



Improving lives THROUGH supports and services
THAT FOSTER self-determination.

3/3/18

Be MOre Aware: March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Using People First Language

Words are powerful. Old, inaccurate descriptors and the inappropriate use of medical diagnoses perpetuate negative stereotypes and reinforce a significant and incredibly powerful attitudinal barrier. This invisible, but potent, force - not the diagnosis itself - is the greatest obstacle facing individuals with disabilities. People first language puts the person before the disability and describes what a person has, not who a person is. For additional information and resources promoting People First language, visit: <https://www.disabilityisnatural.com/pfl-articles.html>

www.dmh.mo.gov/dd
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