



# AADD ALASKA

June — 2020



## STANDING TOGETHER IN TROUBLED TIMES

In the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776), our founding fathers stated “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness...” (*understanding that in this era, the word “Men” referred to people not just the male gender*).

By 1860, the enslaved black population in the USA had reached nearly 4 million.. and after 2 years of Civil War, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Yet, another 100 years of injustice passed before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr led the most significant civil rights movement in this country. His dream “that my four little children will **one day live in a nation where they will be not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character**” moved the nation to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We share his dream but we are faced with the sad, current reality that this dream is not yet fulfilled. We stand with our fellow Americans who carry this legacy of pain.

On the shoulders of these civil rights, another 25 years passed before the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 gave formal recognition of these Rights to citizens who experience disabilities. The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities owes a debt of gratitude to all these pioneers of civil rights!

Disabilities advocates have worked hard to eliminate generalized terms and behaviors that are hurtful and discriminatory so we view the current efforts to establish dignity for all citizens with empathy. We also appreciate partnership with law enforcement, first responders, crisis response teams who have worked hard to learn from mistakes to increase and assure a sense of dignity and place in our communities for people experiencing disabilities. We stand with our law enforcement and peace officers who nobly seek to honor their commitment to serve and protect our communities, yet we expect full accountability for the actions of those who fail in their duties, as we would within our own workforce ranks.

I am challenging myself and our membership to examine our own practices for integrity and accountability. Let us not contribute to an anger-fueled outburst in our history without first being purposeful in transforming how we view one another as fellow human beings. Let the content of our character be judged by our actions, not just our words as we self-reflect. May our determination to be different be defined by an empathetic response, something far deeper than an emotional reaction.

This is a time to reflect with humility, then take daily lasting action to promote unity by standing together for equality of rights regardless of skin color, differing ability, male or female, youth or age, political or religious beliefs. We all need love, kindness and a sense of belonging...as ambassadors of such, let us stand together against discrimination of all kinds every day, advancing the fulfillment of our Shared Vision

Thank you! Michael Bailey, AADD President



## SDS UPDATE

Maureen Hardwood provided the following update at AADD's monthly meeting.

Appendix K was written for one year. It expires March 10, 2021.

- ⇒ Supported Employment is included in Appendix K for distance services.
- ⇒ POC submissions, with no changes, under Appendix K will be accepted until September 1st.

State staff will continue working from home until August 31, 2020.

EVV is required for PCS (Personal Care Services) beginning January 1, 2021. There is no date for HCBS providers compliance with EVV at this time.

Waitlist numbers:

- ⇒ 706 on DRRR (waitlist)
- ⇒ IDD draw—working on final 10 for FY20
- ⇒ ISW—plans received 417, plans approved 392

## COVID Technology Response Project 2.0

*The time is now to introduce technology into your service delivery system*

### Resources are available

Learn more:

**Wednesday June 25 11-12 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/968805819>

Meeting ID: 968 805 819 Phone: +1 253 215 8782

Funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust,  
Project coordinated by Champney Consulting

## Calendar

June 23, 2020	Technology Resource Project - 11:00
June 24, 2020	Hot Topics—Dealing with the Trauma
July 9, 2020	AADD Monthly Meeting
July 16, 2020	CFO Group— 10—11 am
July 16, 2020	Compliance Group—8:30—9:30
July 20—31	Lizette on staycation (new flooring)
	No Hot Topics in July

## Responsible Reopening and Fiscal Resources

AADD has provided SDS with risk/benefit assessment tools for providers to utilize in their considerations for reopening. SDS appreciated those recommendations as they prepared guidelines for non-congregate settings (such as day habilitation). Residential congregate settings guidance has not changed yet, although they are also under review.

We've all closely watched the growing numbers of COVID-19 cases in Alaska with concern, including in Assisted Living homes. The spike in new cases resulted in further delay in SDS releasing the guidance under development. SDS continues to hope to release the non-congregate settings in the near future as sectors of the community continue to open.

Continued vigilance is essential to keep those we care about safe. Additional justification for going very slowly and carefully is supported by NPR published research demonstrating that individuals who experience IDD are at significantly higher risk of dying than the general population. Read the article! <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/09/872401607/covid-19-infections-and-deaths-are-higher-among-those-with-intellectual-disability>

**FISCAL RESOURCES:** The new HSS Portal Funding is called the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund with 15 billion dollars for HCBS and CHIP Medicaid providers. The website is <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/index.html>

- You will receive a minimum of 2% of your gross revenue
- For-profit and non-profits organizations are eligible
- You are eligible if you received PPP or EIDL. You are not eligible if you received Medicare stimulus funding.
- Be thoughtful of "double dipping." You cannot buy the same thing twice with federal stimulus funds.

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions are at : <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/faqs/index.html>

**"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."** Martin Luther King Jr.

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