

As the supervisor of DSP's, I have had to watch many people forced to choose between doing what they love, providing services to a population of people who so need it and earning enough money to pay their monthly bills and put food on the table.

How do we as providers hire, train and retain a staff of quality care providers if they are forced to choose between making 12.66 an hour compared to 17.00 an hour working at McDonald's?

The responsibilities of every DSP includes many time reacting to a medical crisis or administering medications. Tracking vital health and social information, compared to taking a food order, receiving payment and handing it out a drive through window.

If the role of every DSP's importance is not recognized and compensated, I fear a very important part of our society, the DD/IDD will bear the repercussions of such blindness.

Lisa Wood
DSA-Supported Employment Manager
Community Access Services