Statement of Solidarity

June 4, 2020

The American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry at its core, is an organization dedicated to removing barriers to the highest quality healthcare for a vulnerable population. While the mission may directly apply to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we also advocate for other marginalized populations, including black Americans. We know individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that also identify as a part of other minority populations face even more health barriers.

Our country has recently seen the dramatic consequences of police violence, including the multiple murders of black people by police, on our communities and on our overall public health. We know that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have not been excluded from this threat and have faced police violence directly. Additionally, the individuals that support them, including direct support professionals and other caregivers, come from a wide variety of backgrounds and face racism and marginalization on a daily basis.

We support the black community and all others facing the consequences of systemic discrimination. We recognize that it is not enough to only advocate for breaking down barriers and dismantling prejudices at a time where racism takes center stage, such as with the current protests taking place after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. As an organization, we commit to always improving the ways we can help make more equitable systems for black people, not only in healthcare but also in our communities as a whole.