

NASDDDS Selected for Pursuing Equity Learning Network

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA, VA –The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) is proud to announce the association was selected to participate in the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) *Pursuing Equity Learning Network* for the 2023 through 2024 iteration. IHI Pursuing Equity is designed to foster systemic action by health systems to achieve improvements in equity and become liberated in their racial justice efforts. Participating groups are led through a series of learning opportunities to embed health equity into the organizational culture by making it a strategic priority; facilitating conversations and actions to address structural racism; and, testing numerous changes to improve equity in their systems and communities.

The selection process for the learning network was competitive ensuring the organizations chosen were committed to an eighteen month learning process and to pursuing systemic change opportunities required by the program. Through a grant by Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, the network and action community is being offered at no cost to participants for the current program iteration.

As an organization, NASDDDS has long been committed to making sure that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunities for a good life as any other person. With the high intersection of disability, communities of color, poverty, and health care disparities, NASDDDS realizes our equity work is ever evolving and ongoing. In 2020, NASDDDS recommitted to an active approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives to support our members as they attempt to shift systems in pursuit of better outcomes for all. The association since hired a Director of Equity Initiatives and System Innovations to lead this charge and ensure an equity approach is woven into all of our member support and programs.

"I am energized by the opportunity for the NASDDDS team to participate in this innovative learning experience and action collaborative offered by the Institute of Healthcare Improvement," commented NASDDDS Executive Director, Mary Sowers. "Our team is ready to take full advantage of this program and bring our learning to our member states. It is the natural next step in our constant pursuit to keep equity at the forefront of our work. Thank you to IHI for the opportunity."

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The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) represents the nation's I/DD agencies in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico providing services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. NASDDDS promotes visionary leadership, systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Find out more at [THIS LINK](#).

For more than 30 years, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has used improvement science to advance and sustain better outcomes in health and health care across the world. They bring awareness of safety and quality to millions, accelerate learning and the systematic improvement of care, develop solutions to previously intractable challenges, and mobilize health systems, communities, regions, and nations to reduce harm and deaths. Find out more at [THIS LINK](#).

See IHI's white paper providing guidance on how health care organizations can reduce health disparities related to racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. Read the paper at [THIS LINK](#).