



# AADD ALASKA

## June — 2018

From Michael Bailey, AADD President

### Being the Change in a Changing World

We all enjoy elements of stability, security and predictability in our lives. When change occurs rapidly and constantly, we can wonder whether we are merely reactors or if we can be influencers. I would urge you to be both!

A dictionary definition of Change is “to make or become different”. To make a difference, we first need to be different. As AADD seeks to embrace both roles, here are some key elements to consider:

- **Belief:** The DD Shared Vision Implementation represents a strong belief that we can be influencers. Let’s be contagious with this! Feedback following recent AMHTA meetings indicates how refreshing and necessary belief remains.
- **Faith & Positivity:** Focus on strengths, not deficits! July 21st is Alaska's first Disability Pride day. Celebrations are being planned in Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks and Juneau to mark the Americans with Disabilities Act. Facebook: Disability Pride

- **Innovation:** AADD will host focus groups to propose collaborative solutions on Companion Services, and Family Habilitation services this summer. Implementation of Assistive/Enabling Technology will also remain a priority.
- **Resources:** An inflationary Rate increase 2.5% effective 07/01/18 (see <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/pca/PCA-waiver-service-rates201807.pdf>) offers some help after 5 years of freeze. Workforce development and retention remains a top priority, since this is a national challenge.
- **Understanding:** In May 2018, the AADD Board discussed the fiscal challenges of its members. We hope that the 5% discount you will see on FY19 membership dues invoices demonstrates our understanding, and helps with travel, advocacy, and education costs.

Happy 4th of July to you all! Michael



### Senior and Disabilities Services UPDATE

- ISW waiver approved by CMS. Regulations with DHSS attorney. Once approved the Lt. Governor has to sign and then it's 30 days to implementation.
- Funds were moved from Medicaid to general funds to allow 25% of last years grant award as a continuation for up to 6 months of FY19.
- The safety net for those Medicaid eligible not meeting Level of Care will be capped at \$10,000. Stone Soup is contacting those referred by SDS for options counseling and care plans. Stone Soup will contact the organization selected by the individual for services. As of June 14th nine individuals had been declared eligible .
- Harmony has some challenges in function that are being addressed. PCA plans are being added. Care Coordinators are next. No date for providers.
- Family habilitation structure does not meet CMS requirements. Payments must be made to provider rendering the service. Two options are 1) Use a fiscal intermediary, or 2) Certify the rendering provider/family habilitation home. AADD will form a work group on this topic during a July 17th membership call.
- Caroline Hogan is the new Chief of Programs, replacing Lisa Morley who moved to Public Health.
- A 2.5% cost of living increase was added to HCBS & PCS rates for FY19.

## Shared Vision—DD Collaborative

The DD collaborative met in late May with 26 organizations represented. Kim Champney shared an outreach process she used to garner information that mirrored the process for developing the Shared Vision. The DD Collaborative agreed that the current five work groups remain top priorities:

- Person Directed Culture Change—key principles to embed in training and presentations
- DSP Workforce Development—Adopt the DSP Code of Ethics, increase training, coordinate recruitment
- Community Awareness and Engagement—welcome video, Alaska Pride event(s) and public awareness campaign
- Measuring Success—way to measure quality of services
- Legislative Engagement—with Shared Vision in statute continue to advocate for person directed services

If you are interested in participating contact Kim Champney at [kim@champneyconsulting.com](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com) or call at 907-957-1970.

Peter Leidy is returning in Alaska for two weeks the beginning of October to work with providers. Look forward to hearing him at our AADD face to face meeting: September 28th.



Tribal Claiming is happening. If you receive a care coordination (not a DD Care Coordination) agreement from a tribal entity please sign it. It means you are serving one of their tribal members and the services you provide them allows the State of Alaska to be reimbursed at 100% FMAP, instead of the standard Medicaid 50%. This is part of SB74 Medicaid Reform.

## DD Leadership Summit 2018: BE THE CHANGE

Here are your current and future leaders from the Leadership Summit sponsored by the Trust and the Alaska Training cooperative and AADD. Growing leaders across Alaska.



## Upcoming Events

**July 1—11th—Lizette on vacation**

July 14—AADD teleconference 11—12

July 19—Compliance Group Call—8:30—9:30

June 19 —CFO Teleconference 10—11

July 26— No Hot Topics in July

July 22—27—Lizette at ANCOR SAE gathering

## AMHTA STAKEHOLDER MEETING

On June 20 & 21, the Alaska Mental Health Trust hosted a meeting for 60 stakeholders involved in serving the Trust primary beneficiaries. These include broad groups of Alaskans with 1) mental illness, 2) developmental disabilities, 3) chronic alcoholism and other substance related disorders, 4) Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and 5) traumatic brain injuries. The overarching goal of the meeting was to drive Trust priorities for the budget cycle for FY20 and FY21. FY 19 budget is already set.

The first day stakeholders were given an opportunity to learn from multiple panelists, each of whom shared their work, programs, data and challenges in serving beneficiaries. AADD participated on a panel about workforce issues.

On the second day, the Trust scheduled a full hour in the morning for a presentation on our Shared Vision. Kim Champney presented an overview, history and the operationalization work done over the past year. The presentation was well received.

The remainder of the second day was spent in small groups identifying challenges and prioritizing solutions. AADD members participated in two of the work groups: 1) Workforce and 2) Employment and peer supports.

Interesting takeaways from the meeting included:

- ◆ The Trust spends 20 to 22 million dollars annually on beneficiary programs
- ◆ Trust research shows 40% of those involved in the criminal justice system are beneficiaries
- ◆ There are 76 behavioral health treatment grantees
- ◆ One of the AMHTA's desired results is "Beneficiaries live the lives they choose with supports they direct." Sound familiar? Very similar to the Shared Vision definition of person directed services.

*Belief sometimes precedes  
understanding; faith  
sometimes precedes  
scientific evidence*

Barbara Grizzuti Harrison  
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