

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



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

February 4, 2019

Deb Etheridge, Acting Director
Senior & Disabilities Services
550 W. 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Etheridge,

The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) is writing this letter to provide input on the proposed person-centered support plan and process. We value the opportunity to review the draft document with the membership of AADD and summarize our collective comments.

Historically, care coordinators and provider agencies have worked closely to provide a comprehensive approach to service delivery from goal development to service implementation. We have maintained this strong collaborative relationship as the state transitioned to conflict-free case management in 2015. Over the past three years, both provider agencies and care coordinators have found that joint partnership and clear communication around compliance and regulations is crucial.

The AADD membership is deeply concerned that the proposed person-centered planning process eliminates joint collaboration with the provider. We recognize and respect that the support plan process is directed by the individual; however the process sets an unspoken line that providers are not part of goal development but should blindly implement goals and methodology without input. Service provider agencies are individualized and have varied service options and philosophies. If service providers are not part of the planning team from the beginning then creative options/ideas may be lost to the individual receiving services.

AADD membership is also concerned about the care coordination system that is still being developed. The care coordination workforce is limited, as are supervision, training and guidance. Care coordinators within AADD have expressed that they are taxed and are struggling to manage the new Individual Support Waiver plans as well as additional changes over the past three years.

AADD fully supports the advancement of the Shared Vision. We strongly encourage additional review of provider involvement throughout plan development. This is an incredible opportunity to shift the paradigm. Please consider our request to think differently about the collaborative process between the individual, care coordinator and provider.

Respectfully,
Amanda Faulkner, M.Ed.

Vice President, AADD