

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Appreciation & ID/A Forum**  
**April 23, 2021**  
**9-10:30AM**

**1. Welcome & Introduction**

*This year, we focus on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) crisis we face as a community. This crisis impacts many lives, from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to their families, to the people who want to provide care and support. Today, we share their stories.*

**2. Opening Comments from Representative Dan Miller**

*Representative Miller was elected to the PA House of Representatives in 2013. In previous terms he served as a member of the Education, Labor, Judiciary and Human Services committees and on the following caucuses: Steel, Government Reform, Early Childhood Education, Equality, Autism and Intellectual Disabilities, and Fire/EMS. In 2018 he was elected by his peers to be chair of the Allegheny County House Democratic Delegation and in 2020 he became Caucus Chair of the Democratic Caucus. Representative Miller has been a staunch advocate for people with disabilities.*

**3. Sharing our Stories**

- ***Elizabeth (Liz) Humphrey, Disability Advocate & Motivational Speaker & Nancy Murray, Senior Vice President of Achieve and President of the ARC of Greater Pittsburgh***  
*Liz will share her story about how important the work of the Direct Service Professional (DSP) is for people with disabilities and how difficult it is to maintain stability and wellness in the community when staff are constantly turning over OR just not available.*
- ***LaToscha Charles: Direct Support Professional for 17 years, Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh***  
*LaToscha has served as a DSP for over 17 years. She will share her story about what it's like for a DSP; the complexity of the job, the low pay forcing many to work multiple jobs and the challenges that she faces with COVID-19.*
- ***Ruth Siegfried: Founder & President/CEO of InVision Human Services***  
*Ruth will share her story on the challenges of leadership in light of the DSP crisis, balancing the demands of the system, the demands of the families, the demands of the employees – all focused-on quality and doing more with less.*
- ***Will Stennett, Chief Officer of Developmental Disabilities & HSCBS Policy at Voices for Independence and Gary Blumenthal, Vice President of Government Relations & Advocacy at InVision Human Services***  
*Will and Gary serve on The Provider Alliance Government & Advocacy team. They will summarize the challenges presented and some proposed solutions.*

**4. Open Discussion**

**5. Adjourn**