

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2018

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose. (See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network: Direct Support Professional Interest Network

Lead Contact Person: (Co-chairs) Colleen McLaughlin & Lori Sedlezky

Annual Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

While the DSP Workforce Interest Network did not fully complete the projected activities for 2017, we were able to provide educational opportunities for DSPs. The DSP Interest Network sent out broadcast emails and held one webinar in July in partnership with the Religion and Spirituality Interest Network. The Interest Networks hosted Debbie Fisher to present this educational webinar targeted to DSPs. The goal of this webinar was to raise awareness and improve DSP support practices in the area of spirituality. The webinar was well received, with well over 100 people registered. It was of great value to partner, and we appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with the Spirituality and Religion Interest Network.

The DSP Interest Network is also in conversation with the Administration and Community Services Network (which is currently in the process of merging) regarding collaboration activities. We believe that we are most successful in our education and outreach activities when collaborating with another Interest Network.

Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

The DSP Workforce Special Interest Network is committed to distributing at least three brief communications (research updates on DSP workforce, white paper, or short newsletter) over the course of the year. We anticipate disseminating a link to the PCPID Report on Workforce, a communication to DSPs and Community Services during 2018 DSP Recognition Week, and at least one other communication prior to the 2019 Annual Conference, encouraging membership and participation in DSP initiatives. The DSP Interest Network is also planning to develop a Facebook page and will be notifying DSP Interest Network members to visit the page and join the Facebook group. We hope that by activating social media we will increase activity among members and increase opportunities to partner on DSP Workforce related issues. We would also like to conduct at least one webinar, likely in partnership with an external body.

We hope that the proposed increase in activities and education will promote engagement of members in the DSP Interest Network, nurture networking and raise awareness of research initiatives in the area of DSP Workforce within the AAIDD membership body.

Due July 31, 2018