



The Provider Alliance
SHARING IDEAS, RESOURCES, AND PURPOSE

Membership Meeting

March 25, 2022





Upcoming TPA Meetings

Membership Meetings

- April 29, Annual TPA Legislative Forum
- May 27
- June 24

Other TPA Meetings & Workgroups

- Technology Workgroup, April 13
- Council on Racial & Social Equity, April 21
- Compliance Workgroup, May 18
- Financial Workgroup, June 15

SAVE THE DATE

April 29, 2022

9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM

6TH ANNUAL

**LEGISLATIVE APPRECIATION &
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
AWARENESS FORUM**



TPA Updates

1. NADSP Advocacy Symposium
2. Representative Dan Miller Disability & Mental Health Summit
3. Equal Pay for Equal Work Advocacy Campaign Update
4. Briefing from March 16 Employment First Workgroup
5. TPA Networking Events

2022 NADSP Advocacy Symposium

Amplifying The Voices Of DSPs



WHAT IS A DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL?

Direct support professionals (DSPs) assist people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in realizing their full potential and becoming valued and participating members of their communities. Their work is complex and goes well beyond caregiving, requiring skills including independent problem solving, decision making, behavioral assessment and prevention, medication administration, health and allied health treatment, teaching new skills, crisis prevention and intervention and more.

POLICY CHALLENGE: LACK OF SOC RECOGNITION FOR THE DSP PROFESSION

Currently, DSPs are inaccurately classified in labor reports under other positions, such as a nursing assistant (CNA), home health aide (HHA) or personal care assistant (PCA). The chart below compares the required competencies of a DSP to other direct care jobs, as well as licensed practical nurse (LPN), demonstrating the differences of the depth and breadth for a DSP's work. We are in the midst of an acute shortage of DSPs. The standard process for considering new SOCs is every 8-10 years, with the next proposed revision scheduled for 2028. We do not have time to wait and are therefore seeking legislation to address the issue.

NADSP Competencies	DSP	CNA	HHA	PCA	LPN
Participant Empowerment	X				
Community and Service Networking	X				
Advocacy	X				
Vocational, Educational and Career Support	X				
Organizational Participation	X				
Building and Maintaining Friendships/Relationships	X				
Provide Person-Centered Support	X				
Facilitation of Services	X			X	
Crisis Prevention and Intervention	X			X	
Education, Training and Self-Development	X	X			X
Community Living Skills and Supports	X	X	X		
Assessment	X	X		X	X
Communication	X	X	X	X	X
Documentation	X	X	X	X	X
Supporting Health and Wellness	X	X	X	X	X

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Please cosponsor and support **S.1437 - Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act in the Senate** and **HR. 4779 Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act in the House**.



Disability & Mental Health Summit

9th Annual

Hosted by

Representative Dan Miller

Legislative Panel

Thursday, March 17 • 1-3 pm



Representative
Dan Miller



Senator
Jay Costa



Senator
Camera Bartolotta



Senator
Devlin Robinson



Senator
Wayne Fontana



Representative
Dan Deasy



Representative
Carrie Lewis DelRosso



Representative
Dan Frankel



Representative
Sara Innamorato



Representative
Emily Kinkead



Representative
Anita Kulik



Representative
Summer Lee



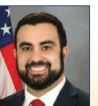
Representative
Natalie Mihalek



Representative
Brandon Markosek



Representative
Rob Mercuri



Representative
Nick Piscitanno

Our annual Disability & Mental Health Summit kicks off with our bipartisan Legislative Panel! Our system was blinking red before the pandemic, and COVID 19 has only exacerbated those problems. Join us for a discussion with a panel of experts as we talk about what needs to happen in order to improve access, capacity and system resiliency as we go forward.

JESSICA BENHAM, MEMBER
38TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES

EMAIL: REPBENHAM@PAHOUSE.NET
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Dear Chairman Bradford,

I am writing to you to urge the inclusion of an additional \$65 million in state general funds (to be matched by the federal government) to the FY 22/23 Budget to be allocated to Community Waiver (HCBS) rates for Intellectual Disability and Autism programs to be able to raise Direct Support Professional wages.

I share the concern of my fellow colleagues, intellectual disability/autism service organizations, people with ID/A and their families who are deeply concerned about the inability of community programs to be able to recruit, hire and retain Direct Support Professionals, the backbone of community-based programs.

The inability to hire workers is directly tied to the setting of rates and wage calculations set by the Department of Human Services, which has chosen to pay state employed Direct Support Professionals 30% more than community DSPs for its wage calculations for community-based waiver organizations in local programs. Both state programs and community programs are both funded from the identical Medicaid funding source.

This disparate treatment contributes to community programs having extraordinarily high turnover rates ranging from 40% to 60%, while state employed programs have significantly lower turnover rate ranging from 17% to 21%.

This failure to sufficiently fund community programs has resulted in over 6,500 people being discharged from community day and employment programs creating a crisis for many families across the Commonwealth, including elderly parents being asked to care for their adult children with disabilities.

I support the inclusion of this additional rate/wage funding in the 2022-2023 General Fund Budget legislation.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jessica Benham

Rep. Tina Davis

Rep. Robert Freeman

Rep. Nancy Guent

Rep. Liz Hanbidge

Rep. Patrick J. Harkins

Rep. Joseph Hohenstein

Rep. Brandon J. Markosek

Rep. Ed Neilson

Rep. Jennifer M. O'Mara

Rep. Ben Sanchez

Rep. Mike Schlossberg

Rep. Peter G. Schweyer

Rep. Melissa Shusterman

Rep. Mike Sturla

Rep. Michael P. Zabel



ODP Updates

1. ID Waiver Renewals Effective July 1
2. AAW Waiver Amendment Comment Period Open through April 11
3. Rate Appeal Deadline March 28
4. Recent ODP Announcements and Communications

Recent ODP Announcements & Communications



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- 22-022 ODP to Participate in 2021 NCI Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey
 - 22-023 Modified Med Admin Training Course Renewal Requirements
 - 22-024 AWC Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific PDS Effective March 1, 2022
 - 22-025 Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Wage Ranges Effective March 1, 2022
 - 22-026 Final Publication of Fee Schedule Rates
 - 22-027 Certified Investigator Forum Q&A and Registration for April CI Forum
 - 22-028 First Aid, Heimlich, CPR Training in Licenses Facilities
 - 22-029 Cornell Work Incentives Practitioner Credential
 - 22-030 Open Public Comment AAW Waiver Amendment
 - 22-031 One-Time Supplemental Staff Training, Credentialing, and Business Associates Programs for Employment
 - 22-032 QM Virtual Certification Classes
 - 22-033 Infection Prevention Specialist Partnership with HCQUs

ODP Bulletin 00-22-01: Targeted Support Management (TSM) for Individuals Served by ODP



Kristin Ahrens

Deputy Secretary
Office of Developmental Programs



Questions & Discussion





Thank You!
