



# AADD ALASKA

## July/August — 2019

A Word from AADD President...

### ***Bracing for Budget Realities***

August 2019 brought a measure of closure to the Legislative Session with Governor Dunleavy signing HB2001 which restored a number of drastic funding cuts in previous vetoes. These included Senior Benefits \$20M, University of Alaska \$110M, Early Learning \$8.8M, Arts \$3.8M, Human Services grants \$2.2M which can be attributed to effective advocacy in these areas. Medicaid cuts remain an expectation as well as the possibility of another special session to fund more funding for a higher PFD than currently authorized. The budget conveys the prioritized values and the future direction of Alaska under our new Governor.



It may seem an uphill battle for the sustainability of the Senior & Disabilities Services but united in our efforts to educate and overcome gaps in understanding of real impacts, we must give voice to truthful context and practical solutions for better stewardship of public funds. Advocacy efforts by groups addressing Senior Benefits and the University of Alaska made a difference. Legal challenges from ASHNA on the “emergency” status of 5% Medicaid cuts garnered attention. The momentum of recall efforts messages reconsideration of Alaskans’ original vote. Be active in utilizing public comments and administrative advocacy avenues to inform decision makers on the lack of inflationary adjustments, and the direct impact of rate reductions on access to services for the most vulnerable Alaskans.



We are resolved to find new paths to implementing the Shared Vision to strengthen the sustainability of our system amid these challenges, including revisiting companion services and semi-independent living options. Stay strong! Michael Bailey

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS!**  
**YOU TRULY MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR US ALL!**

2019 Direct Support Professional  
**RECOGNITION WEEK**  
September 8 – 14, 2019



### **DHSS UPDATE**

Maureen Hardwood provided the following update at the AADD monthly membership meeting August 8, 2019.

John Lee has been appointed as Director of Senior & Disabilities Services.

#### ISW (Individual Support Waiver)

256 ISW’s operational

300 Plans of Care submitted

503 Levels of Care completed

729 offered ISW

23 folks receiving safety net funds

#### STAR Rebranded to DDRC

DDRC—Developmental Disabilities Resource Connection, is the new name for the STAR programs.

Stone Soup is serving the Mat-Su Valley and ACCA is serving Fairbanks and portions of the interior as their DDRC’s .

Conner O’Dea is the new SDS staff person overseeing the DDRC’s.

#### Care Coordination Rate Cuts

New care coordination services including TCM billing were subject to the July 1, 2019 emergency regulations 5% reduction.

Ongoing care coordination rates will be included in the emergency regulations subject to CMS approval and have not been reduced.

SDS predicts the HCBS rate reduction emergency regulations will be released within the next two weeks.

## DD Pride Day KENAI



## DD Pride Days ANCHORAGE



## DD Pride Days—FAIRBANKS



### Background Check update

The background check program is headed by Craig Baxter at 334-2492.

- The Unit is providing 400 to 500 provisional background checks each week.
- They are processing fingerprints within 5-7 days, and complete approvals within an additional 10-15 days of receipt for completed applications.
- Renewal applications can be submitted 90 days in advance of expiration

### Calendar for

- August 22 Hot Topics—Budget impact on services
- September 25 & 26 Disability and Aging Summit
- September 27, 2019 AADD Face-to-face meeting
- September 27– 29 Peer Power Summit

### Your AADD Board

- Michael Bailey, President
- Amanda Faulkner, Vice President
- Bess Clark, Secretary
- Matt Jones, Treasurer
- Regional Representatives:  
Rick Driscoll, Susan Garner, Rebecca Marinelli  
Bree Swanson, and Jaime Kassman
- Staff: Lizette Stiehr, Executive Director