

The Alliance's Mission

The Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals is a network of people committed to strengthening the quality of human services by empowering ourselves to increase our own dignity and respect. Along with the National Alliance, we strive to promote the development of a competent human services workforce that supports individuals in achieving their life goals.



Direct Support Professionals serve Michigan's disabled citizens in a variety of capacities and in every county in the state.



MADSP

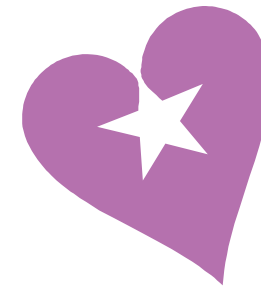
"Charging into the Future"

Michigan Alliance of
Direct Support Professionals

MADSP
Developmental Disabilities Institute
Wayne State University
4809 Woodward Ave., Ste. 268
Detroit, MI 48202

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History and Purpose

Since 1999, the Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) has worked tirelessly to uplift and support the field of Direct Support in Michigan and those who dedicate their lives to it. Through a combination of advocacy, legislative action, and community support, the Alliance has strived to bring attention to the issues and concerns confronting Direct Support Professionals and those that they serve. MADSP members come from every walk of life and hail from all corners of the state of Michigan. They function in a variety of ways in the field of Direct Support: members include foster parents, consumer advocates, group home employees, family members, consumers and many more. In the end, all MADSP members share a common goal, which is to improve the field of Direct Support and in turn better the lives of those they serve and themselves.



Direct Support Professionals participate in the lives of those they serve in a variety of ways.

MADSP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sponsored several Alliance members to attend various state conferences dealing with issues related to the profession.
- Initiated a letter writing campaign directed toward Michigan legislators highlighting pertinent issues affecting Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and those they serve.
- The Alliance organizes an annual Direct Support Professional Forum, attracting Hundreds of DSP's, family members, and consumers from all over the state.



Amy Hewitt delivers her Keynote address at the Fourth Annual Forum.

Speakers - including Amy Hewitt of the University of Minnesota, and Hollis Turnham of Michigan's Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute - and workshops are offered, focusing on issues relating to Michigan's field of Direct Support.

- The Alliance has consistently provided information to its members through the use of its electronic List Serv:
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Michigan-DSP/>
- The MADSP has stayed up-to-date on National issues and events concerning DSP's through its affiliation with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Membership in the Alliance is free of charge and completely voluntary. The strength of the MADSP lies within its members and the desire of the group to better itself and the field of Direct Care. All positions in the group are based on the level of participation set by each individual member. To become active in the Alliance, one may sign up on the electronic List Serv and start attending the monthly, rotating, MADSP meetings. Meetings are held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the third Thursday of every month. Meeting location rotates regionally throughout the state and is announced via email and mailed flyers. To host a monthly meeting at your organization/agency, please contact Michael Bray at (313)577-6684 for scheduling and current meeting locations.

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