



## ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT March 2019

#### NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- SDS budget was flat funded in the Governor's budget
- Appendix documents include:
  - ✓ Agenda for April 9<sup>th</sup> face-to-face meeting
  - ✓ CFO Group minutes from February 22, 2019 meeting
  - ✓ March DD Vision News 2019

#### SDS ACTIVITIES

##### ISW 1915c (Individualized Supports Waiver)

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 in process  
80 drawn for ISW in January, Those are moving more quickly.  
50 draws anticipated for the end of March  
Major cleanup of DDDR (Developmental Disabilities Registry/waitlist) in progress

EVV (Electronic Visit Verification) - Two staff have been hired for SDS implementation of EVV. A number of vendors responded to the RFI (Request for Information) put out by SDS. The RFP focused on PCS (personal care services) that must be in place by Jan/2020. Home Health must be in place by 2022. SDS has placed the information from the RFI respondents into a grid and are reviewing the information against requirements. They are reviewing their next steps.

Harmony System - Most care coordinators can access Harmony in read only mode. No dates are predicted for provider access.

NCI (National Core Indicators) – The Staff Stability Survey sponsored by SDS, the Trust and the DD Vision System Collaborative has been released. The data from this survey will provide information on turnover, wages, benefits and recruitment/retention. A link has been sent to providers toward a June 30, 2019 deadline. Data will then be available in the fall of 2019.

## **MENTAL HEALTH TRUST ACTIVITIES**

### FY19 AADD Grant (MHT 8464.01):

The Mental Health Trust granted \$65,000 to AADD for FY19. There are three primary goals for this fiscal year:

1. Advocate for a strong system and best practices through involvement with national trends and organizations. ]
  - Michael Bailey attend the Home and Community Based Services Conference.
  - Lizette registered for ANCOR Summit
  - Lizette Stiehr attend spring conference in Portland
  - Susan Garner (Alaskan Representative to ANCOR State Board) to spring conference in Portland
  - Barbara Merrill keynote at AADD and networking luncheon. We pay half of airfare and per diem. Full Lives pays other half of air fare and hotel for Full Lives keynote.
2. Change management support for leadership in provider organizations.  
Foraker has developed a Leadership Intensive for a 22 person cohort from AADD. Classes are scheduled for April 1 and 2 and May 29 & 30. The Leadership Summit, sponsored by Foraker in mid-May is available to the 22 at no registration cost and is optional for completion of the class. Thirty three individuals applied for the 22 slots. All applicants have been notified of their status. Trust funding will subsidize \$500 of the \$850 cost per person. An invoice for the remaining \$350/person will be submitted to participating programs. A \$1,000 travel stipend for those outside of Anchorage will be available upon completion of the course and receipt of the Foraker Certificate.
3. Contract Support for Agency Sustainability and Work Force Development (To be determined)

### DD Collaborative (Shared Vision)

AADD is housing the Trust grant (MHT 9666) that funds the DD Collaborative (Shared Vision) for FY19. See the DD Vision News (attached at the end of this report) for the March update including an invitation to the May 15<sup>th</sup> Vision Summit as well as the work of the Shared Vision. Currently of note:

1. A DSP Alliance, led by DSPs that will begin formation at Full Lives
2. With March as Disability Awareness month the movie Intelligent Lives showed in Juneau and Anchorage.
3. A welcome to services video is in production.

## **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### DD Committee meeting –

- SDS shared ISW figures that were updated at the AADD meeting the next week (see SDS update). They did announce that 40 folks have accessed the safety net funds.
- The Mental Health Trust has 3 new Trustees selected by the Governor and going forward for legislative approval. The Trust is planning a big Trust party this summer/fall on the Park Strip.
- Living Well on the Last Frontier Grant (aka ACL Grant) provides for a Program Manager II

within SDS. Approval to advertise for that position got delayed by the Governor's hiring freeze, but it is moving forward.

- SMDA (Supported Decision Making Agreements) offered a training for the Bar Association. Rick Benjamin did a training in Soldotna and 11 folks attended.
- Questions and concerns expressed about the difficult roll-out of CFC services.

**CFO GROUP** - The CFO Group met March 21. See February minutes attached to this report.

**COMPLIANCE GROUP** - The Compliance Group met March 21 for a robust discussion on topics to be addressed in future meetings.

