



To the Arc of South Norfolk & Lifeworks community

The Arc movement, which Lifeworks and The Arc of South Norfolk are such proud and vibrant members of, takes its roots from serving as the leading human rights and civil rights advocates for persons with disabilities in this country. Today, our role as advocates is never more called for.

I join with all of the members in our community and our country in expressing shock and dismay over the killing of George Floyd, and over the homicides of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. There is no place in our community and in America for the racist attitudes and actions that led to these senseless deaths. We must stand up, we must advocate for justice and we must stand for equal treatment for all.

Furthermore, we are outraged by the police brutality and hate that took place in the actions of Minneapolis. There is simply no place in our community, our local towns, our state and our nation for the brutality that took place, for the systemic racism that is the basis for this behavior. We are heartbroken by the violence throughout our country that this has spawned.

As an agency and a community we are blessed to serve and honored to work alongside co-workers from many races, countries and backgrounds. No person should fear for their life or receive unequal treatment because of the color of their skin or if they have a disability. Please know that I am always available if you would like to discuss any concerns you have regarding racism or other forms of discrimination.

We must all step forward, we must all make it our mission to advocate for and work to protect the rights of everyone. Our Arc movement is based on inclusion and opportunity. Inclusion and opportunity take place when all people, including everyone in our community, make it their goal to treat all of our citizens with dignity and respect. If we can create a community where we make it our mission to approach each of our neighbors, co-workers, and those we meet in our everyday life with dignity and respect, we can begin to break down the racist actions that continue to divide us.

Lifeworks and The Arc of South Norfolk stand with each and every person whom we serve, and each and every member of our staff team. We expect and demand social justice for all.

Sincerely and please stay health,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel Burke'.

Daniel Burke