



AADD ALASKA

February 2022

Address from your President, Amanda Faulkner and Vice-President Cindy Hensley

In the United States, there are over 6 million individuals who have developmental disabilities. Every March since 1987 National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is observed here in the United States. The month reminds us that we're all part of a broad spectrum of intellectual and physical functioning. It's a chance to be more empathetic and to remind ourselves of the challenges we face in our own lives, regardless of our I.Q. or diagnosis.

The campaign shines a spotlight on the disabled community and demonstrates how people with developmental disabilities live normal lives. Additionally, the focus is on how the public can be educated to support people with developmental disabilities to achieve their dreams.

Here in Alaska, we work hard to "educate" not only our communities but our government. In February, AADD and the Key Coalition united once again in legislative efforts to advocate for people with disabilities toward the goal of living the Shared Vision. In other words, to "live the life I choose with the supports I direct." The energy and urgency for change was powerful as we shared stories and highlighted system inequality. History has demonstrated that the disability community is determined, persistent and dedicated to removing social and legal barriers that limit access.

From the early 1970's until now the world has seen many policy developments for the benefit of people with disabilities. The implications of these historical and legal landmarks impact people with disabilities and direct support professionals every day.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (*and Section 504*)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (1973)

Americans w Disabilities Act (1990)

Olmstead Decision (1999)

United Nations Convention of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)

As I anticipate watching the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, I can't help but celebrate how far we've come since the deinstitutionalization movement when Ronald Reagan declared March the month for National Developmental Disabilities Awareness in 1987. The 2022 Beijing Paralympics will air from March 4-13, and features 736 Paralympians competing in 78 medal events, including alpine skiing, sled hockey, and wheelchair curling. NBC has announced its plan to broadcast the Winter Paralympic games in a prime-time slot for the first time in its history.

Thirty-five years after the establishment of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the world continues to grow in acceptance through relentless education and advocacy efforts. There is a famous quote from Verna Myers that always speaks to me. "Diversity is being invited to the Party; Inclusion is being asked to Dance." March is a month of reflection, recognition, and celebration, let us ALL dance!



DSPs advocate for HCBS investment

The National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) is hosting an advocacy summit on March 9-10. The Alaska Alliance of DSPs will be participating in this event which includes meeting with Alaska's delegation to advocate for two issues:

1. A Standard Occupational Code to be added to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2. \$150 billion investment in HCBS services through the Build Back Better Act.

Data available through the National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey is an important source of information for this effort. The 2020 report was just released and clearly describes the DSP workforce challenges. The report is available [here](#).

Alaskan providers will be receiving a survey link for this year's NCI Staff Stability Survey in the next two weeks.

AADD Hot Topics has focused on COVID and modified a Template to be Alaskan "friendly" for a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). If you don't have one or would like to review yours you can view the document on the AADD Website. The next Hot Topics will feature NADSP presenting on DSP Certification on March 17th at 11:00..

AADD announced Lizette's retirement effective June 30, 2022. The recruitment process has begun. The AADD website (in a portion open to all) is posting the Scope of Work if you click on "About AADD". Please be thinking about who would be great and ask them to watch for the ads and apply.



We lost a true Champion when Johnny Ellis died February 10, 2022.

"Johnny was a champion for struggling Alaskans. He cared so deeply.... He took on their challenges and made Alaska better for it. Johnny was a master of the legislative process and put his mark of compassion, heart, and determination throughout the Capitol, and Alaska." Senator Jesse Kiehl

CALENDAR

- March 1, 2022 Board Retreat
March 8, 2022 Care Coordination Group 10:30—11:30
March 9, 2022 COVID Group on COOP 11 to 12
March 10, 2022 Monthly AADD meeting—11 to 12
March 17, 2022 Compliance Group 8:30—9:30
March 17, 2022 CFO Group 10—11
March 17, 2022 Hot Topics—DSP Certification
March 29 & 30, 2022 AADD SPRING Face2Face—virtually
April 13—15, 2022 Full Lives
April 29—30, 2022 Peer Power

SDS Update

- ◆ CMS approved SDS's revised 10% FMAP plan! SDS is developing Provider Agreements needed to be in place for organizations to apply for grant funds for workforce issues. It will take a couple months to get the processes in place.
- ◆ The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) is now extended to April 16th, meaning Appendix K extends for another 6 months to October 16th. Further extensions are possible.
- ◆ Gems (one of two data bases for Infant Learning) is back on line. The second database required complete reconstruction and testing will begin soon.
- ◆ Questions about OPA guardians offering person centered services is outside of SDS purview. Recommend invite Beth Goldman to a meeting.
- ◆ Care Coordination Pilot position funded by the Trust at SDS will be a Program Manager II with responsibilities to increase the number of CC, particularly in rural areas, review CC duties and rates and work on a channel to get individuals operational as a CC. Position will be posted in a few weeks.
- ◆ Commissioner is working on a response to the Rate Re-basing request with ORR.
- ◆ EVV will NOT be applied to HCBS services in near future.

Numbers:

- ◆ 710 individuals on the Registry
- ◆ 350 of whom are active on ISW
- ◆ 2,070 individuals on or offered a spot on the I/DD waiver
- ◆ 585 individuals on or offered a spot on the ISW waiver
- ◆ FY22 drawn 64 individuals for IDD waiver
- ◆ FY22 drawn 91 individuals for ISW waiver

Foraker Non Profit Economic Impact Report 2.1.22

Did you know that 13% of all employment in Alaska is in the non profit sector? Compared to 10% in lower 48.

Did you know that there are 38,100 individuals directly employed in non-profits in Alaska, with 57,992 jobs created.

Did you know that Nonprofits constitute Alaska's third largest industry by impact, only behind oil and gas and seafood.

For the full report: <https://www.forakergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Foraker-Nonprofit-Economic-Impact-Report-2.1.22-printable.pdf>

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