



AADD ALASKA

May — 2020

COVID-19 “RESPONSIBLE REOPENING” in DD SERVICES

As the State of Alaska begins implementing phases of re-opening the economy, AADD members have been questioning “What does this mean for our sector while we support vulnerable Alaskans?”

Developmental Disability providers were prompt in applying “hunker down” measures, and they have shown great effectiveness in containing the virus in our DD Service System ...well done!

So how do we stay on a responsible track, when data from the lower 48 states shows how quickly this affects with high mortality rates the population we serve?

As each phase opened, the State of Alaska is monitoring data based evidence to gauge impact of that phase. Transmission and testing results may take 3-4 weeks after each opening to indicate community spread (or containment). At this time, the AADD membership is unanimous in “staying the course” with the measures currently in place, using Federal, State and Local guidance for vulnerable populations. This is supported and appreciated by Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS).

AADD agrees that our providers will not be on the forefront but will be slower in re-opening efforts to allow evidence based protocols to be developed. AADD leadership is actively working with SDS to develop tiered definitions of risk/restriction levels. From these, protocols that may offer more flexibility and opportunity to certain groups will be jointly issued to safely navigate summer activities. Providers are in unison that visits via technology only are not sustainable for support recipient relationships with guardians and family members, but assuring safety of recipients and direct service professionals and their families is extremely important.

The increasing availability of personal protective equipment also assists the development of these protocols. We ask for your patience as these are developed, even while an increase in community activity swirls around us.

Imagine, if you will, that the virus is transmitted by mosquitoes instead of invisibly. You’d be cautious opening the window screens...so are we!

Thank you! Michael Bailey, AADD President



SDS UPDATES

- John Lee, Director, SDS, introduced Tony Newman. Tony left his position as Legislative Liaison for DHSS May 1 to become Deputy Director of SDS. He mentioned that his past job gives him a strong understanding of the priorities and operations of the entire Department Health and Social Services. Welcome Tony Newman.
- There is no date for responsible reopening of day habilitation in congregate settings. SDS and AADD are working together on guidelines for that process.
- Maureen Harwood, Chief of IDD, ILP and Training shared the following statistics with the membership:
 - ⇒ 668 on DRR (waitlist)
 - ⇒ 10 were drawn for IDD waivers in April
 - ⇒ 412 are approved for ISW waiver
 - ⇒ SDS will work with Governor's Council (including AADD representative) to review questions and scoring for waiver draws in the future.
- Lynne Keilman-Cruz, Chief of Quality on Appendix K
 - ⇒ Supported Employment was not included in original Appendix K application. SDS is approving billing for that service. They will request an amendment from CMS to include SE and are assuming approval as it is approved in other states.
 - ⇒ SDS recommends providers print out FAQ related to Appendix K for future audit purposes. It can be found at: [dhttp://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/covid-19/Instructions-App-K-COVID-Support-Plan.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/covid-19/Instructions-App-K-COVID-Support-Plan.pdf)

REMODELED WEBSITE <http://www.aaddalaska.org/>

AADD has a remodeled website with a members only section. Please go to www.aaddalaska.org/wp-login.php?action=register in order to register for members only section. Once registered it will automatically open to the members page in the future.

Calendar for JUNE

June 11, 2020	AADD monthly meeting 11—12
June 18, 2020	CFO meeting 8:30—9:30
June 18, 2020	Compliance meeting 10—11
June 25, 2020	Hot Topics—Responsible Reopening Continued

ALASKAN DSP—2020

Sally Powell



Full Lives recognized SALLY POWELL as the IDD Direct Support Professional for 2020. She will receive \$1,000 and free registration for Full Lives next year. Sally has been working at FOCUS for the last 15 years. Here are her words.

“For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher. Things didn't pan out, but as luck would have it I met a little 2-year-old girl who is

visually impaired and has cerebral palsy. I volunteered with her for many years before I walked into FOCUS and they offered me a position. Since that time I've worked with individuals of all ages and abilities. I love the work that I do. Helping individuals work towards goals and seeing them achieve greatness is one of my biggest rewards in life. ...I am honored to receive this recognition for my work, but the real reward is being part of this amazing community.”

Families that work with Sally say: “Sally is intuitive, wise, gracious, highly experienced and always a joy to visit with. I've been comforted and encouraged by her presence.” Another family says “Sally's heart and soul is in her work and she truly delights in every moment of it.” A third family says “Sally is patient, she is a great teacher and she is caring.”

FOCUS says “People truly gravitate to her. Her respect and appreciation for others can be seen from afar.” Congratulations Sally!

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.”

Mother Teresa

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