

Declaring September 8-14, 2019 as Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

Whereas: Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the primary providers of community-based long-term support services for thousands of individuals with disabilities in Minnesota; and

Whereas: DSPs are valued for their work in building close, respectful, and trusted relationships with individuals to assist them with their most intimate needs; and

Whereas: DSPs provide essential support to individuals with disabilities to stay connected to family, friends, coworkers and the community, helping them to define and live a quality life; and

Whereas: DSPs provide a broad range of individualized supports, including meal preparation, medication assistance, personal care and life skills training, mobility, work and life enrichment opportunities and other daily tasks; and

Whereas: DSPs support informed choices and person-centered practices that honor and respect the individuals with disabilities they serve; and

Whereas: An adequate workforce of high-quality DSPs is necessary for the people of (city or county) to meet obligations to people with disabilities and minimize more costly settings such as hospitals or institutions; and

Whereas: DSPs are one of the fastest growing positions in America and demand for their skills is great, yet low wages and demographic trends are creating a growing shortage of DSPs, leading to increased turnover; and

Whereas: Public officials are key advocates in building awareness and addressing the issues facing this publicly-funded workforce.

Now, therefore, I, (public official's name and title), do hereby proclaim September 8-14, 2019 as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

MOHR (the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation), serves more than 110 adult day, day training and habilitation, extended employment, and supported employment service providers across the state. Its members serve more than 26,000 Minnesotans with disabilities. Members are committed to respect for each individual, a person-centered approach and expanding work opportunities.

ARRM is a nonprofit association of more than 200 providers, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives.