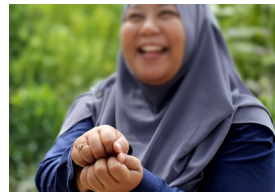


Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM)

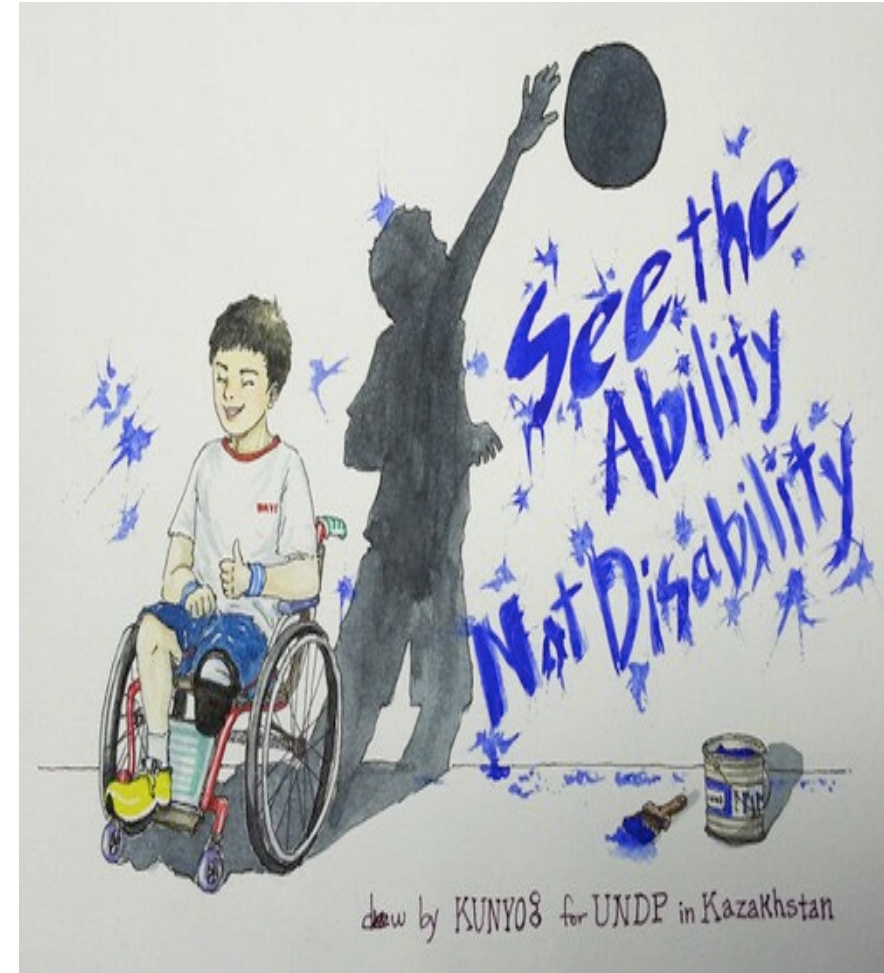


Presented to CDFA on March 13, 2024



Overview

- **About Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM)**
- **What is a Developmental Disability (DD)?**
- **Current Inclusion Efforts**
 - Governor Newsom Proclaims March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
 - Think Differently – Neurodiversity in Hiring
 - DDS's Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)



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History of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

- **In 1987**, President Ronald Reagan designated March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- **Each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and national partners work together** to create a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities
- **DDAM 2024 Theme: A World of Opportunities** - celebrating people and working together to remove obstacles
 - #DDawareness2024
 - #DDAM2024
 - #AWorldofOpportunities
 - #NewOpportunities



Why Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month?



DDAM raises awareness of:

- The benefits of inclusion of people with DD in communities
- Eliminating barriers for people with DD
- Commitment to creating a community where individuals with and without DD can succeed
- Supporting needs and providing equal access to opportunities for people with DD

What is a Developmental Disability?

A developmental disability is a lifelong challenge that can be intellectual, physical, or both

- Some examples are: intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism
- DD can affect a person's ability to take care of themselves, communicate or express themselves, how they learn, or their ability to move

To be eligible for services from DDS, a person must have a disability that begins before their 18th birthday that is expected to continue for their whole life

- Qualifying conditions are defined in the Lanterman Act
 - [Section 4512\(a\)\(1\) of the California Welfare and Institutions Code](#)
- Eligibility is established through diagnosis & assessment performed by one of the state's 21 local regional centers

Governor Newsom Proclaims Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month | California Governor



Think Different: Neurodiversity in Hiring Webinars

Goal: Attracting & Including Neurodiverse Employees in State Employment

Share
Current
Research in
the Field

Panel
Discussions
Featuring
People with
Lived
Experiences

Reduce
Stigma

State
Internship
Program
with DOR

DDS
Employment
Grants

DDS Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)



- **Educate employees** about disabilities in the workplace
- **Develop plans** to overcome & correct underrepresentation
- **Assess & identify** department and program concerns
- **Facilitate DAC growth:** encourage DDS employees to join

Disability Awareness Activities

Activity 1

- Lip Reading Activity

Activity 2

- Difficulty Understanding

Activity 3

- Test Your Awareness

Questions???



Questions after today's presentation? Email DAC@dds.ca.gov