

AADD ALASKA

JUNE/JULY — 2017

From the AADD President ...Michael Bailey



LET FREEDOM RING!



Freedom! In June 2017, we waited with bated breath for a State budget, stressed over service cuts, sympathized with State employees who received layoff notices, and breathed a sigh of relief when an operating budget passed, averting a State shutdown.

Freedom! On June 27th, the U.S. Senate delayed debate and vote on the "Better Care Reconciliation Act" (BCRA), which contains huge cuts to Medicaid funding.

Freedom! On July 4th, we celebrated our independence from the tyranny and oppression of a monarchy to begin a democracy of freedom.

With freedom of speech, a democracy may appear messy but we cannot lose our voice in advocating for the freedom of others. The U.S. Senate is due to vote next week on the BCRA.

Exercise your freedom : Contact Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan to vote against it. This bill proposes a per capita allocation of Federal Medicaid funds to each State:

*Alaska would need to decrease by \$632 million in total Medicaid spending during FY2020-2026 to keep below the Federal caps.

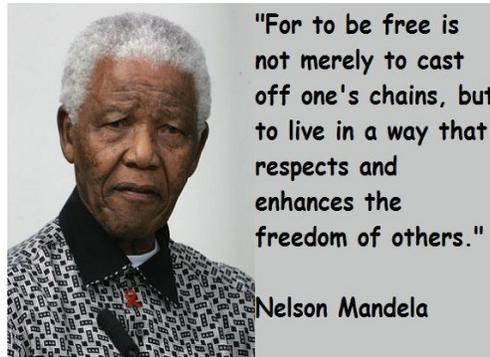
*Alaska is expected to lose 28% of current federal Medicaid funding.

*Medicaid covers one in four people in Alaska, nearly half of whom are children.

*Nearly 34,000 expansion adults could lose coverage and the remaining children, seniors, people with disabilities and other adults covered by Medicaid are at increased risk for cuts.

(Mannatt Health, June 2017)

Value your freedom! Share it with others! Live in this democracy and use your voice! With liberty and justice for all! Thank you.



Nelson Mandela

Senior and Disabilities

Services UPDATE

- 1) Proposed regulations to day habilitation for soft caps for any amount over 416/hours/year closed June 15th. AADD sent two public comments letter that are posted on our website.
- 2) SDS is moving forward with the new waiver (was Limited Supports Waiver) now called the Individualized Supports Waiver . They are in frequent communication with CMS and anticipate implementing January 1, 2018. Many folks on the DRRR will need eligibility completed, and care coordinators must submit Plans of Care. This serves to replace reduced grant funding in FY18.
- 3) With the state budget now passed and state employees are retained, averting a situation of a skeleton crew dealing with issues of health and safety only.

AADD hosted a Celebration Party at the Pioneer Home for **Amanda Lofgren** . Her last day at the Trust was June 15th. Many words of appreciation were expressed. Amanda's passion, optimism and big collaborative thinking will be missed .



DD Shared Vision Phase 2: Making It Real!

Alaskans share a Vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our Vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

In the next year this Vision will focus resources and activities dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. This Vision will guide system change efforts, advocacy activities, training programs and ideally services delivered by providers.

The DD Systems Collaborative met on May 22 and identified next steps (strategic areas) for moving toward the Vision. A project team will be developed for each area. Each team will create an action plan. The five strategic areas are:

- ⇒ Driving toward a more Person-Directed Culture
- ⇒ Strengthening the DSP Workforce
- ⇒ Recruiting Legislative Allies and Champions
- ⇒ Increasing Community Awareness regarding the gifts and needs of people with disabilities
- ⇒ Defining outcomes and measuring progress toward the Vision: Where are we at today and how will we know when we arrive?

Making the Vision a reality requires widespread and diverse commitment. In the upcoming months, recruitment for project team members will get underway. Ideally each project team will include professional expertise as well as people directly impacted—individuals, family members, direct support professionals, etc.

For questions or suggestions, contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com or 907-957-1970.

Research Corner

Brittney M. Howell, Ph.D

Research & Development, Hope Community Resources

[Stress](#) and [trauma](#) can lead to [depression](#) and [anxiety](#), especially in [adolescent girls](#). Research shows [in-home therapies](#) and [exercise](#) can help alleviate some of these symptoms. [This article](#) shows what we can all do to help prevent chronic stress and promote well-being in our communities.

Appreciation is a wonderful thing; it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well. Voltaire

Calendar for July 2017

July 13, 2017 AADD Membership teleconference

July 20, 2017 Compliance & CFO Teleconferences

No Hot Topics or Newsletter in July

October 5, 2017 Fall Face to Face Meeting

Partner Spotlight

Governor's Council on Special Education and Developmental Disabilities



The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education's (The Council) mission is to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities. This is accomplished through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building. Pictured above are Council members and partners discussing the importance of Medicaid to Alaskans with disabilities with U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, advocating for Home and Community Based Waiver Services through Medicaid.

The Council has five state and federal roles: 1) State Council on Developmental Disabilities (federal role—DD Act), 2) Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (federal role—IDEA), 3) Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP, federal—IDEA), 4) Governing Body of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA, federal role—IDEA), and 5) Beneficiary Advisory Board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (state role). The Council works in many different areas due to its multiple roles.

The 5 core goal areas covered in the Council's state 5-year plan include: Community Inclusion Supports & Services, 2) Employment, 3) Education, 4) Early Intervention, and 5) Healthcare.

To learn more about the work of the Council and see how you can get involved in its day-to-day work through its committees, visit: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/> You can sign up to receive email listserv updates on their website and can stay in the loop on programs, trainings, advocacy, and events by liking our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GCDSE/>

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