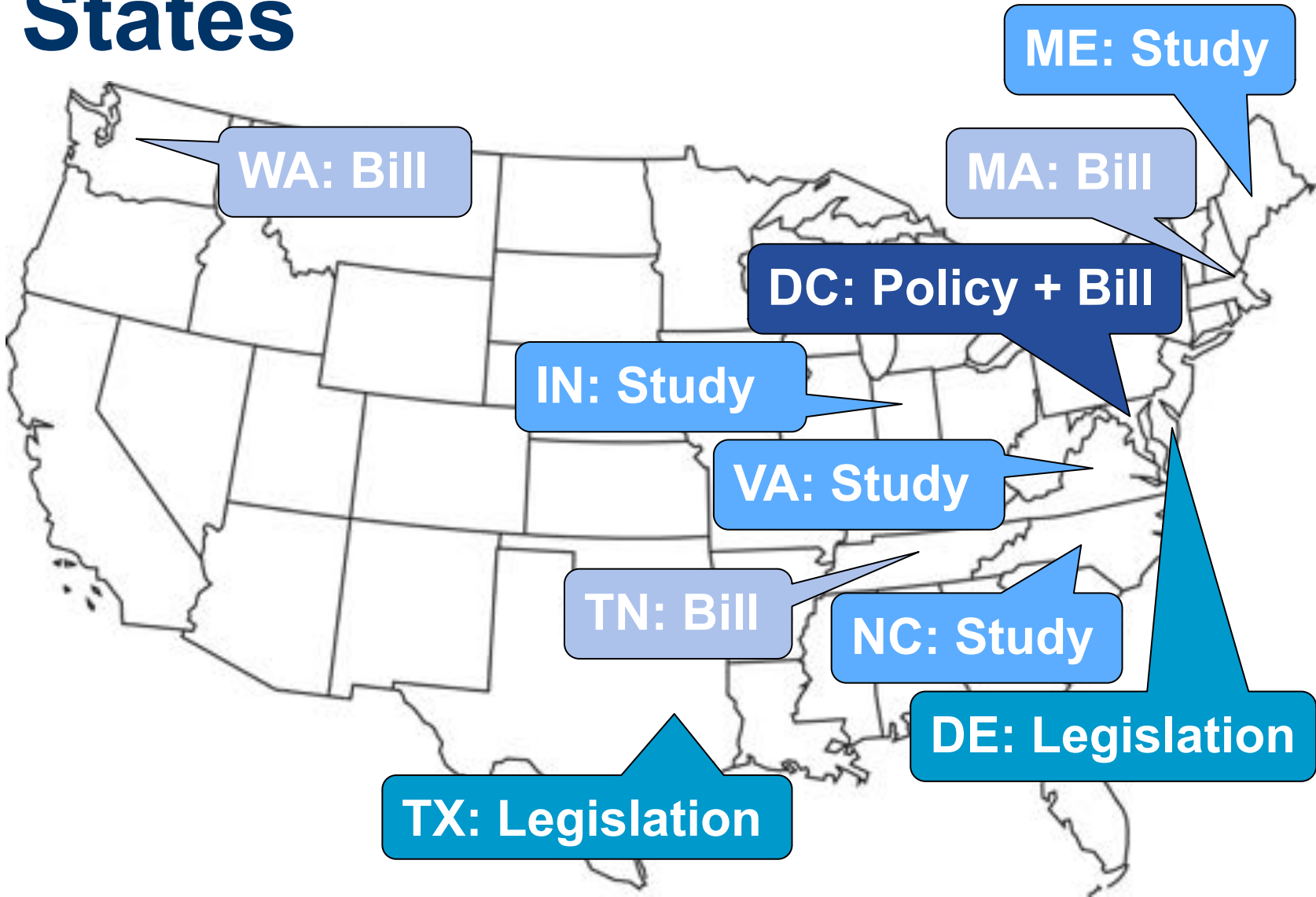
# Why Use SDM?

