

BLACK LIVES MATTER

June 16, 2020

Achieve with us.

The Arc of Delaware and The Arc of the United States have been leading advocates for human rights, landmark legislation, funding and community opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families for over 65 years.

Like the rest of the nation and indeed the world, we at The Arc of Delaware watched the murder of George Floyd with horror, shock and ultimately profound sadness. Our pain is made more agonizing, by the knowledge this tragic event is yet another of many past and continuing incidents in our nation's deplorable history of discrimination, prejudice and injustice towards African Americans and other minorities.

However, Mr. Floyd's senseless murder now appears to be a clarion call in our nation's civil rights movement. We pray that the righteous indignation of our people may finally lead to long overdue, meaningful and enduring reforms in our nation's policies, policing, and civil rights protections for black persons and other minorities.

As we contemplate the persons with I/DD and other disabilities we serve, we are intensely aware of the long history of discrimination, institutionalization and oppression that this minority has also endured throughout our nation's history.

We honor and celebrate African Americans and other minorities who have contributed immeasurably to our industry of services to persons with I/DD and other disabilities within our nation. A recent survey of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) working throughout the Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, revealed that 83% of these crucial front line workers are members of a minority group. Certainly within our industry, we know that Black Lives not only matter, **they are essential.**

The Arc of Delaware remains dedicated to human rights, civil rights, and social justice, for all persons. We invite all of you to join us in our continuing commitment to advocate for all of these principles, as we champion our nation's founders' declaration that "all men are created equal" and pursue their promise of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

May we always remember and honor George Floyd and the multitudes he represents, as we together continue to crusade for equal rights, opportunities and protections for all black Americans.