



AADD ALASKA

December — 2019

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

If the FY20 Governor’s Budget was prepared by the Grinch, then the FY21 proposed Governor’s Budget was prepared by Santa Claus! As we braced ourselves for more cuts, we instead breathed a sigh of relief as Governor Dunleavy announced on Dec 11th a budget with restored funding for vulnerable Alaskans in Adult Public Assistance, Adult Dental Preventative, Pioneer Homes, and Provider Rate Reductions!

More work remains as the proposed budget drains the State savings to cover expenses. The important point is that advocacy matters! The voice of the people of Alaska was heard and the drastic nature of Medicaid

cuts were acknowledged as not attainable within a fiscal year.

State government remains a dynamic struggle over politics, the power of the people’s voice, and the interpretation of the law. The proposed budget now passes this struggle to the legislature!

Enjoy this season of holidays with your family and friends according to your custom! Celebrate the wins and successes of 2019, and tune your voices of advocacy for the upcoming session in 2020!

With appreciation for the positive difference you make for Alaskans of all abilities! Michael Bailey

SDS UPDATE

Deb Etheridge leaves SDS December 27th to become the COO of Optum in Alaska. SDS will recruit for a new Deputy Director. John Lee, currently at API, continues to plan to return to SDS. He meets with the SDS team daily and hopes for a February return to Senior and Disability Services.

SDS has confirmed, though a December 19th e-alert, that the Dunleavy administration is not moving forward with the original plans to reduce Medicaid payment rates for HCBS services. **No 5% rate reduction.**

Currently SDS is prioritizing the revision of Residential Habilitation **Supported Living** regulations to allow one direct support professional to provide SL to two or three recipients at the same time. **New Family Habilitation** regulations will be a part of revised regulation package.

Companion Services continues to be in the queue for SDS.

Alaska has kicked off the **National Core Indicators** In-Person Surveys. SDS is contracting with UAA’s Center for Human Development to conduct the interviews. Please encourage participation.



A sign of a good leaders is not how many followers you have, but how many leaders you create.
Mahatma Gandhi

HEALTH TIE



Alaska Health T.I.E. stands for Health Testbed for Innovative Enterprises. It is a program bridging service providers, business accelerators, entrepreneurs and startups to find solution to the pressing needs of healthcare including our long term service. Imagine an application on your iPad checking on your condition daily and connecting you with a health professional if needed. This was one of the options presented at Thursday afternoon Health Tie presentations. Join us by emailing Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com.

KEY CAMPAIGN 2020 - "ACCESS is KEY"

Hotel discount dates: Starts Wednesday, February 5, 2020 through Saturday, February 8, 2020. **Last Day to Book: Monday, January 6, 2020 .**

Click link [Book your group rate for KEY CAMPAIGN 2020](#)

If you have questions or need help with the link, contact the Four Points by Sheraton at 907-586-6900.

Hotel is offering your special group rate (not inclusive of tax):

\$169 per night for all mountain-side rooms

\$179 per night for all water view rooms

If you have questions about Key please contact Michele at mgirault@hopealaska.org.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

AADD is offering 2020 travel scholarships for Key Campaign travel and other advocacy efforts. Stipends will be available for \$500 from Anchorage/Matsu and \$700 scholarships from other communities.

The application/agreement is attached to this email. Scholarship applications are **must be submitted to director@aaddalaska.org by January 20, 2020 5pm to be considered.**

Calendar

January 9, 2020—AADD Monthly Teleconference

January 16, 2020—AADD Board Retreat (Anchorage)

January 16, 2020—Compliance Group Meeting

January 23, 2020 - Hot Topics to be announced

Feb. 6—7, 2020 Key Campaign in Juneau

10 REASONS FOR AADD TO BE PROUD IN 2019!

1. Monthly membership zoom meetings attended by an average of 50 participants. AADD has 47 dues paying members.
2. Two face to face meetings with great ratings (4.88 and 4.85 out of 5) with up to 70 participants.
3. Keynotes from Barbara Merrill on "Paying for Outcomes" and Laurie Wolf on leadership. (Thanks to AMHTA)
4. Work on companionship services submitted to SDS. AADD continues to push for this service.
5. Foraker Leadership Intensive designed for emerging leaders in the IDD field negotiated by AADD. First cohort was attend by 22. (Thanks to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority)
6. AADD provided public comment on:
 - ⇒ ICC on the need to recognize collaboration between service providers and care coordinators
 - ⇒ Medicaid Coverage (including Day Habilitation Service Amendments)
 - ⇒ Positive comment on 72 hour documentation requirement moving to 14 days
 - ⇒ Proposal to freeze inflationary adjustments and proposed 5% proposed reduction of payments
7. AADD offered Hot Topics conversations on: Emergency Preparedness, Job Ready Workforce, Options for Those Over Resourced for Medicaid, Able Accounts, Emergency Preparedness, Access to Services and Organization Struggles.
8. AADD continues our positive relationship with SDS and the AMHTA throughout multiple changes in leadership.
9. The CFO Group and Compliance Groups met monthly helping members keep up with the self audit, documentation and other requirements.
10. AADD is funding the development of a Job Ready work force app that will be tested in 5 test bed organizations in 2020.

Congratulations to Dr. Roy Scheller. After 42 years of service, he will retire from Hope Community Resources in January of 2020. His leadership on the Shared Vision has been profound and he will continue in his Emeritus status to work on that project.

Your AADD Board

Michael Bailey, President

Amanda Faulkner, Vice President

Bess Clark, Secretary

Matt Jones, Treasurer

Regional Representatives:

Rick Driscoll, Susan Garner, Rebecca Marinelli

Cindy Hensley and Jaime Kassman

Staff: Lizette Stiehr, Executive Director