

Good morning everyone. My name is Ann Marie Whitty and I came here today to talk to you about the need for **more staffing!** in **our! Community!** Since the pandemic, there has been a **huge!** shortage of staff, especially at my work program.

Because of this, my work schedule was **cut several times!**

I went from 5 days a week to only a couple of days per week.

Some weeks, I had to **stay home!** because there was **no staff!**

This has **significantly!** affected **my!** pay.

When I am at work, it **empowers me!**. It makes me feel good and it allows me to socialize with my peers. I **miss!** my friends and want to get back to my full schedule, but that **cannot happen!** until the staffing issue is **resolved!** and that starts with **their wages!**

This situation has made me **very angry!** but I am happy that through this speech I am able to voice my opinion.

My community!, my friends! and staff!, we ALL FEAR! that we will be faced with the **same issues and conditions!** that occurred **at this site! 50 years ago due to funding!**

DO NOT LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF!!!!.

Support the disabled community by supporting the people who work hard and deserve a fair wage!

They help us not only achieve our goals but our hopes and dreams.!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express our issues and have a great day.