



AADD ALASKA

November 2020

From the AADD President - Amanda Faulkner

I had the privilege of hearing VJ Smith share stories of gratitude on October 30th. VJ was the final Keynote presentation at the Alaska Association of Developmental Disabilities (AADD) virtual face to face meeting. As providers joined the remote meeting, we were anxious to acquire tangible knowledge from a “National Presenter” that would inspire our work. Within the first 10 minutes, tears were rolling down my cheeks. His 90-minute message was not related to disability services; it had nothing to do specifically with our work but everything to do with our work. His message was simple but powerful. Relationships are intentional and in the end the thing we are remembered for.

Gratitude- this basic “good manner” is the foundation of human respect, appreciation, and kindness.

It is always about **WE** and never about **ME**.

Engage **Completely** without distraction.

Take the time to **Give** a little bit more.

Always send a Thank You card!

VJ reminded us that the richest man in town was not rich in possessions but was wealthy in the number of people he impacted with his genuine kindness. Working in this field touches your heart so deeply that you are compelled to serve BUT when we are faced with uncertain times and additional pressures it is easy to “spin with the busy” and “negativity.” VJ’s personal stories reminded me to stay focused on the heart of my work and to say THANK YOU! The people that work in this field are passionate and give 100% every day. It is with gratitude and humility that I step into the role as AADD president with VJ’s life changing words of wisdom. Together WE make a difference!



SDS UPDATE

SDS is researching a Provider Agreement that would allow a 33% reimbursement on top of the billing rate for those recipients in isolation with COVID. SDS hopes to include home care as well.

SDS is committed to supporting the recruitment of DSP (Direct Support Professionals) through:

- UAA nursing and CNA’s internships as DSP’s
- DSPHire app support
- ConnecttoCare—a federal app

The COVID Vaccine , when available, will be voluntary with initial doses available for recipients and staff.

SDS and Behavioral Health had plans to work on how the 1115 Waiver would support folks with dual diagnosis. The pandemic delayed that conversation. Plans to resume that conversation are forthcoming.

The Alaska Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration is backed by legislative action. The current Declaration is extended to December 15th.

Appendix K remains effective through CMS’s (Center for Medicare and Medicaid) extension of the federal Disaster Declaration.

Lynne Keilman-Cruz pointed out that the timely submission of IDD waivers is 79% compliant . CMS requires an 85% timely compliant rate to avoid Corrective Action Plan on the part of SDS. SDS requests that providers track and trend their own timeliness for Plans of Care.

FALL virtual “Face2Face” meeting

Evaluations from the virtual fall AADD meeting were very positive. One read “The DSP panel was uplifting, encouraging and makes me hopeful. I’m so excited about the DSP Hire! I really appreciated the review and update on the DD Shared Vision; I need to reengage at a higher level. VJ Smith, Wow! ‘

Elections resulted in Amanda Faulkner as our new AADD President. Susan Garner, Mat Su Services for Children and Adults is the new Treasurer. Meghan Heim, Infinite Options, in North Pole, was elected by the membership as our newest Board member.

Small groups discussed goals and activities AADD can take to move Strategic Plan and the Shared Vision forward. The board is reviewing these suggestions.

The membership voted to host another Leadership Consortium through the University of Delaware virtually. It will be offered to emerging and existing leaders. Applications will be coming out in December with more information.

The DSP Hire app is ready to take off. Funding has been made available for full time work on the app by Jake Carpenter. Stay tuned to hear lots more about this. You are encouraged to join the website now at dshire.com.

Shared Vision Legislative Advocacy Coalition

AADD is involved in two active Coalitions working on legislative advocacy. One is initiated by Kim Champney with partners including AADD, Key Coalition of Alaska, the Governor’s Council, the Statewide Independent Living Council and Peer Power. For more information contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com

A broader base coalition, Alaskans Together for Medicaid is facilitated by Jessie Meekins with the Primary Care Association. It includes a broad base of those providing services through Medicaid from hospitals to ABHA and AADD, food insecurity programs and tribal entities.

Both groups recognize the need for significant education of new legislators. And recognize this will be a difficult year in terms of the budget process.

AADD has received a grant for \$50,000 from the Alaska Community Foundation with \$20,000 from the Alaska Mental Health Trust to craft a marketing message to recruit DSP’s from the social service industry. Watch for the ads coming out in December.

Calendar

November 12, 2020 AADD Hot Topics—Vaccine meeting
November 19, 2020 CFO and Compliance Group—10:00 am
No Hot Topics—Thanksgiving Day
December 10, 2020 AADD monthly meeting—11:00 am

Amanda Faulkner AADD President



Amanda Faulkner became the Executive Director of Frontier Community Services (FCS) in 2015, which provides services to the Central Kenai Peninsula and Valdez. Amanda started at Frontier Community Services (FCS) in 2002, as a Developmental Specialist for the Infant Learning Program. She received her B.A. in education and psychology

from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington in 1997, at which point she relocated back to their hometown of Soldotna, Alaska. She was raised in Alaska and understands the unique challenges that are specific to the geography and weather that make Alaska both a beautiful and challenging place to live and work. In 2005, she graduated from the University of Anchorage Alaska with a Master’s Degree in Education. Her passion for person directed services has been evident throughout her career. She has shared her agency’s “Journey to Person Centeredness” throughout Alaska and national through ANCOR and the Leadership Consortium. Amanda is transparent and invested in making the Shared Vision a reality.

Faith Kelly, once AADD’s webmaster is leaving Alaska. You might know her from FOCUS or Cindy n’ Vic’s before she moved to the Center for Human Development to work with their ECHO Project. The ECHO project was very active on COVID topics. New Mexico has successfully recruited her to work with their ECHO projects. We wish you the very best Faith.

Your AADD Board

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