1. **April 18<sup>th</sup>** will be a joint meeting with the Compliance Group and CFO group at 10:00 on the new **Self-Audit requirements**. Hope Community Resources is willing to share their work and clarification they have received from the state on the Self Audit.
2. May 16<sup>th</sup> will address Case notes and how providers are implementing the 72 hour rule.
3. June 20<sup>th</sup> will address Setting Compliance.
4. Future topics include: EHR (Electronic Health Records), Training of DSP's on notes and services around habilitation, EVV and client funds.

#### **HOT TOPICS**

- AADD hosted a Hot Topics call on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> on ways to deal with individuals who receive funds making them over resourced for Medicaid. Amrit Kaur Khalsa shared a powerful power point outlining the 3 primary options: Irrevocable Asset Trust, Pooled Trust Accounts and Able Accounts. If you want a copy of that power point request it from Lizette.

#### **AADD FACE TO FACE MEETING**

**AADD's spring face to face meeting is April 9, 2019 at the Fireweed Conference Center (725 East Fireweed Lane).**

- Please confirm your attendance if you haven't already.
- Details of Barbara Merrill's key note address and lunch facilitation on workforce issues is spotlighted in the AADD newsletter for March.
- Qualifacts is sponsoring our luncheon from Urban Green. Box lunches, including only salads, will be available.
- The agenda for the full day's meeting is attached to this report.
- The Keynote address (Barbara Merrill) and the states afternoon presentation (Donna Steward and Deb Etheridge) will be available via zoom. Watch for those invitations to participate.

#### **ANCOR**

Briefings: ANCOR continues a 15 to 30 minute briefing of what is happening on the "hill" (federal congress) each Friday morning at 8:30. I attended four of them.

- March 7, 2019 the Department of Labor released it's notice of Proposed Rule Making for

the Overtime Rule. It proposes a salary threshold from the current \$455 per week (\$23,660 per year) to \$679 per week (\$35,308 per year). However this is much lower than the \$46,000 previously written. Public comment is now open. The department estimates a final ruling to be implemented by January of 2020.

- The new Heightened Scrutiny guidance was finally released the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> from CMS. It clarifies their intent around isolated settings, such as on hospital grounds or an institution. **The guidance did clarify that personal homes, even if services are provided in that home, are exempt from the Setting rules.**
- ANCOR is working on immigration (to allow DSP workforce to enter/remain in the country).
- EVV – There is no way to carve HCBS services out of EVV legislation but ANCOR is pushing back on the broadened requirements that include host homes and supported living.

**CALENDAR**

April 9, 2019	AADD Face to Face Meeting (Fireweed Conference Center)	
April 10 – 12, 2019	Full Lives Conference	
April 18, 2019	Joint Compliance and CFO Group	10 to 11 via zoom
	Topic: Self Audit requirements	
April 25, 2019	Hot Topics - ABLE Accounts	11 to 12 via zoom

**SUMMARY OF SDS ALERTS**

March 1, 2019	E-Alert: Alaska FY 2019 Grant Application under Part C IDEA Now Open for Public Participation
March 2, 2019	E-Alert: General Relief Assisted Living Home Program Waitlist Implemented
March 4, 2019	E-Alert: Updates to the SDS Approved Forms Web Page
March 4, 2019	E-Alert: Interim Processes and Upcoming Webinars for care Coordinators working with Community First Choice
March 6, 2019	E-Alert: Follow-up to March 4 <sup>th</sup> E-Alert: Interim Processes and Upcoming Webinars for care Coordinators working with Community First Choice
March 6, 2019	E-Alert: Fellowship Education Opportunity – Alaska LEND Without Walls
March 12, 2019	E-Alert: Seeking Public Comment on DRAFT Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan
March 15, 2019	E-Alert: Change to Service Authorizations for Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW)
March 19, 2019	E-Alert: National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey
March 20, 2019	E-Alert: Care Coordination Services Sought for Ketchikan Gateway Borough Census Areas
March 26, 2019	E-Alert: March Care Coordination Network Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Lizette Stiehr  
Executive Director, AAD

