



AADD ALASKA

November — 2019

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

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL GRATITUDE MONTH..

Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well! (Voltaire)

We continue to live in turbulent times yet numerous studies show that expressing gratitude reduces stress, increases optimism, and changes your brain. Let's stop in this season and find gratitude for each other.

I am thankful for the differing abilities that enrich my life, dedicated direct service professionals, visionary organizational leaders and self-advocates, and for everyone of you who are striving to make a positive difference in our communities.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Michael Bailey, President



International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 DECEMBER

Started by the United Nations in 1992, this day aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The 2019 theme is **“Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership”**.

This fits perfectly with the DD Shared Vision self advocacy leadership in Alaska, and represents critical voices in the upcoming legislative session!



SDS UPDATE

Deb Etheridge continues as the **acting SDS director** while John Lee oversees the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. Deb shared that John continues to stay engaged with the SDS team and the plan is for him to return to the SDS director position as soon as possible.

SDS has not moved forward with regulations related to the **5% rate reduction**. They are currently waiting on the go-ahead from the Governor and the DHSS Commissioner.

Companion Services continues to be in the queue for SDS.

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 are under development.

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 and with Champney Consulting to help coordinate the project. The goal is to collect information from 319 adults who receive IDD or APDD waiver services.

DD Shared Vision

Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Kicks

An outcome of the Shared Vision work specific to strengthening the DSP workforce, the Alaska Alliance of DSPs has launched. Twelve DSPs from 10 organizations met in Anchorage for two days in October to create a mission, vision and strategic plan for this new organization.



AADSP Mission: We are the Voice of the DSP Workforce in Alaska.

AADSP Vision: We envision a professional direct support workforce that is highly respected and widely recognized for its essential impact on the lives of people with disabilities. We believe DSPs will bring their skills, talent and knowledge to all Alaskans.

The group is committed to the principles defined by the NADSP Code of Ethics and focused on increasing the professionalization of the workforce with the goal of improving the quality of lives of people with disabilities.

Watch for more information coming soon!

National Core Indicators In-Person Survey

The NCI In-Person Survey is underway. The goal is to complete 319 interviews by June 2020. Partnership is critical - are your employees aware of this effort? Are the individuals and families you support? Please spread the word that information collected will drive policy decisions. Also let people know the survey is confidential and will not affect individual services they receive. Encourage people to "Say Yes!" to the interview. For more information, contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com.

Calendar

- December 10—Lizette is back!**
- December 12—AADD Monthly Teleconference**
- December 19—Joint CFO/Compliance Meeting on self-audits**
- December 26—No Hot Topics (Happy Holidays!)**
- Feb. 6—7, 2020 Key Campaign in Juneau**

DSP Spotlight

Creating a System that Values the Role of DSPs

Jessi Saiki—The Arc of Anchorage

Walking into The Arc's art gallery on a First Friday in Anchorage, Jessi Saiki was struck by the warm and welcoming environment created by the artists. That experience, followed by a conversation with her UAA academic advisor who encouraged her to look into volunteering with The Arc's art program, led her to a job that she loves.



Jessi graduated with her Bachelor's in Fine Arts in May and immediately jumped into a full-time position as a direct support professional. "I love that I get to be a part of supporting someone else to use art as a form of expression and empowerment because that's what art does for me," Jessi said.

Jessi has a traumatic brain injury which she believes helps her in her work with people. She recommends that organizations use people with disabilities as spokespeople more, like at job fairs, because that's what drew her to this work.

Jessi's supervisor said, "Jessi approaches every situation with joy. She has a passion for supporting individuals in creating amazing artwork."

If you would like one of your DSPs spotlighted, email Lizette with a picture and description.

Foraker Emerging Leadership Training 2020

Applications due December 2!

Training will take place Feb. 17 & 18 and April 20 and 21st with 1:1 consultation offered post training.

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