



AADD ALASKA

July-September 2020

TO OUR AMAZING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (DSPs)...

Of the varying roles I have filled over the past 19 years, the DSP role is the one I consider my badge of honor. You are the heart of our work, and as I have wrestled with how to express AADD's appreciation for all you do (often invisibly but faithfully each day), I offer my admiration, gratitude and humble empathy.

Without you, our vision, regulations, community debates, research evidence and recommendations have little meaning to our fellow Alaskans because it's only your actions and human touch that bring them to life and reality. We appreciate your commitment, heart and love for our fellow citizens who need some assistance in unleashing their abilities. 2020 is a different year...researchers assert that among non-infected Americans, few are more adversely affected by COVID-19 than individuals with IDD (*American Journal Psychiatry 2020; 00:1-3; doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.20060780*). So, there is no time when your interactions have become more critical in maintaining meaningful human connection than during this pandemic. Technology plays a helpful role but you are the "human" in "human and social services". You are our heroes!

I know some of you who have made personal and family sacrifices by staying away from work to reduce exposure, while others have picked up extra shifts and gone above and beyond to assure the physical and emotional wellbeing of recipients who are confused and stressed by the societal changes from the pandemic. Like the time I provided 24 hour care for several days hunkered down during a snow storm, only to learn the relieving staff were unable to get to work, you have also gone above and beyond to assure that direct support continues.

**Never doubt that your work makes a powerful
and permanent difference!**

**Once a DSP, always a DSP so from my heart
to yours...THANK YOU!**

Michael Bailey, AADD President



SDS UPDATE

John Lee clarified the difference between Isolation and Quarantine.

Isolation—10 days with diagnosis
Quarantine –14 days exposure

An individual may return to work on the 10th day after their positive COVID-19 test, with no symptoms.

SDS will develop two checklists for providers with the steps to take when a person we serve is diagnosed with COVID-19 and another for when a staff receives a positive diagnosis.

Maureen Harwood reported:

Appendix K expires March 10, 2021, unless the Health Emergency is extended.

Family Habilitation—Has been side tracked with pandemic. SDS is re-initiating work with HCBS Strategies (Steve Lutzky). Hope to provide an update next month.

Waitlist numbers:

- ⇒ 771 on DDDR (waitlist)
- ⇒ 8 IDD waivers drawn
- ⇒ 431 ISW plans received

Shared Vision Town Hall

**September 3
11am to Noon**

was well attended

**Get Inspired!
Give Input!**

Continue the Movement!

COVID Technology Response Project

Thanks to the Alaska Mental Health Trust, AADD is coordinating a rapid response to COVID by providing funds for devices for people who receive services as well as training and other resources for providers.

Funds are still available for individuals who need a device to access supports and services. Internet connectivity is a requirement—please let us know if Internet access is a barrier. This helps inform planning to further expand technology supports. Kim Champney has developed a best practice guide that includes facilitation tips and activity ideas based on the experiences of early adopters in the first months of COVID.

The application for funding and best practice guidelines are available at the AADD website. Stay tuned for additional training this Fall.

AADD FALL “FACE TO FACE” MEETING

The AADD fall meeting will be offered virtually. Zoom gatherings will be hosted on October 28, 29 and the 30th. An agenda will be coming out shortly.

VOTER REGISTRATION

AADD has hired Patrick Reinhart, with Alaska MH Trust funds to support both registration and voting. Watch for invitations to regional zoom meetings on how and why to vote including plain language information on the candidates.

SHARED VISION—Community Awareness Team

The Community Awareness Team (CAT) of the Shared Vision is focused on creating awareness of the Shared Vision in Schools Statewide. The objectives are twofold: 1. To develop and market age appropriate content and presentations for students Statewide. 2. Create meaningful presentations for teachers to educate students about the Vision. The CAT is building relationships and getting the message out through a variety of means. If you are interested email Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com.

Calendar

September 3, 2020 Shared Vision Town Hall, 11:00 am
September 10, 2020 AADD Monthly Meeting, 11:00 am
September 17, 2020 Compliance Group, 8:30 am
September 17, 2020 CFO Group, 10:00 am
September 24, 2020 Hot Topics, 11:00 to be announced
October 5—9, 2020 Disability and Aging Summit, 12:30 to 3
October 28 –30, 2020 AADD digital “face to face”

Alaska Disability Pride Event



July was Disability Pride Month. Thirty years ago on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by Congress, establishing America's commitment to end discrimination against people with disabilities. Alaska hosted a DD Pride event to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.

Alaska's DD Pride event was hosted for a full week of starting June 19 as a Facebook event. The page: "2020 Virtual Alaska Disability Pride Celebration" is still available to view. Each day featured a different nationally-recognized guest speaker in-

terviewed by an Alaskan self-advocate.



Pictured above are Maggie Winston and Judy Heumann and Travis Noah with Shane Berclaw. Pictured below is Garrett Dominick and Zack Gottsagen. Also interviewed were: Temple Grandin, Micah Fialka-Feldman, Lydia X.Z. Brown, Erik Hawk from Portugal and the Man, and Stand Up for Mental Health.



Recordings of Pride events are available on the Shared Vision Youtube Channel.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela

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