# **AADD Annual Meeting**

**April 9, 2019 (Tuesday)**

**Fireweed Conference Center**

**725 East Fireweed Lane**

8:00 – 8:30	Coffee
8:30 – 8:45	Introductions
8:45 – 9:15	2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan Review <i>Michael Bailey, AADD President</i>
9:15 – 10:00	Division of Health Care Services <i>Margaret Brodie, Director, Health Care Services</i> Office of Rate Review <i>Doug Jones, Acting Director Office of Rate Review</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:00	Keynote: Paying for Outcomes, Defining Value: Are You Ready? <i>Barbara Merrill, CEO, ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources)</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Mental Health Trust update <i>Kelda Barstad, Jimael Johnson Trust Program Officers</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Council on Disabilities and Special Education <i>Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director, Kristin Vandagriff, Planner</i>
11:40 – 12:00	Qualifacts <i>Melissa Giampietri, Qualifacts, Alaska Senior Account Rep.</i> <i>Jess Weidner, Qualifacts, Senior Solutions Consultant</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Break – Pick up box lunch
12:15 – 1:00	Workforce networking lunch – Facilitated Barbara Merrill
1:00 – 1:30	State of Alaska Updates <i>Donna Steward – Deputy Commissioner, Health &amp; Social Services</i>
1:30 - 1:45	Break

1:45 – 3:15	<i>Deb Etheridge - Acting Director, Senior and Disabilities Services</i>
3:15 - 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:30	An Innovative Response to our Workforce Crisis - Health T.I.E. <i>Kim Champney, Champney Consulting with Nigel Sharp, Global Entrepreneur in Residence and Jacqueline Summers, Program Specialist both from the UAA Business Enterprise Institute</i>
4:30 - 4:45	Internal business
4:45	Adjourn

**CFO Workgroup of AADD**  
**MEETING NOTES – February 21, 2019**

- 1) **Good Morning! Who’s on the line?**  
*Approximately 7 agencies on line.*
  
- 2) **Individual Supports Waiver (ISW) or IDD Waiver issues/questions discussion?**  
*Discuss again in March*  
*Are providers billing ISW services differently from IDD Waiver services? Consensus is that billing is done under the provider’s IDD Provider ID. Agencies are being paid for ISW services. However, one agency was denied CC for ISW services.*  
*Another agency has 32 ISWs in one status or another, 25 Support Plans have been submitted and they have TWO SAs. A second agency has 21 ISW in the works, with seven SAs.*
  
- 3) **Cost Survey questions? Due 2/28/19**  
*Surveys were due 2/28/19*
  
- 4) **Do any providers track funds for clients in group home settings? Do you charge an admin fee? Similar to the fee that a rep payee would charge?**  
*One agency answered that they did not have any Group Homes, but had a webinar on loaded credit cards (True Debit Cards) to be able to better handle consumer funds. This agency is trying to get guardians to use these instead of cash. Other agencies are trying to also get out of the client cash handling business.*  
*Link: <https://www.truelinkfinancial.com/card/true-link-card>*
  
- 5) **Business Acumen Toolkit for AADD providers.**

Link [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxoSZ6XdhyF\\_Fp4FRcqc5XjaitLXCive](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxoSZ6XdhyF_Fp4FRcqc5XjaitLXCive)  
Really good information for supervisors to better understand the connection between bottom line and mission.

**6) How is Progress Note 72 hour rule coming along?**

Issues still with timely progress notes (both in DD & Mental Health services). One agency commented that they have 2-4 late/unbillable notes per day. The conversation was about how to beef up policy and have teeth in it.

One agency was going Live on 2/21/19 with an EHR system. They were paper up until this point. Another agency commented that they use Therap and have not had any loss due to late progress notes. They also use electronic timesheets.

Another agency wanted information on Therap and how it works.

One agency asked about mobile usage for documenting time. How do you ensure staff don't abuse documentation time? And stay HIPAA compliant?

Attached is MSSCA's documentation guideline. It would be great if other agencies wanted to share their policies.

**7) Cost of Care**

a) Has anyone received notice from Consumer or guardian that DPA has now told them that they owe the provider of service agency a Cost of Care?

b) Apparently in 2007 7 AAC 100.554 Cos of care liability; determination was passed to require consumers to pay "a Medicaid Co-Pay" that is determined by DPA. The Compliance group talked about this in June 2018.

One agency has Cost of Care payments from clients. It doesn't seem far, but that is the way it is.

