



AADD ALASKA

April 2021

Amanda Faulkner, AADD President

Be an Intentional Voice

The word CHANGE according to Webster means *to cause to be different*. The change can be positive, rapid, unexpected, or negative. HCBS providers in Alaska have been on the defense for years from numerous changes at state and federal levels. Now add COVID changes to the mix and providers are combatting CHANGE FATIGUE. As we enter 2021, we do so with hesitancy and hope that this year will be better than the last. [HCBS providers](#) lead with passion and energy and it is this drive that will reset our compass as we align with an intentional, consistent and informed voice.

AADD prides itself on positive partnerships that influence and move our Shared Vision into Action. A vision of a supportive system that is simple and shaped by the person receiving support. Now more than ever we need to be unified, vigilant and aware of federal, state and department changes. We need to continually ask ourselves if this change is VISION lead or SYSTEM lead.

The items listed below are more than an informational list but awareness that your voice does make a difference and a plea to continue to be an intentional voice.

State of Alaska:

Proposed increase in IDD annual waiver draws: The stated intent “that the department draw a minimum of 70 new individuals from the IDD waiver waitlist in FY22 to receive services.”

SB98: An Act relating to medical assistance for recipients of adult foster care services; establishing an adult foster care home license and procedures; and providing for the transition of individuals from foster care to adult foster care homes.

SB89: An Act relating to house rules for assisted living homes.

Division of SDS:

Potential changes to Residential Habilitation waiver services. These potential changes are intended to make the difference clearer between the two types of daily (24/7) Residential Habilitation: Family Home Habilitation and Group Home Habilitation.

We believe in our VISION! Now is the time to advocate with intentionality and unity for the Shared Vision to be implemented!

SDS UPDATE

Heather Chord, IDD Unit Manager, shared the numbers:

- ⇒ 799 on the DRRR (waitlist)
- ⇒ 33 IDD waivers drawn
- ⇒ 504 ISW’s offered or on
- ⇒ 76 ISW waivers draw
- ⇒ 2032 DD waivers total

Appendix K—Alaska’s application to extend Appendix K for 6 months beyond the Public Health Emergency was approved. The federal Emergency will likely be extended beyond the April 15th.

Vaccines— SDS is working on updating post vaccination visitation guidelines to align with CDC guidance and has asked for AADD input..

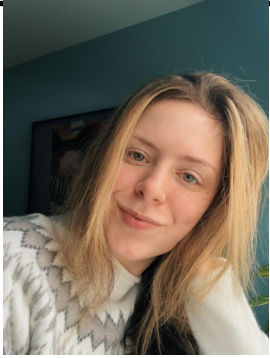
Family Habilitation—SDS is has hosted 3 webinars to solicit input on their Reform Proposal to differentiate between Group Homes and Family Habilitation Home. The webinars encouraged public comment on the Proposal, potential regulations and adding a contractor to oversee the Fam Hab Homes. The reform proposes that group homes would not allow live-in staff. But they may live in bedrooms in the group home that are not part of the licensed facility. The state and Steve Lutsky (the facilitator) have acknowledged they are learning a great deal from public comments.

Companion Services—SDS agrees they would be beneficial but are currently on the backburner with the pandemic.

**Success is not final; Failure isn’t fatal;
It’s the courage to continue that counts.**

Winston Churchill

**SPOTLIGHT - Alaskan DSP of the Year
Tempest Smith**



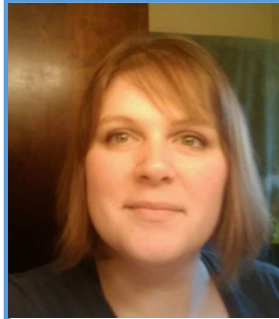
Congratulation to Tempest Smith who received the Alaska DSP of the Year for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

She works for Raindrop Services in Juneau Alaska now and has worked previously at REACH and TIDES.

“Tempest is an incredible DSP who has always gone above and beyond to bring care, support, love and joy to ___ life.” Tempest received multiple nomination forms from therapists, school district personnel and the family and relatives. Each one shared stories of the bond Tempest has and the joy they experience when coming together. Therapist spoke to her ability to read and motivate what is needed. Sometimes she incorporates silliness like tripping herself, but always communicating with deep respect.

“Tempest cares with all her heart and that is seen in her work. She thinks of her client/student as a part of her family. And she knows when to reach out for support when needed and is very adaptable.”
Congratulations TEMPEST SMITH.

**SPOTLIGHT—DSP Lifetime Achievement Award
Tessie Bodio**



Congratulations to Tessie Bodio for her Lifetime Achievement Award presented at Full Lives.

Tessie has a unique job at Hope. She is the On Demand Relief Home Alliance Coordinator, replacing live-in staff on an emergency basis. Tessie shines during times of crisis. There

are not many DSP’s that can step into an assisted living home and make the people receiving supports feel like you’ve been there all along. Tessie has the amazing ability to bring stability and security into a home. Her absolute enthusiasm and desire to connect with people makes her stand out.

Tessie entered a home with COVID positive staff and recipients with her typical enthusiasm and never let her anxiety show. They just saw a caring smiling staff that exhibited confidence and put their needs first.

Tessie says “I enjoy the idea of associating with good people, and no other field really concentrates that than direct support. ...People who accept jobs for the good that they do are my people.” Congratulations TESSIE BODIO.

AADD Virtual Face2Face

May 4 & 5, 2021

May 4th, 9:00—10:30—Ben Drew, keynote speaker is the founder of Open Future Learning.

May 4th, 1:00 –3:00 —Shared Vision—history and future

May 5th, 9:00—10:30 —SDS update

May 5th, 1:00—3:00—Workforce Issues

CALENDAR

May 4 & 5, 2021	AADD virtual Face2Face
May 11, 2021	Care Coordination Meeting
May 20, 2021	Joint CFO/Compliance at 9:30
May 27, 2021	Hot Topics—to be determined
Note—No monthly meeting, Virtual Face2Face instead	

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

Albert Einstein

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