

# AADD ALASKA

## April — 2020

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

### Remote Support Project

## Online community next frontier of inclusion

By Kim Champney

Technology Project Coordinator

Writer Thomas L. Friedman wrote in the New York Times recently about “our new historical divide: B.C. and A.C.— Before Corona and After Corona.” We are all riding the Corona wave right now and its carrying us places we probably can’t yet imagine.

In some places, the wave is moving us faster in a direction we were already headed. Telehealth is one of those places. Many of us experienced our first doctor’s appointment via video chat in the past month. Recently someone said telehealth has moved ahead 20 years in the past month.

Remote Supports is another one of those places. Just over two years ago, I kicked off the Health TIE project in response to DSP workforce shortages. Technology looked like a promising way to increase the capacity of our current system. And now Appendix K provides an opportunity to test the waters.

It’s clear that Remote Supports (or distance-delivered services) is much more than handing a person an iPad and teaching them to click a link. Like the quote from the Shrek movie: “Ogres are like onions. Onions have layers and ogres have layers.”

Remote Supports has layers. And it may look scary and intimidating. But once

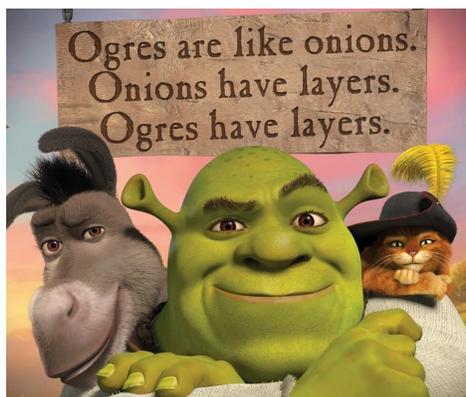
you get past the scary stuff like who and how and what, there’s this rich opportunity for new perspectives and growth.

AADD recognized the big lift this would require of providers during a difficult time and has taken the lead at addressing some of the scary outer layers.

While the project design is flexible to meet providers’ needs, it generally has two parts: 1) development of meaningful content and 2) funds and technical assistance to purchase equipment.

Technology will continue to have a big role in the “A.C.” era. Supporting access to the online community may become as essential as supporting access to a person’s local community.

For more information on the COVID Technology Access Project, email [kim@champneyconsulting.com](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com).



### DHSS UPDATE

- Albert E. Wall, Deputy Commissioner for Medicaid & Health Care Policy stated DHSS will not use any of the 6.25% increased FMAP (federal match for Medicaid expenditures) for provider support. The Department is looking at ways to support providers.
- John Lee, Director, SDS, reported there is not sufficient PPE and it is prioritized for diagnosed cases.
- Doug Jones, Program Integrity, states the Self Audit remains due June 8th. They will be generous with extension requests. You may also request an extension for Meyers and Stauffer audits from Program Integrity. A provider received a 60-day extension. Email [douglas.jones@alaska.gov](mailto:douglas.jones@alaska.gov)
- Lynne Keilman-Cruz and Maureen Hardwood from SDS shared:
  - ⇒ Day hab can be provided in homes (follow health mandates)
  - ⇒ Appendix K amendment not required for family to provider services
  - ⇒ Distance delivery is the same as remote supports.

It is not the strongest that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change.”

Charles Darwin

# Media campaign to increase visibility of DSP workforce



**AlaskaDSPsAreEssential**

The Shared Vision, in partnership with Peer Power, is launching a social media campaign #AlaskaDSPsAreEssential. Between April 27 and May 31, people who receive services

and/or family members are encouraged to say thank you to a DSP by creating a short (30 seconds or less) video that starts with the statement “My DSP is essential because.”

People are encouraged to share their video statement on social media and tag it with #AlaskaDSPsAreEssential so we can collect the videos into a compilation to be used in advocacy efforts on behalf of the DSP Workforce.

Service providers and care coordinators can help by spreading the word and providing assistance as needed. This is a wonderful way to honor DSPs who have continued to provide support despite the personal risks and extra responsibilities.

Please email [kim@champneyconsulting.com](mailto:kim@champneyconsulting.com) with questions or suggestions.

## NCI In-Person Survey will continue remotely

While the National Core Indicators survey has been suspended across the country, Alaska will continue with the survey using Zoom. This survey has been conducted face-to-face for 23 years; NCI is committed to gathering first-hand information on the impact of services on the lives of people with disabilities. States across the country will be closely watching how the remote surveys work in Alaska. Please encourage the people you serve to say Yes to participating.

The Anchorage Daily New published a letter to the Editor on Other Heroes, Our DSPs. Thanks Barb Rath!

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2020/04/16/letter-other-heroes/>

### Calendar

May 14, 2020	AADD monthly meeting
May 13 & 14 2020	DD Shared Vision Strategic Plan Event
May 21, 2020	Compliance Group - 8:30—9:30 am
May 21, 2020	CFO Group— 10—11 am
May 26, 2020	Hot Topics—to be determined

## ANCOR's Alaskan DSP for 2020 Gena Coleman



ANCOR selects a DSP from each state to recognize annually. In 2020, the Alaska DSP of the Year is GENA COLEMAN.

Gena works for Hope Community Resources at their ranch in Willow. Gena has been a DSP for 20 years. She brings out the best in the people she lives with, works with and supports. She assures that people can live the life they choose, even if that life is a little

extraordinary. Gena even makes life at 20 degrees below zero seem cozy! Everybody deserves to live where they choose, even if that community is off the beaten path.

Gena supports Person-Centered Planning in a number of ways. She supports a young man who has an intense interest in beetles. She helped him purchase his own shed so he can store his equipment as well as research and maintain a beetle colony on site. Gena helped another resident take his history of "tearing mechanical things apart", and learn to operate and maintain his own 4-wheeler, change the oil in the ranch generators, and complete small engine maintenance for local neighbors. While this may lead to paid employment, for now his help is valued in the day to day maintenance of the ranch.

Gena helps each of the men live a semi-subsistence live style while navigating the challenges of meeting the requirements of Medicaid. She is multi talented woman.

**“Great leaders trust people with the truth.”**

Don Seidman

Read the whole article: Need Great Leadership Now, and Here's What It Looks Like <https://nyti.ms/3bua65L>

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