- Persons with I/DD **never lose important rights**: e.g., to contract, to vote, to work, to marry
- SDM allows a person to take some risks and **learn from “bad” choices**
- SDM helps to **form a network of supporters** that can protect against exploitation
- Persons with I/DD have a **human right to make their own decisions**

# SDM Pilots Around the World



# SDM Around the United States

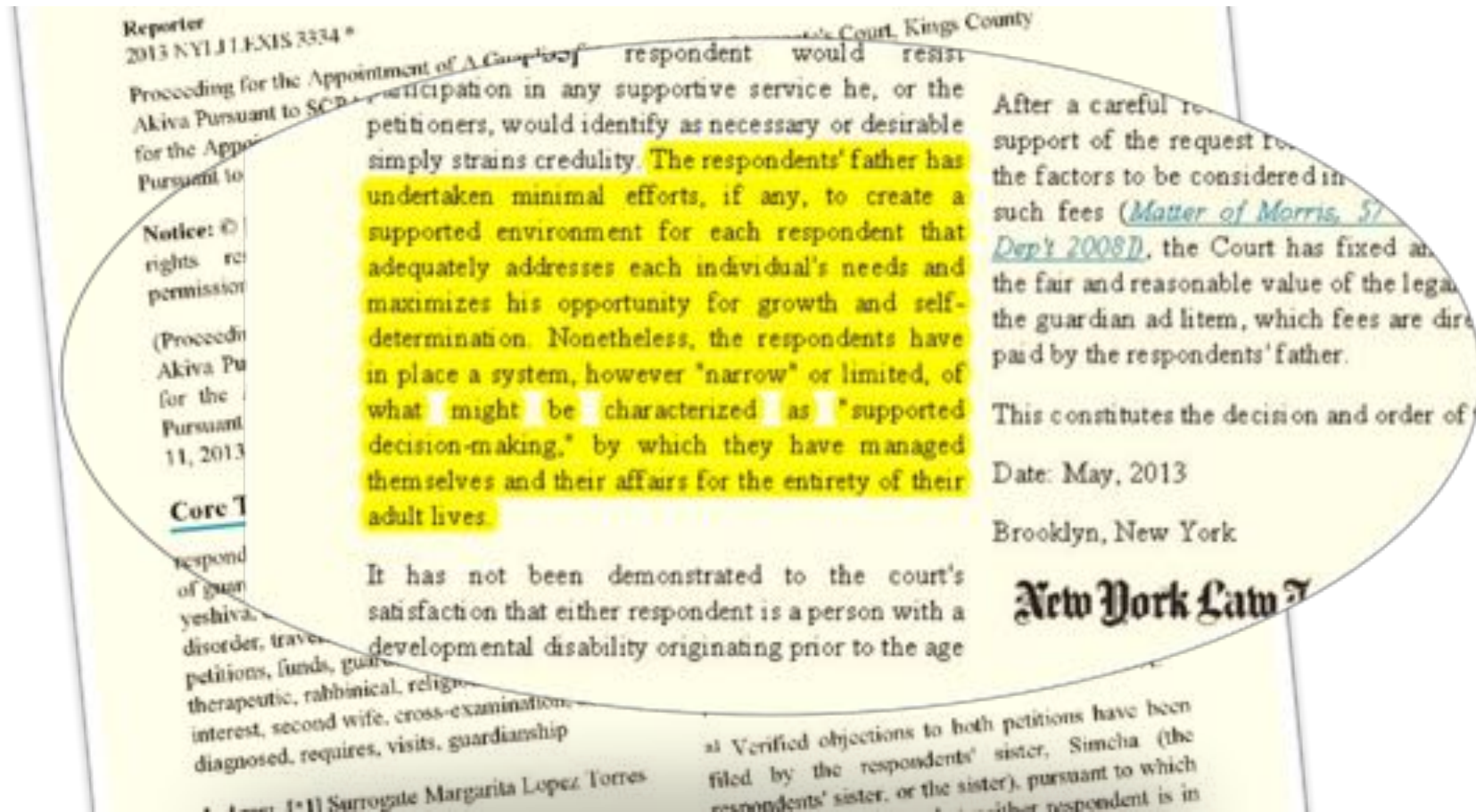




# Who Supports SDM?

<b>2017</b>	<b>American Bar Association</b> Commission on Disability Rights adopts Resolution 113
<b>2016</b>	<b>AAIDD &amp; The Arc</b> issue Joint Position Statement <b>Social Security Administration</b> releases Issue Brief <b>National Guardianship Association</b> issues Position Statement <b>Delaware</b> passes legislation recognizing SDMAs
<b>2015</b>	<b>Texas</b> passes legislation recognizing SDMAs
<b>2014</b>	<b>Administration for Community Living</b> creates Supported Decision-Making Program

# Increasingly, Judges Are Asking 17-A Petitioners to Consider SDM







# SDMNY, in Brief

- In 2016, Hunter College/CUNY, NYSACRA, and the Arc of Westchester, together with Disability Rights New York, began a 5-year project funded by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to promote SDM in New York
- By 2021, we hope that many persons with I/DD will be able to make more of their own decisions with support

