



AADD ALASKA

April — 2019

From the AADD President, Michael Bailey

BE INTENTIONAL!

As the 31st Legislature reaches the juncture reconciling the House version of the State Operating Budget (HB39) with the Senate version (HB0039F), a lot of work remains for the Conference Committee to close the gaps between the two versions.

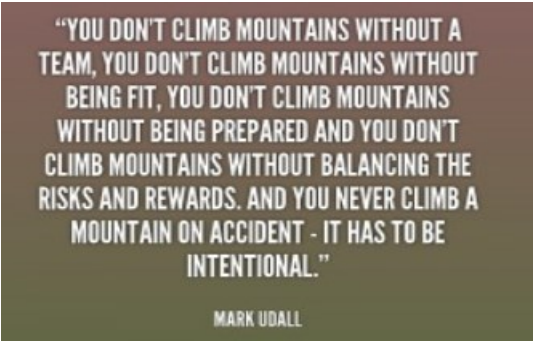
The Senate version proposes a PFD of \$3,000 per Alaskan reflecting a campaign promise of the Governor, but leaves a \$1.2 million deficit. Senate President noted that a \$1,200 PFD would allow a \$700M surplus.

During the Senate process, ongoing provider advocacy for the separate appropriation of SDS Medicaid funding was submitted, and intent language to protect SDS providers from the proposed 5% rate reduction. Our deep thanks to Senator Micciche, who courageously championed services for vulnerable Alaskans by presenting these amendments. While the separate appropriation failed this year, the intent language remains in the current version of HB0039F:

- 17 It is the intent of the legislature that skilled nursing facilities and senior and disabilities
- 18 services providers (nursing homes, section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act and other
- 19 waiver service providers, and personal care attendant services) that serve vulnerable Alaskans
- 20 be exempt from the five percent Medicaid rate reduction proposed by the Department of
- 21 Health and Social Services.

As the Conference committee members, Representatives Neal Foster, Tammie Wilson and Cathy Tilton take on this monumental task, be intentional in respectfully advocating for the preservation of this language to provide direction to the administration. DHSS must ultimately decide on if and where reductions will be made, and AADD will be providing additional updates and information useful in educating and advocating with both legislature and administration leaders.

Data received on actual Medicaid spending over the past 3 fiscal years clearly shows that the previous administration allowed the underspent Medicaid SDS allocation to offset increases in other Medicaid Health Care areas. The new DHSS administration has a prime opportunity to increase transparency and to correct these imbalances. Stay tuned for more, and be intentional in advocacy!



DHSS UPDATE

Donna Steward, Deb Etheridge, Caroline Hogan, Lynne Keilman-Cruz and Maureen Harwood from SDS

- Current FY2020 budget proposals include a 5% reduction to rates for Medicaid services for HCBS providers
- There are 730 individuals on the DRRR/waitlist (as of 4/9/19)
- Individualized Support Waivers
 - 676 ISW slots offered
 - 171 ISWs fully approved
 - 215 Support Plans submitted (20 awaiting DPA approval)
 - Over 300 Levels of Care established
- IDD waivers being drawn monthly, 6 in March, more in April
- Safety Net funds were modified to include those once on grants and awaiting ISW approval.
 - 28 on safety net funds
- EVV (Electronic Visit Verification) is part of the Medicaid Reform effort. Proposed implementation dates:
 - PCA by 2020
 - Home Health 2022
- Companion Services report submitted to Legislature. They now have the authority to appropriate funding for services.
- Enabling technology pilot project active. Grants available through SILC website for 30 days.

DD Shared Vision Update

"I live the life I choose with the support I direct."

This is the core value driving our Vision! The following are a just a few exciting projects in process:

- Person-Directed Planning Best Practices: This document, developed by our culture change team, will be the centerpiece of a webinar series for care coordinators, DSPs and other DD providers.
- Direct Support Professional statewide alliance: A team of five DSPs from around the state are working to launch a professional DSP association for Alaska. The team hosted a session at Full Lives; information gathered will be used to develop a strategic plan.
- 2nd Annual Disability Pride Alaska Day is July 20. Get involved with local planning efforts. Take the lead on planning an event if you live outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, or Kenai. We want to increase the number of communities celebrating disability! Contact kim@champneyconsulting.com for a Pride Planning Guide.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is accepting grants for enabling technology as a pilot projects. The application is at:

<https://sites.google.com/hcbs.info/aketpilot/home>

The Governors Council Grant "Living Well on the Last Frontier" provided funds for AADD to award a grant to a provider to develop community engagement specialists. Hope Community Resources has been awarded that grant. We look forward to seeing the results.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Registration and Review Report
Fiscal Year 2018 July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/dd/2018ddregistryreport.pdf>

Fascinating information including total numbers on Registry at the end of FY 18 (906) and demographics by age and region.

Mark your calendar for the fall **Disability and Aging Summit** featuring Dr. Tamar Heller speaking about aging caregivers supporting individual's with IDD. The Summit is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 2019. The AADD face to face meeting will be the following day, September 27th.

Calendar for May

May 9, 2019	AADD zoom meeting 11—12
May 16, 2019	CFO meeting 8:30—9:30
May 16, 2019	Compliance meeting 10—11
May 15, 2019	DD Vision Summit
May 23, 2019	Hot Topics—to be announced

Alaskan DSP of the Year Gena Coleman



At the Full Lives Conference, Gena Coleman was selected as the outstanding Direct service Professional of the year in the DD field. She has worked at Hope Community Resources for over 20 years. She is pictured here with Hope's Board President, John Dittrich.

Gena has worked in many roles at Hope Community Resources from Regional Team Leader for the Bristol Bay region to care coordinator and supervisor. She is now part of a team providing full time care to 5 gentlemen living a subsistence, off the grid lifestyle on a ranch in Willow. At the ranch, everyone works together to raise livestock, hunt, fish, process game and grow vegetables. The men learn to use hand and power tools, drive tractors and operate 4 wheelers. They mend fences and maintain all manner of buildings and equipment. They practice good neighbor skills, and good land management skills, all the while learning how to be more independent in daily living skills as well.

Gena is known to balance responsibility with creativity. She's always aware that there may be a better way to do something. Her strength lies in her ability to build relationships, and help others do the same. The Ranch is a true collaboration. Gena helps to craft these kinds of opportunities and many, many, others with a mild manner which belies her steamroller tenacity!

Congratulations Gena Coleman, DSP of the year.

National Core Indicators—Staff Stability Survey!

All Medicaid waiver providers are expected to complete the NCI Staff Stability Survey. Outreach will begin in May to providers who have not completed this important survey. Questions? Contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com

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