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March 7, 2022

To: ODDS Staff and Partners

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

It's hard to believe that we're passing the second anniversary of Oregon's first documented COVID-19 case this month. Since then, we've been through so many challenges in the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community. We've lost too many friends, family members and coworkers. Through the grief and struggle, the I/DD community has shown its resiliency. We've pulled together in ways we never thought possible, and I know whatever comes next, we will get through it together.



March is also Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM). This year's theme is "Worlds Imagined." The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) chose this theme to focus on how the world is changing as we

move through and beyond the pandemic. As we come back together in person after two years of isolation, NACDD invites us to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with I/DD in our communities, discuss the barriers they sometimes continue to face, and to celebrate how they live and thrive as valued members of our communities.

Part of this is reimagining what is possible for the I/DD community and ensuring that our post pandemic world is equitable for all members of our community. At ODDS, we are constantly reevaluating Oregon's I/DD

system and working to make it more anti-racist, equity focused and person centered. This month we celebrate all members of the I/DD community. We encourage you to find your own ways to participate in DDAM. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Do you have a personal story, video, photo, toolkit or resources that share your experience of I/DD awareness or that could help others? NACDD is accepting submissions for its DDAM Resource Guide at rrolon-muniz@nacdd.org. They want to showcase the work that is being done to celebrate and improve the lives of people with I/DD. They will update the guide regularly throughout the month.
- Download NACDD's DDAM Resource Guide, the official DDAM logos and check out more resources. [NACDD's web page of DDAM resources](#) includes a downloadable resource guide that is full of links to articles and ideas for sharing stories, photos, art, podcasts and more. The guide is also attached to this email.
- Share the above logos, resources and stories on your social media. use #DDawareness2022, #DDAM2022 or #WorldsImagined.
- Read and share Governor Kate Brown's proclamation on the [Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities \(OCDD\) website](#). Be sure to check back later in the month to view and download OCDD's official and annual DDAM poster.
- Check out the [Administration for Community Living's DDAM resources](#) including social media graphics to download and share.
- Take time to reconnect with friends and family who are part of the I/DD community. Send a message or give them a call. It's been a challenging few years and everyone could use some kindness and support right now.

I am grateful to be a part of Oregon's incredible and resilient I/DD community. I look forward to the future and what our community will accomplish next.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty

Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available
at [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
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