



AADD ALASKA

January 2021

Michele Girault— AADD member

Dear Friends,

This past year has provided us with all too many moments of helplessness. The events of the last week have given us all pause. The flow of opinions and commentaries is nearly inescapable as shock, anger, and blame circulate the globe.

In the wake of the events of the last week I am drawn to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Dr. King’s words compel me to ask two questions: “Where do I stand at this time of darkness for our country?” And, “What can I do, as an individual, to make a difference?” The answer I reached is simple in statement, profound in action – love, more.

I was taught you can’t be truly loving without being principled and you can’t be truly principled without being loving. Two facets of the same action. Integrity and compassion, courage and forgiveness are not opposing qualities, but when acted upon lead to acts of enhanced love and accountability.

Each of us, each day, have opportunities to improve the spaces we move in. We can choose to forgive rather than hate, share joy rather than fatigue, listen with open hearts rather than judge, collaborate rather than obstruct, express humility rather than arrogance, be generous rather than withhold.

Dr. King’s example is honored when we stand with him and vow with action to love more. It starts with daily interactions with family and friends, broadens to our communications with colleagues and community members, and reaches out as we interact as citizens of our country and the global community.

Dr. King said, “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

As we move closer to the celebration of Dr. King’s life and legacy of leadership, his eloquent and compelling messages of love, forgiveness, and courage give us all an anchor of hope, if we follow his example with action. In these times of challenge and controversy, his life’s work is truly honored if love and principle guide our daily words and actions.

I leave you with the words of author L.R. Knost, “Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break and all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.”

Best,

Michele Girault

CEO, Hope Community Resources, Inc.

SDS UPDATE

Heather Chord, the new IDD Unit Manager shared the numbers:

- ⇒ 813 on the DRR (waitlist)
- ⇒ 24 IDD waivers drawn
- ⇒ 76 ISW waivers drawn
- ⇒ 432 ISW’s active.

Governor Dunleavy has declared an updated Public Health Emergency from January 16th to February 15th. The National Public Health Emergency has been extended for another 90 days until April 21, 2021.

Appendix K—States can request a 6 month extension of the flexibilities at the end of the Public Health Emergency. Alaska is ready to submit that request.

SDS will look at remote day habilitation and teleservices in a waiver amendment but not in the waiver renewal application out for public comment now due in June. The Renewal contains minimal changes with chore services moving to CFC services. Public comment is due February 12th. The state is hosting cafés to discuss remote services with those receiving services.

Vaccines—No mandate for the vaccine will be issued by the state. Vaccine available for DSPs and those in residential settings now. 35,000 have received their first shot. No word on when folks with IDD, not in congregate settings will be eligible.

EVV for IDD providers not on SDS’s radar for foreseeable future.

Family Habilitation alignment with CMS still being worked on with HCBS strategies. Changes required have been delayed by the pandemic.

LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

Applications are now open for the Leadership Consortium. You may apply for two seats but make your first choice clear. Classes begin April 14th through May 5 meeting two morning each week. **Registration closes February 5th and registration fee** is \$500 per person attending.

Here is a link to the application: https://mcusercontent.com/79a7d074ef0cd9e875963e213/files/ac078652-97e0-4be5-a27d-414db679e91e/Alaska_Virtual_Leadership_Institute_Details.pdf

DSPHire App and Marketing Campaign

The Alaska Community Foundation Grant awarded to AADD has been completed. Northwest Strategies was hired to develop 30 and 60 second ads to market DSP jobs. The ads have aired in all regions of the state and in hub communities via Cable, ESPN, food, on YouTube, Facebook, ADN, LinkedIn and Connected TV.

Jake Carpenter is working on the App DSPHire full time. From 3-4 testbed ads on the App there are now 27 different employers posting ads. And the actual hits to DSPHire went from 5 to 10 a week to over 1,000 hits the week of December 27th.

The Trust is processing a grant to allow the marketing to continue and the DSPHire App has some funds for marketing. We look forward to hearing about new DSPs as a result of this marketing campaign. A huge shout out to our Kim Champney for being the champion behind this work.

Spread the word further by posting these links on your organization's social media sites or website:

30-Second: <https://youtu.be/tAJ21BiD-Bo>

60-Second: <https://youtu.be/0w-LlyGtzRA>

If you have suggestions about how to make DSP Hire

**Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate, only love can do that.**

Martin Luther King

Calendar

February 11, 2021	AADD monthly meeting
February 18, 2021	CFO at 8:30 Compliance at 10:00
February 25, 2021	Hot Topics—to be determined

KEY CAMPAIGN

The 2021 Key Campaign is going to be held March 1st through March 5th this year and will be virtual via zoom.

The Key Board has created an online registration for any individuals or their families to provide testimony to their legislators during the Key Campaign week. Not all people who register will be selected to speak as space is limited so if there are specific individuals or families who you may think might have a compelling story please forward this to them, we are trying to make a strong impact this year.

The Key Campaign's priorities and areas of focus this year will be the Medicaid wait list for IDD services, asking Legislators for NO CUTS to the Medicaid budget, and delivering personal stories about experiences with services.

Here is the link to the online registration: <https://keycampaign.ticketbud.com/key-campaign-2021>

TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY BUILDING

The Technology Capacity Building grant ends April 30, 2021. Before then Caryn Brunello, with the Arc of Anchorage is hosting calls on the following dates:

February 5th –Impact of Remote Supports from Guardian/Care Coordinator View

February 19—A day in the life of a DSP

Know **there are still funds for needed equipment** or assistive technology to access remote supports but you must order in the next two months.

Applications for devices are available on the AADD website or by request to Kim: kim@champneyconsulting.com

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