“Voice of the People” important to providers

Last week, for the 28th time, individuals with disabilities, their family members, advocates and providers gathered in Juneau for the annual Key Campaign. Through marching, singing and storytelling, legislators were reminded of the people impacted by decisions.

I have heard over and over from people working in other disciplines how effective the Key Campaign is. Listening to stories that bring on tears and inspire hugs, it’s difficult to imagine that won’t impact tough funding decisions down the road.

As a trade association, we can’t underestimate its importance. The Key Campaign doesn’t happen without great effort. A relatively small number of providers, particularly Hope Community Resources under the leadership of Steve Lesko, has carried the bulk of the Key Campaign work year after year.

How are we going to keep the Key Campaign strong as the founders move on and funding climates change?

The Key Coalition board is exploring funding opportunities that will sustain its professional lobbyist and the annual Juneau gathering. As providers, there are ways we can contribute to promote the sustainability of Key:

**Encourage participation:** Support individuals and families to participate in the Key Campaign. This may involve scheduling information-sharing sessions ahead of time to help coordinate travel and talk about the legislative priorities.

**Promote the development of advocacy skills:** Spread the word about Peer Power. Talk to teams about including goals around advocacy in plans of care. Start a self-advocacy group within your organization.

**Work with families to support a local Key Coalition group:** Communities around Alaska have their own Key Coalition group which meets with legislators outside of the legislative session and holds local rallies and events.

The Key Coalition’s power comes from the involvement of the people we provide services to. Their involvement makes our own system stronger and more sustainable. We need to do our part to keep it going!

- Kim Champney, AADD President

**ASSISTED LIVING HOME ACUITY GRANT**

Effective Health Design (Sandra Heffern) has been awarded a grant by the Mental Health Trust to assign individuals living in Assisted Living Homes (ALH) to one of four different tiers of complexity or acuity. The SDS Final Report on the Service Acuity Rate Adjustment was developed by Meyers and Stauffer is posted on the AADD website. The grant will apply the four tiered option in work done between March and the end of June, 2015. This is an initial step in moving toward acuity rates.

**Rate Rebasng Refinement**

The service definitions work group report, titled Rate Rebasng Refinement is posted on the AADD website under latest news. The project was a collaboration between SDS, the Office of Rate Review and the Community Care Coalition between August and December, 2014. Thanks to the providers listed below who contributed to the service definitions and clarified how the services are provided.

Special thanks to:

Michael Bailey, Emily Ennis, Amanda Faulkner, Cindy Hensley, Stephanie Hoxie, Allison Lee, Millie Ryan, Connie Sipe, Leah Solberg and Trish Walter.
Conflicting-Free Case Management

The Conflict-Free Case Management System Design Final Report has been posted on the AADD website under the latest news and shared with AADD.

Thanks to the Mental Health Trust for funding to hire Agnew::Beck with HCBS Strategies (Steve Lutzky) to work with a large group of stakeholders including providers and state staff.

The stakeholder group did not agree on one system for the re-design. The report accurately reflects the four options developed by the group that include:

1) Market-driven, state performs QI/QA,
2) Regional CFCM Agencies, one per region
3) Statewide or regional training, monitoring and administrative support
4) Regional organizations, multiple per region, provide CM and administrative support

The four options, including criteria to evaluate them, are found on page 26 of the report. Also included are short and long-term implementation plans with suggested timelines. The state will be required to make the final decision.

Executive Director News

The Executive Committee is changing their title to Board of Directors. Your Board members include: Officers: Kim Champney, President; Michael Bailey, Vice President; Emily Ennis, Past President; Trish Walter, Secretary; Matt Jones, Treasurer; and Regional Representatives: Susan Dratham, Bess Clark, Jim Beck and Amanda Faulkner.

The Ancor State Association Executives are seeking to have their summer meeting in Alaska.

KEY CAMPAIGN DONATION

At the Unity Dinner Christine Culliton, an Independent Care Coordinator, purchased a serenade by the Keytones. She selected Duane Mayes as the recipient. The Keytones include (left to right) Diane Poage, Susan Drathman, Rick Benjamin, Helen Simmons, Michele Girault, Kim Champney, Gianna Fraize, Lizette Stiehr and Angie Fraize with Duane Mayes. Amanda Lofgren also sang “You are our Sunshine” with the group, but was behind the camera.

MMIS Research Project

Thanks to the seven programs that filled out yet another survey that provided Information Insights with the data they need to quantify the difficulties providers have experienced with the MMIS conversion. Look for another report in March.

Watch for a second monthly AADD teleconference centered around a single topic, allowing providers who choose to participate the opportunity to share knowledge and concerns with each other.

AADD is a full partner with the state of Alaska and is proactive in addressing the needs of people with developmental disabilities.