# Objectives of SDMNY

1. Education
2. Facilitation
  - a) *Diversion*
  - b) *Restoration*
3. Transformation

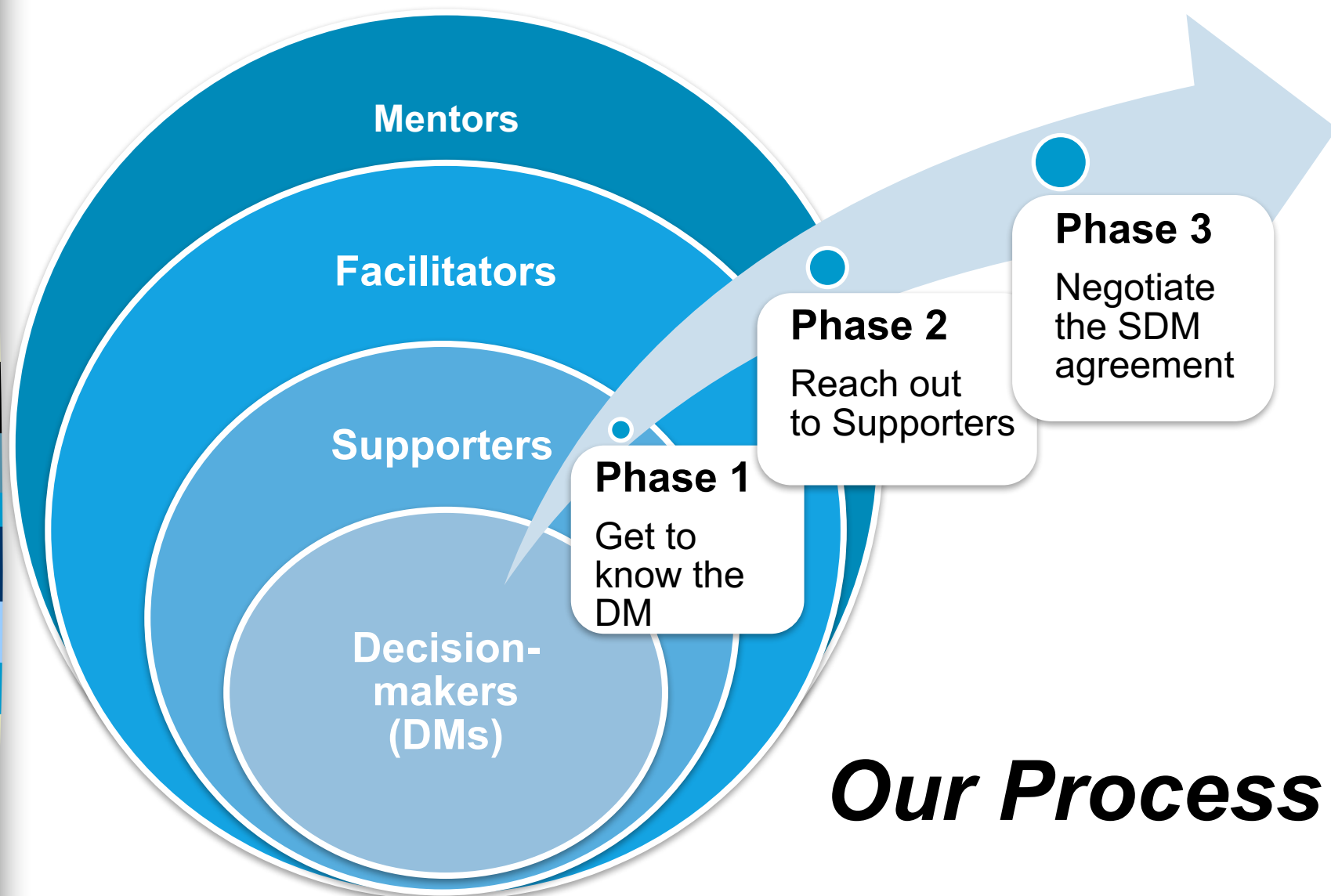


# Theoretical Basis:

- SDMNY uses Edward Deci and Richard Ryan's Self Determination Theory and Cognitive Evaluation Theory (1985) to create a supportive environment for DMs to make their own decisions.
- This theory assists in facilitating an environment for our DMs that values self determination, intrinsically motivated thinking, and autonomous decision-making.

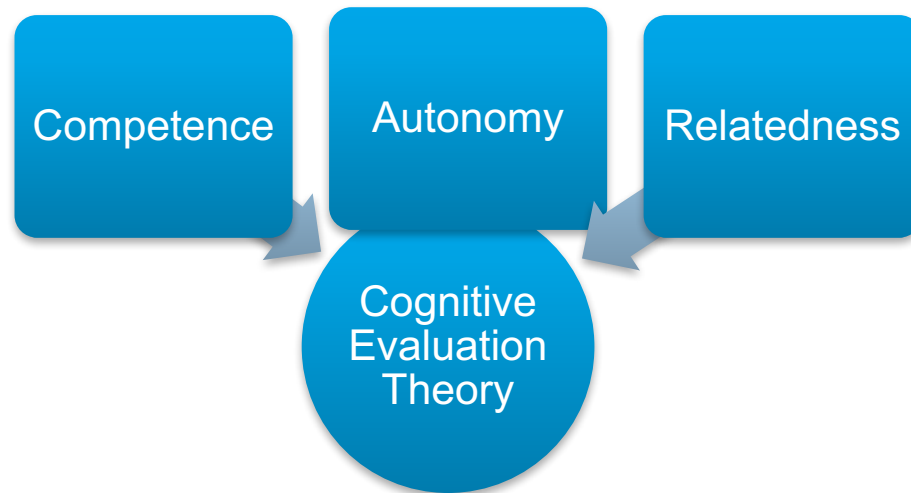


# How Is SDMNY Helping to Promote SDM?



# Phase 1: Building Relationship (Deci & Ryan, 1985)

- In Phase 1, we build relationship with our DMs using CET as a basis:



# Phase 1: DM Facilitation

Working with the DM to figure out:

- **areas** in which the DM currently makes decisions and wants to make them in the future (e.g., health, money, work, education)
- **who** should help the DM in making decisions in the future
- **what kinds of support** the DM wants to receive
- **how** the DM wants to use Supporter(s) for a given decision

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which** decision-making areas do you want to work on?

