



AADD ALASKA

March — 2019

From Amanda Faulkner, AADD Vice President

Positioning for Change

HCBS providers in Alaska have been on the defensive for the past four years from numerous changes at state and federal levels. And in 2017, Congress came very close to dramatically restructuring Medicaid. Barbara Merrill of ANCOR recalls, “Never have we come as close as we did to losing Medicaid as an uncapped federal entitlement.” Now Governor Dunleavy’s proposed budget has the state again bracing for impact.

While 2019 promises further defensive action, we must also be getting ready to go on the offense. Organizations need to build capacity to meet this disruption head on. Examples of steps to prepare: embracing the opportunities technology presents, creating diverse teams with technical skills, seeking out partners in other industries that can strengthen your internal skills, and becoming familiar with practices from tech companies like design thinking that can increase your ability to speak the digital language.

Digital dexterity, or “the ability and desire to exploit existing and emerging technologies for better business outcomes,” will become increasingly important for organizations in the not-so-distant future. Technology is changing faster than we can possibly adapt. Consider the impact on books, food and travel. Similar disruption is rapidly changing primary care. Disability services are next.

We all also have an obligation to educate public policy makers, elected officials, the media and the general public about the challenges confronting the IDD service delivery system, but we need to do a far better job telling our positive story of how Medicaid transforms people’s lives every single day. We must heed the 2017 lesson of how narrowly the Medicaid program came to being dramatically restructured because the successes of the program all too often fly under the radar. By sharing stories and using digital and social media, we will be shining a positive light on the successes of community integration and the role of providers in supporting people with disabilities to be active, valued and contributing members in all of our communities.

The next few years promise to be exciting and challenging for organizations that provide services to people with disabilities and rely upon public funding to do so. For those who are willing to prepare, take calculated risks and work collaboratively with others, there are nearly unlimited opportunities

DHSS UPDATE

Lynne Keilman-Cruz, Maureen Harwood and Caitlin Rogers from SDS

- SDS is flat funded for FY20. There were no cuts to the SDS budget.
- Medicaid reductions may have an impact. Unknown at this time.
- Individualized Support Waivers
 - 676 ISW slots offered
 - 142 ISWs approved and active
 - 198 Support Plans received (33 awaiting DPA approval, others awaiting documents etc.)
 - 410 Levels of Care issued
 - 80 drawn for ISW in January, those moving more quickly
 - 50 draws anticipated for the end of March
 - Major cleanup of DRR in progress
- EVV (Electronic Visit Verification)
 - Two staff have been hired for EVV
 - Many vendors responded to RFI (Request for Information) for PCS (personal care services) EVV required to be in place Jan/2020 for PCS.
 - SDS is reviewing next steps.
- Harmony— Many care coordinators have access to read only in the database. No dates are predicted for provider access.

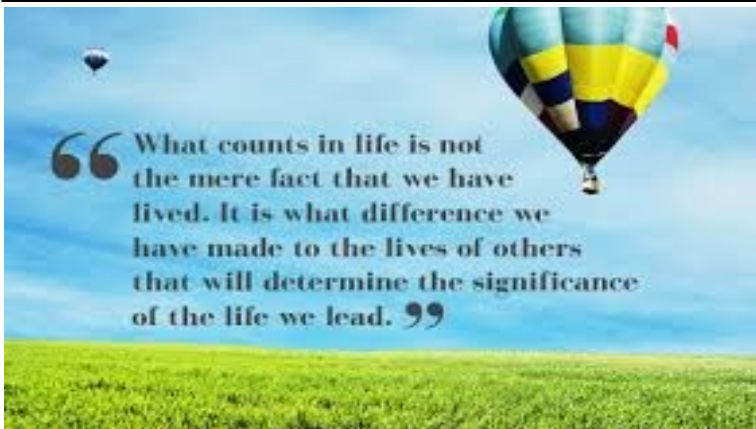
DD Shared Vision Update

The Person-Directed Culture Change Team is developing a powerpoint presentation to be used by "Visionaries" when asked to speak about the Vision to different groups.

The DD Vision webpage is up! Currently it just has the Vision statement with plans to build it up with information. Here is the link: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/ddsharedvision/default.aspx>

Jenna Amber, with the Disability Law Center, is in production mode with the "Welcome to Services" video.

YOU ARE INVITED!! To connect with other Visionaries at the first Shared Vision Summit on May 15th in Anchorage. Everyone who has participated on a team or related activity is invited to join the Summit at the Dena'ina Center from 10 am to 4 pm. Travel assistance is available. Contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com.



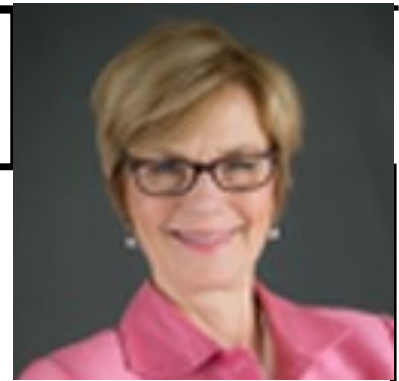
E-Alert March 19, 2019 states ISW **Service Authorization numbers** will begin with an "x" rather than a "p" and may be provider specific rather than including all services. This only applies to ISW waivers at this time.

Remember the **overtime rule** proposals? March 7, 2019 the Department of Labor released its notice of Proposed Rule Making for the Overtime Rule. It proposes an increased salary threshold from the current \$455 per week (\$23,660 per year) to \$679 per week (\$35,308 per year). There are no proposed changes to current duties tests. Public comment is now open. The department estimates a final rule will be implemented by January of 2020.

Calendar for April

April 9, 2019	AADD Face-to-Face meeting all day
April 10—12, 2019	Full Lives Conference
April 18, 2019	Compliance and CFO joint meeting on Self Audit requirements 10:00—11:00
April 25, 2019	Hot Topics—to be announced

Barbara Merrill Keynote Speaker at AADD



Barbara Merrill is AADD's first keynote speaker at the face-to-face meeting April 9th. She is speaking on **Paying for Outcomes, Defining Value: Are you Ready?**

Social determinants of health. Value based payments. Measuring Outcomes. Integrated care. Managed care. Are these just new ways of stating what providers have been doing for years, but packaged differently? Is it about improving outcomes or saving dollars? Is that a false dichotomy? Join ANCOR CEO Barbara Merrill for a discussion about what entrepreneurial providers are doing to ensure their organizations are best positioned to take advantage of potential opportunities —and disruptions.

A **networking lunch** is sponsored by Qualifacts. Barbara Merrill will facilitate: **Included. Supported. Empowered! National and State Initiatives to Address the Workforce Crisis.** With state DSP turnover rates ranging from 20% to 60% and the national rate at 46%, the workforce crisis is the most urgent challenge facing providers across the country. This interactive lunchtime session will outline the scope of the direct support professional workforce crisis, initiatives underway at the federal, state and individual provider level to address it and invite audience participation.

BIO: Barbara has served as ANCOR Chief Executive Officer since 2014. The American Network of Community Options and Resources is the nation's leading association advancing supports and services for people with disabilities, representing 1600 providers and 56 state associations. A disability and association professional, Barbara has worked on disability issues since 1992 as an advocate, state legislator and attorney for people with disabilities and the providers who serve them

Elected to the ANCOR's Board of Directors in 2010, Barbara co-chaired ANCOR's Government Relations Committee prior to joining ANCOR's professionals staff as VP of Government Relations. A native of the state of Maine, she brings 26 years of experience working with associations. She lives and works in the DC metropolitan area and unabashedly cheers for New England sports .

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