

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2020

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:

Colleen McLaughlin

Dorothy Hiersteiner

## Annual Report

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

This year, the DSP Workforce Interest Network spent some time thinking through purpose and goals moving forward. Co-Leads Dorothy and Colleen met several times throughout the year to discuss expanding the reach of the group, working to garner interest and clarify the network's aims, and brainstorm particular projects for the future.

During the COVID pandemic, the Interest Network elevated the requests from colleagues at UMN and NADSP for survey responses and videos detailing the DSP experience during COVID.

The Interest Network also is working to schedule a joint webinar with the Faith Interest Network on the role of DSPs in helping people express their faith and join in faith communities.

Though the in-person AAIDD conference did not occur this year, the interest network hopes to convene a virtual meeting and to gather ideas for the coming year.

## 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 Interest Network is dedicated to providing members with information that can be used to examine and address DSP workforce issues. We also aim to collect data and information about the DSP experience to provide context to workforce research being conducted by AAIDD members.

To that end, the network plans to work with other existing organizations and use targeted strategies to collect, distill and disseminate information to members and other interested parties. These strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Knowledge translation: articles research digested and reported in a clear, concise way. Info such as:
  - a. Provider strategies
  - b. DSP profiles

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- c. Current peer-reviewed research
- d. Current and upcoming legislative action.
- e. Info for DSPs on how to advocate
  - i. Provide a template for sharing story with legislators or other stakeholders
  - ii. Webinar on how to share story, how to digest research, etc.

In order to share this information, we may use the following media:

- 1) Social Media and Email Distribution Lists
- 2) Teleconferences
- 3) Newsletter development or contributions to a section in the AAIDD newsletter
- 4) Contributions to other Interest Network's or collaborator's newsletters