



# AADD ALASKA

May — 2019

## FY2020 STATE BUDGET CHALLENGE

Since last month, the Joint Conference Committee adopted the House version of the Budget which dropped the intent language to exempt SDS providers from the proposed 5% provider rate reduction. Now the legislature is in special session and has been focused on crime laws and PFD formulas.



Senate President, Cathy Giessel & House Speaker, Bryce Edgmon

The Senate and House will be presenting their FY2020 Budget to the Governor during the Special Session. As the Governor receives their budget, he has the authority to veto and eliminate certain line items. AADD is asking the Governor to courageously be the champion for vulnerable Alaskans by exercising his authority to override the proposed rate reductions.

The DHSS Administration reporting to Governor Dunleavy has the opportunity to define themselves as different and more transparent than the previous administration. AADD is asking the Administration to help educate the Governor on why 5% rate reductions are not equitable based on the applied inflationary increases and rate rebasing (or lack of) in recent years, and to recognize that SDS has experienced significantly more cut-backs than other Medicaid services in the past 3 years.

Based on the information AADD and the Alaska Association for Personal Care Supports have received, there will undoubtedly be a loss of access to services (especially in rural areas) if the full 5% rate reduction is imposed. You will receive copies of the written communication points made to the Governor and his Administration. **Please reinforce these points by advocating with examples of the budget cuts you will be forced to make, negatively impacting your workforce and access to services!**

Thank you! Michael Bailey, AADD President

## DHSS UPDATE

### **BREAKING NEWS! MEDICAID PAYMENTS DELAYED IN JUNE 2019**

Director of Health Care Services, Renee Gayhart has issued a letter regarding Budget-Pended Claims which may affect your cashflow in June:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/default.aspx>

Deb Etheridge's status as Acting Director of SDS has been extended until July 31, 2019.

**Family Habilitation**—SDS is working actively with HCBS Strategies (Steve Lutzky) to bring family habilitation billing into compliance. Steps include:

- Who manages oversight?
- Research around NCO oversight
- Engage licensing/certification for assisted living homes
- Next steps will include public stakeholder input

### EVV (Electronic Visit Verification)

The capital budget, which currently includes over \$1 million for EVV implementation has not yet been approved. SDS costs will be reimbursed with a 90% federal match.

### ISW (individual Support Waiver)

195 ISW's operational

230 Plans of Care submitted

435 Levels of Care completed

710 offered ISW

**Companion Services**—SDS work is completed. The fiscal note attached requires legislative inclusion in the budget. It was not included.

## PATH Academy Pre-Apprenticeship

Did you know about the three week training for those seeking employment as a DSP? Trainees will receive certification in BLS/CPR, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Alaska Core Competencies Certificate from the Alaska Training Cooperative. Contact Teresa Novakovich at [Teresa.Novakovich@providence.org](mailto:Teresa.Novakovich@providence.org) or (907) 786-6579

Next Training is June 3 –21, 2019, Monday-Friday 9am to 4:30pm. To register go to: [scahecak.org/events.html](http://scahecak.org/events.html) and click on "Register for PATH Academy Here". You will be interviewed for possible inclusion in the course.



The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) continues to accept grant applications for Home Accessibility/ Enabling Technology Pilot Project.. Do you have an end user that could be more independent with technology? SILC is seeking applications particularly from: Juneau, Soldotna/Kenai, Fairbanks (city), Ketchikan and Homer. The application is at: <https://sites.google.com/hcbs.info/akepilot/home.aketpilot/home>

### SAVE THE DATE:

Disability and Aging Summit—September 25 & 26, 2019  
AADD face-to-face meeting—September 27, 2019 (BP Center)  
Peer Power Summit—September 27—29, 2019

### National Core Indicators—Staff Stability Survey!

#### Important Deadline!!

All Medicaid waiver providers are expected to complete the NCI Staff Stability Survey by June 30. You will begin receiving emails and phone calls regarding this responsibility beginning June 3. If you have questions or problems completing the survey, please contact Kim Champney at [kim@champneyconsulting.com](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com).

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 JUNE

**June 13, 2019** AADD monthly meeting 11—12  
**June 20, 2019** CFO meeting 8:30—9:30  
**June 20, 2019** Compliance meeting 10—11  
**June - 2019** No Hot Topics  
Lizette on vacation June 15—July 8th, 2019

## DD Vision Summit May 15, 2019



Kim Champney, DD Vision facilitator lead a group of over 70 individuals who have been actively working in one of the DD Vision work groups. We celebrated many accomplishments.

Dr. Roy Scheller, the past Steering Committee chair reminded the group that we are building a castle and the four cornerstones are:

- \*DD Vision Statute
- \*Supported Decisions Making Statute
- \*Separate SDS Medicaid budget
- \*Voices of the "end users"



Lee Post documented our accomplishments with graphic designs throughout the day.

In the next years the Vision work will focus on DSP Workforce Development and Person-Directed Culture Change.



Leadership of the DD Vision (nicknamed the Fabulous Four) :

Ric Nelson  
Maggie Winton  
Travis Noah  
Corey Gillespie

### Your AADD Board

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