**8) AH HA moment(s)—Something interesting you would like to share with the group**

**9) Day Hab question on DH Community versus DH site services**

a) The agency owns the building where the DH center is located (along with agency offices). The Medicaid Certification stated that the agency needed a separate Provider Billing ID # for DH site services. The SAs have to split between the two services. The units do not flow back and forth, an Amendment is required to move the units between the two services.

b) Suggestion was made to communicate with ARC or HOPE who have DH site services as well as DH Community services. Another agency asked if leasing the center and has different rules?

**10) How do providers handle the situation with two or more pay types and weighted average for OT? Two agencies on line responded that their accounting systems do the calculation for them. One system is Pay Core and the other is ADP.**

**11) Assisted Living Homes and the 72 Hour Rule**

If contract ALH services (i.e., Family Habilitation) and the contractors don't want to use the Electronic Health Record, (EHR) system, does the provider have to pay them if the service is unbillable? Can the provider withhold payment for no or late Progress Note(s).

Another agency is adding an addendum to the contract to state the above.

**12) PCS/PCA services in lieu of day hab?**

One agency asked about their issue being—they have an APDD Waiver, the POC was submitted with DH, but SDS switched the service to PCA. Which they can still provide being a PCA Certified Provider, but how could SDS just do that. The State does receive a higher reimbursement rate from the Feds for PCA services through the Community First Choice program. The issue is that there was no denial or communication with the change in service types. Can SDS just do that?

**Future Topics:**

**What is the practice of providers when a consumer loses their Medicaid for a period of time?**

Volume 6 March 2019

# DD Vision News

*A monthly newsletter brought to you by the DD Shared Vision*

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## You Are Invited!!

### Connect with other Visionaries at the First Shared Vision Summit

Celebrate how far we've come and contribute to planning our next steps at the first Vision Summit in Anchorage on May 15.

Everyone who has served on a project team or assisted with a related activity is encouraged to be a part of this event. We will gather at the Dena'ina Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The DD Systems Collaborative has embraced the Summit as an opportunity to strengthen our connections with each other and further our sense of community. With that in mind, five organizations and a family member have pitched in to cater a nice lunch. Thank you to **Shelley Vendetti-Vuckovich, The Arc of Anchorage, Frontier Community Services, The Disability Law Center of Alaska, Hope Community Resources** and **the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities**.

**The Alaska Mental Health Trust** is providing travel assistance for people from outside of Anchorage. If you need assistance, please contact Kim Champney ([kim@champneyconsulting.com](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com)) and let her know.



And thank you to the **Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education** for renting the Dena'ina facility for this event.

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## DD Vision Resources

Several teams are working on resources that can be used to spread the DD Vision message. The Community Awareness Team designed a postcard-sized brochure (images to the right). These are available to distribute at community events like the Stone Soup parent conference, Full Lives and Disability Pride Day.

The DD Vision webpage is up! Currently it just has the Vision statement but plans are in the works to build it up with information for different stakeholders (self-advocates, family members and providers). Here's the link: [DD Shared Vision webpage](#)

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

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

We now have 82 members of the Alaska DD Vision Facebook Page - help us reach 100 by spreading the word!

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## DSP Statewide Network Planning In Action

A small team of Direct Support Professionals from communities and organizations around Alaska are in the beginning stages of planning an organization to connect as well as support the professionalization of this field. The group will facilitate a session at Full Lives with the goal of getting input from other DSPs on what goals and activities would be meaningful for them from a statewide professional network. At this point, topics have included elevating the responsibility of person-directed care, exploring the pros and cons of certification and creating peer support opportunities.

Thank you to the following planning team members and the organizations that employ them for supporting this effort: Ann Wingquest (The Arc), Cathy Colwell (The Arc), Royce Snyder (TIDES), Stone Sibbett (Hope), Brian Ormond (Pride), and Nereida Williamson (Crossroads).

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## **Upcoming Dates**

March 14 DSP Workforce Development Team Meeting  
March 20 Resource Development Team Meeting  
March 26 Person-Directed Culture Team Meeting  
March 29 Intelligent Lives Event in Anchorage at The Arc  
March 31 Intelligent Lives Event in Juneau at UAS campus  
April 10-12 Full Lives  
May 15 VISION SUMMIT!

Note: Fairbanks Resource Agency is hosting Intelligent Lives during March - check with FRA for locations and times.