



AADD ALASKA

August/September 2021

Address from AADD President— Amanda Faulkner

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week (September 12-18, 2021) is an opportunity not to be missed to celebrate the dedicated, innovative direct support workforce that is the heart and soul of supports for people with disabilities. While we are grateful for you all year long, this official celebration carves out a sacred pause, for a collective round of applause. Your unfailing dedication has been especially remarkable over the past 18 months. As we've worked hard to stay "stronger together", you've truly become the epitome of that now legendary phrase. I want you to know that it has not gone unnoticed.

Caring for people with disabilities requires passion, insight, empathy, as well as physical and emotional energy that far exceed what most jobs require. DSPs make it look so easy!! I was talking with a DSP earlier this month, thanking her for going above and beyond in a challenging situation. She simply smiled and replied, "this is more than a job." There are countless examples that speak to your incredible patience when an individual is struggling to communicate what they want or need. You remain positive when you're teaching a new skill to someone who has motor planning difficulties. You demonstrate compassion when an individual is experiencing a sensory overload. You listen intently to a family member sharing ideas or concerns.

When a co-worker falls ill and cannot make a shift, you offer to stay overnight. When the person you are supporting changes plans, you pivot and change course with a smile. When you assist an individual to move into a new place, you listen with enthusiasm and help them create a comfortable space that reflects their style. You ensure holidays are memorable and offer a sympathetic shoulder when life brings tragedy. You have the unique privilege of supporting people with disabilities through life events and do so with an investment of your heart.

You work with impeccable strength to create meaningful lives for others. You've prevailed even as we've been short-staffed and had to face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. On behalf of AADD... Thank you for your steadfast devotion and THANK YOU for being YOU!

In Honor of the Support Staff
THANK YOU!
Direct Support Professionals Recognition week

We lost **David Hingsburger** last month. Here is one of his contributions.

Being in human services is cool because, in essence, you are paid to be human: paid to explore the commonalities of the human condition, paid to discover the incredible diversity of the human spirit, paid to spend your day doing something that matters—something that makes a difference, something that you can be proud of.

Done right, you have chosen both a job and a passion, both a passion and a mission, both a mission and a purpose.

There are those who spend their lives looking for purpose. You will rise to it each morning. And that's a hell of a way to start the day.

SDS Update

- ◆ Reviewing 10% FMAP Plan
- ◆ Provision BCU check ok for billing
- ◆ No vaccine required by DHSS
- ◆ Family Hab webinar in early Oct.

Numbers:

- ◆ 697 individuals on the Registry
- ◆ 349 of whom are active on the ISW
- ◆ 2,047 individuals on, or offered a spot on the I/DD waiver
- ◆ 585 individuals on, or offered a spot on the ISW waiver
- ◆ 18 people drawn - IDD waiver (FY22)
- ◆ 45 people drawn for the ISW (FY22)

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WE HAVE HONORED THIS YEAR

ANCOR Alaskan DSP of the Year: Jessi Walton



Jessi works for Bright-Springs in Fairbanks and is highly respected for her work with a non-verbal child . She has taught him to use a unique sign language

that allows him to communicate his needs with all of the team and during weekly outings.

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

DSP LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Tessie Bodio



Tessie shines during times of crisis as the On Demand Relief Home Alliance Coordinator for Hope Community Resources. Tessie entered a home with COVID positive staff with her usual enthusiasm and positive attitude. "People who accept jobs for the good that do...are my people".

Alaskan DSP of the Year: Tempest Smith



Tempest works for Raindrop Services in Juneau Alaska. Tempest received multiple nomination forms with each one sharing stories about the bond Tempest has with her "guy". "Tempest cares with all her heart and that is seen in her work. "

Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.

Randy Rausch

CARE COORDINATION STUDY

AADD has submitted a letter of interest to the Mental Health Trust to fund a study of Care Coordination, case-loads, duties, hours and rates including the changes that have manifested in the system since Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM). It will compare the average hours required for each of the 5 waivers (IDD, ISW, CCMC, ALI and APD) to the rates of reimbursement. We are hopeful that funding will be available in October to put out an RFP for the study.

Your AADD Board

Amanda Faulkner, President

Cindy Hensley, Vice President

Bess Clark, Secretary

Susan Garner, Treasurer

Michael Bailey, Past President

Regional Representatives:

Rick Driscoll, Matt Jones,

Jaime Kassman and Meghan Heim

Staff: Lizette Stiehr, Executive Director

Mark your Calendar: October 19-20, 2021

AADD will host a virtual Fall F2F meeting October 19 and 20th. Each day will have two sessions from 9:00 to 10:30 and 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Tuesday morning, October 19th, Alvin Law, a motivational speaker will kick off our conference. You might have seen his interview with Ric Nelson that closed out DD Pride Week in Alaska. He was born without arms yet became the first trombone chair in his state in high school.

Tuesday afternoon Jacqueline Summers of Health Tie, Kim Champney and Jake Carpender will lead us through small group discussions about how to think differently about the work force crisis we are all facing.

Wednesday morning, October 20th we will start with a business meeting and then hear an update from Commissioner Crum, and the SDS staff.

We will wrap up Wednesday afternoon with a keynote from Joe MacDonald, the Executive Director of NADSP (National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals). He will speak to the workforce.

CALENDAR

September 9, 2021 Monthly AADD meeting—11 to 12

September 16, 2021 Compliance Group—8:30 to 9:30

September 16, 2021 CFO meeting—10 to 11

No Hot Topics in September

October 5, 2021 Care Coordination—10:30 to 11:30

No monthly meeting October 14, 2021

Fall Virtual F2F—October 19—20, 2021—via Zoom