



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

April 9, 2020

Good afternoon everyone,

As many of you are all aware, we continue to face mounting losses of those we care for and those who care for them, in both Public and Private settings. While these losses are devastating, and they are, I reflected on a Maya Angelou quote:

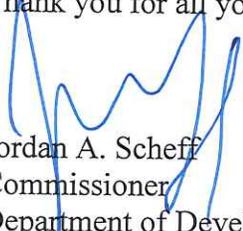
"We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated." – Maya Angelou

The timing of all this so close to holy seasons for many of us (Passover and Easter Holy week upon us now, and Ramadan in just two weeks) gives many of us additional time to reflect on our current experience, the lives lost, the ill, the fret, and the stress. It also gives many of us a time to reflect on what bounty we are grateful for, and what grace is part of our journey together. Direct care staff have so often given up holiday time with their families under good circumstances, and this weekend they will be doing it under the cloud that is this pandemic experience. In addition to the moment of silence today at DDS, please keep all our frontline workers – 1600 public and more than 25,000 private direct support professionals - in your hearts, in your thoughts and in your prayers.

We are doing what we can now to prepare for potentially tougher days ahead as a DDS team. Our provider community is doing the same. We will continue to face these challenges and we will continue to rise above them where we can, through continued teamwork and mutual support. While we have encountered some defeats, we will not be defeated. These direct care staff are my heroes.

"Inspiration, move me brightly
light the song with sense and color
Hold away despair
more than this I will not ask
Faced with mysteries dark and vast
statements just seem vain at last" – Robert Hunter

Thank you for all you do, and please remember those on our front lines ensuring we will not be defeated.



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner
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