

AADD ALASKA

September/October 2018

ANCOR SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON DC

(American Network of Community Options and Resources)

Barbara Merrill's address—For all of us

Welcome to Washington – thank you for coming to help advance our advocacy agenda.....This nation is as divided as we've seen in decades – and it shows no signs of abatement.These moments are not unique to recent history. Once our failure to maintain a functional national dialogue led to civil war.....

To many in this room and in the ANCOR family that stretches across America our current moment seems much to like Lincoln's time. How should we conduct ourselves in such a time? To this I say not by becoming part of these confrontational politics but by remaining true to who we are. We are an organization that reflects a wide range of views about how to best serve our community. I spend much of my time working with our leaders finding the common ground we can all support: the constructive center, that every person of goodwill can support.

This must carry over into our work this week, because no matter our personal views, we come to Washington for this ANCOR Summit not as Republicans, not as Democrats, but as advocates for the people who depend on our services every day. We come to advocate for our Direct Support Professionals, we come to advocate for greater flexibility in the use of technology, we come to advocate for electronic visit verification that does not create a barrier to quality supports and services, we come to advocate for better health outcomes, and during this month of Disability Employment Awareness month, we come to advocate for greater opportunities for integration employment.

In an atmosphere like the one that exists right now in Washington, partisans on each side will attempt to use us to advance their agenda. And we will often find ourselves on the same side as one of the parties or another, but we must make clear that this is because our interests align - not because we are part of any Party's agenda.

Disability is not a partisan issue, and therein lies our strength, therein lies our opportunity to bring forward issues where Republicans and Democrats can find common cause.

I'm not asking you to ignore or condone behavior that you may view as dishonest and abusive. All I am asking is that you engage in the struggle in a different way, as an example of a better way built on mutual respect and listening to each other.

Let us lead by example that says to those we encounter that we believe in listening, mutual respect, and getting past our differences over means to find common ends. We will be guided by our commitment to advance the opportunities and civil rights of people with intellectual disabilities and anchored by a firm belief that we are, as Angela King recently reminded us by quoting the Book of Esther for all to hear, "WE WERE BORN FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS."

Printed with permission from Barbara Merrill's address to ANCOR's Summit.

ANCOR UPDATE and AGENDA

Please read the excerpt from Barbara Merrill's opening speech at the ANCOR Summit in DC. It truly inspired me.

ANCOR asked attendees to present 3 topics to our delegations:

1. Direct Support Professionals need a Federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) for them to collect accurate data. A letter is circulating congress for signatures asking the Bureau of Labor Statistics to support classification of DSPs as a health care support occupation.
2. Better health outcomes for individuals with IDD—through the Heads Up Act designating people with IDD as a Medically Underserved Population. This would allow for grants
3. Money Follows the Person needs congressional renewal to continue. While Alaska hasn't accessed these funds they match our Shared Vision.



Senator Murkowski was unable to attend the PAC meeting due to the Kavanaugh vote. She sent her Legislative Director and Chief of Staff. Pictured from left to right: Lizette Stiehr (AADD) Garret Boyle (who wrote the initial EVV delay legislation on behalf of the Senator), Barbara Merrill (CEO of ANCOR), Michael Pawlowski (Chief of Staff, Senator) Heidi Mansir (ANCOR Board Sec/Treasurer) and Robert Budd (ANCOR Board President).

Senior and Disabilities Services UPDATE

- The ISW (Individualized Services Waiver) is live as of October 1, 2018. 228 folks have been determined eligible for the ISW. 8 are assessed and awaiting scoring. Another 18 are in the assessment process. 233 have not responded to the ISW offer.
- Technology A pilot project is entering final stages of forms and evaluation tools. SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) will soon be issuing an RFP for a vendor offering remote monitoring services.
- EVV (Electronic Visit Verification). SDS released an RFI (Request for Information) to obtain information about EVV options. The RFI includes Personal Care Services and Home Health but does not include Home and Community services. SDS is hopeful to keep EVV implementation tied to the original intent of the Cures Act.
- Safety Net funding is processing four referrals of individuals Medicaid eligible but not eligible for ISW waiver have been made by SDS (Lisa Morley) to Stone Soup Group.
- Transition Services from institution into the community are a priority for SDS and may include: housing costs, utilities, household goods, furniture and moving expenses.
- STAR (Short Term Assistance and Referral) will be conflict free as of July 1, 2019. It will be “rebranded” and SDS is seeking suggestions for a new name.
- Mediware (aka Harmony) has a new name: WellSky. No date has been set for care coordinators to participate.
- SDS expressed appreciation for the AADD work groups on Companion Services and Family Habilitation.

Tolerance is giving every other human being every right that you claim for yourself.
Robert Green Ingersoll

Upcoming Events—2018

- October 25—Hot Topics—AADD 101
- November 8— AADD teleconference
- November 15—SDMA Summit (Supported Decision Making Agreements)
- November 15—CFO Teleconference
- November 22—Thanksgiving
- November 17—December 4 —Lizette on vacation
- April 9th, 2019—Spring Face to Face, Anchorage

FACE TO FACE UPDATE—September 28, 2018

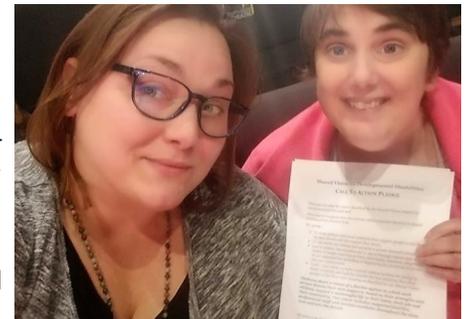
- ◆ Duane Mayes has become the CEO of API (Alaska Psychiatric Institute). Thank you Cindy and Vic’s for his cake. And thanks to Hope for a great plaque with the Shared Vision spelled out.
- ◆ Deb Etheridge is the new Acting Director of SDS (Senior and Disability Services).
- ◆ Jaimie Kassman, Developmental Disabilities Director at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel is a new member of AADD’s Board of Directors.
- ◆ Resolution supporting the Adoption of a Code of Ethics by Providers who are members of AADD to include Direct Support Professionals was passed.
- ◆ 62 people attended the meeting with 8 more joining the SDS update by zoom
- ◆ The Governor’s Council was awarded the Living Well on the Last Frontier grant from the Administration for Community Living and will benefit our system.
- ◆ Peter Leidy has written a song for the Shared Vision to the tune of “This is Your Land.” Here is a picture of him singing it.



We are saddened by the sudden passing of Kimber Jackson on September 28, 2018. She is remembered for her work at Hope and for being an outstanding trainer with the Alaska Training Cooperative.

DD Shared Vision: Call To Action Pledge

Amanda Wilcox and Michelle Davidson proudly show their signed pledge form during Frontier Community Services’ all-staff gathering where the entire organization committed to promoting the Shared Vision. Have you signed on? Email kim@champneyconsulting.com for how to get involved.



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