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## COMMUNICATIONS

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### Press Release

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#### **DDS Commissioner Receives Lifetime Hero Award**

*(Hartford, CT)- Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D. recently received the **Lifetime Hero Award** from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) at their 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Region X conference in Mystic, Connecticut. This year's conference celebrated the "Heroes Amongst Us" and honored leaders in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities from Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut.*

*In addition to Commissioner Macy receiving the **Lifetime Hero Award**, DDS Self Advocate Varian S. Salters of the North Region was presented the **Everyday Hero Award**. This award is given to someone who contributes to the community, benefits others, makes a difference and sets an example.*

*Although Mr. Salters was unable to attend the conference, he was presented his award during a special ceremony held in the DDS East Hartford Office. When asked how he felt about receiving the award, Mr. Salters replied, "I am honored."*

*Commissioner Macy was recognized for a lifetime of service transforming the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After over 30 years in the field, he is known as an inspiring leader who promotes quality research, practice and training; and the rights of and dignity of individuals with disabilities in all endeavors. He also serves as a role model and mentor to emerging leaders in the field.*

*"Our world has changed so dramatically since I began my career but the role of this organization has not", said Commissioner Macy. "We are still a community of professionals who are dedicated to discovering and promoting best practices. AAIDD plays a significant role in creating the next generation of supports. Together, we will build a support system that puts people and families first".*

*Commissioner Macy continued, "I am so humbled by this lifetime achievement award. I have been very fortunate to have been given many opportunities in my career to make a difference. I am not alone, today we celebrate the "Heroes Amongst Us" and it is with all of you that we not only celebrate the depth of our leadership but the rich promise of those who will transform us in the years to come".*

*The AAIDD is a national organization which promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

*Commissioner Macy belongs to several national professional organizations; He is a fellow of the AAIDD, twice past chair of the Northeast Region X and Chair of the Connecticut Chapter. In addition, he is a member of the National Conference of Executive Directors of the ARC and currently serves as the Connecticut State Director for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). Throughout his career he also served as Chair of the ARC US Board Chapter Excellence Training Committee and as past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits.*

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