<b>Health</b> 	
<b>Work</b> 	
<b>Money</b> 	
<b>Education</b> 	

# Phase 2: Supporter Facilitation

Working with the DM's chosen Supporters to:

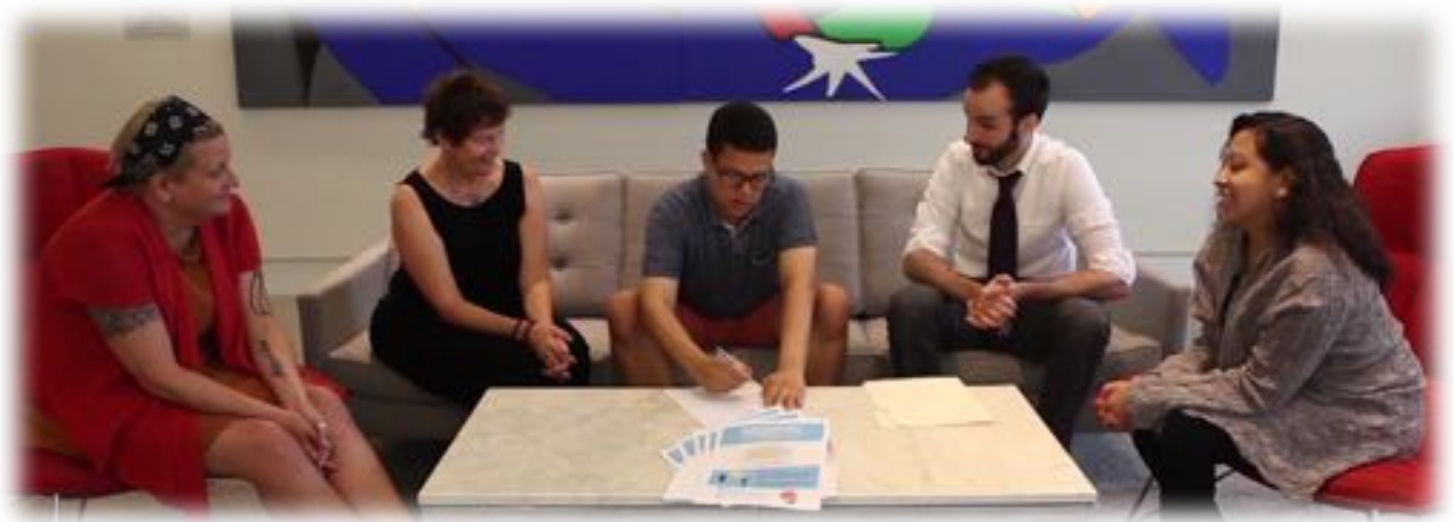
- educate them about SDM
- “reposition” them from their existing roles
- gain their commitment to that role



# Phase 3: Team Facilitation

Working with the DM and Supporters to:

- negotiate the supported decision-making agreement (SDMA) and
- help everyone to understand what the SDMA says and doesn't say





# SDMNY, Today

- In New York City, we are currently facilitating 12 decision-makers towards making SDMAs with their Supporters
- This year, we are starting to facilitate decision-makers in Westchester County
- Starting next year, we will begin to facilitate decision-makers in other sites throughout New York State




**An SDMNY decision-maker  
at the United Nations in  
June 2017**

For Persons with Intellectual Disabilities For Parents For Attorneys For Professionals For Advocates For Staff [Download Language](#)

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Everyone has the right to make her or his own decisions, regardless of disability.

education facilitation transformation easy read

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Supported Decision-Making New York (SDMNY) is led by the NY's Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

**For more information about SDMNY,  
please visit [www.sdmny.org](http://www.sdmny.org)**



# How to Get Started?

- **Option 1:** Have prospective DMs contact us at:
  - 212-396-7747 | [joan.cornachio@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:joan.cornachio@hunter.cuny.edu) or
  - 212-396-7754 | [matthew.smith@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:matthew.smith@hunter.cuny.edu)
- **Option 2:** Send prospective DMs' contact information to us and we'll follow up with them!
- **Option 3:** Go to [www.sdmny.org/contact-us](http://www.sdmny.org/contact-us) and fill out a contact form.

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We'd be happy to hear from you! To help us get back to you quickly, please fill out the contact form below and we'll do our best to reply.

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**Stakeholder Group\***

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