



AADD ALASKA

June 2022

Farewell From Your Executive Director

I'm so thrilled after 7 full years, going on 8, to be handing the reins of AADD into the extremely capable hands of Kim Champney on June 30th. As I reflect upon this journey, I'm reminded of one of my all-time favorite cartoons, Tiny Dragon and Big Panda. "Which is more important", asks Big Panda, "the journey or the destination?" "The company" said Tiny Dragon.

What wonderful "company" and accomplishments we've shared over the last years! Our "company" has increased from 27 to 68 members. Our budget from membership dues doubled with an annual Mental Health Trust grant. We've hosted multiple grants from a variety of sources that supported technology advancement, the DSPHire App, recruitment advertisements for DSP's and there are job preview videos currently being developed. Trainings like the Leadership Consortium, Foraker Training and Be the Change Training, have been offered to emerging leaders in the field. AADD is now a well-known and respected member of ANCOR, even receiving an award. Our relationship has remained strong and collaborative with SDS and other state partners. AADD was instrumental in its advocacy talking SDS into changing its original ARPA funds plan. Because of you, the 'company' the ARPA funds are now aligned to support the workforce within the provider world. Additionally, our rate study (by Effective Health Design) helped the state remember how behind we are in rate re-basing. We also gathered in face2face meetings and smaller groups like the CFO, Compliance, and Care Coordination Groups. Finally, we helped connect you with each other, with good "company".

I've so enjoyed the "company" of your questions, your participation in our many meetings and your membership in AADD. This job has been such a joy for me, and the joy has been you, the companions on this journey. You're the "company" that I treasure. Your dedication and purpose in making lives better not just for individuals but our whole community, feeds my soul. As David Hingsburger said; "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." Thank you for allowing me to join in your company and serve in such a joyful way.

SDS UPDATE

ARPA applications to support the workforce are due June 30th. Remember: apply even if you have no expenses for the first year so you can apply for the base year 4/1/22 to 3/31/23. If you have any questions email HSS.DSDS.ARPA@alaska.gov. SDS hired additional staff so responses will be timely.

The budget will be released to the Governor any day. It includes \$32.8 million dollars for a 10% increase to rates for HCBS and Personal Care Services. A 5-year End the Waitlist study and 20 additional draws (making 70 the total for a year) are also in the budget that we trust the Governor will sign.

Supported Employment has waived the certification requirement during the Public Health Emergency (PHE), but it will go into affect at the end of the 6 month extension. Classes are offered 3 times a year. CHD will host a September training

Craig Baxter is leaving licensing June 30. They have posted the position. He will continue to do transition work with the Division through late August.

Numbers:

- ◆ 478 on the DRRR/waitlist
- ◆ 562 ISW recipients
- ◆ 113 IDD
- ◆ 2,083 total IDD recipients
- ◆ 10 drawn in May for IDD
- ◆ 113 drawn for ISW waivers
- ◆ 106 Drawn IDD waivers
- ◆ 15 seeking Care Coordinators (6 IDD and 9 ISW)

"If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together".

African Prov-



Governor's Council Update

Patrick Reinhart has returned to the Governor's Council as their interim Executive Director. They plan to hire a long term Executive Director by October.

The council is seeking five new members. If you or someone you know with lived experience is interested in being active this is a great opportunity. To apply go to www.boards.alaska.gov/apply, click on "apply on line", fill out the general information. This Board is listed as "Disabilities and Special Education Council". The Governor selects new members .

DSP Certification Project Update

The advisory council for the ARPA funded DSP Certification pilot project met, June 14th, 2022, for its second meeting. The collaborative efforts between SDS and CHD to get the Pilot launched are going well. At the recommendation of AADSP and other stakeholders a survey was sent out June 10th to Home and Community Based Waiver providers. Gathering the information within the survey is imperative for the Pilot to go forward in a manner that reflects the full participation, interest and engagement of Agencies and their DSPs statewide. The survey closes June 24th. Once the information is gathered, there will be a clearer direction and determination regarding which DSP's will be selected for this Certification Pilot through the application process. PLEASE support your DSP's and fill out this important survey. <https://form.jotform.com/221517404496153>

Disability Pride Dates

For the third year, Alaska will host a Virtual Statewide Disability Pride Celebration on July 26 from noon to 1 p.m. Mark your calendars and join our community to celebrate the passage of the ADA!

Other celebrations:

Anchorage and Fairbanks: July 23

Kenai Peninsula: 30

REMINDER: NCI Staff Stability Survey Closes June 30!

Hopefully you have already filled out the National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey. All certified IDD and APDD providers are expected to complete this important survey. This national survey provides Alaska with important information on DSP recruitment and retention. This data collected is invaluable in our advocacy efforts to hire, retain and reimburse the DSP's who are so important to our work. Final deadline for completing the survey is June 30. Questions? Contact Kim Champney at kim@champneyconsulting.com.

CALENDAR

July 5, 2022 Board Meeting at 9:00
July 5, 2022 Care Coordination Group—10:30
July 14, 2022 AADD Monthly Meeting—11:00
July 21, 2022 Compliance Group— 8:30 to 9:30
July 21, 2022 No CFO Group

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

House Seat for Federal House of Representatives

As you are well aware Don Young, Alaska's sole Representative passed away in the middle of his term serving in the US House of Representatives. The first elections for a replacement to fill out the remaining two years of his term was completed June 11th. I hope you voted for one of the 48 choices. The election just completed will result in in the four individuals receiving the most votes going forward to the special general election on August 16th. At this point it appears the candidates moving in the special general election will be: Sarah Palin, Nick Begich III, Al Gross and Mary Peltola. You will have the opportunity to vote for a first, second, third and fourth choice. Ranked choice voting means the person with least votes will be eliminated and those votes will go to your second choices. The same thing will happen with the third least votes, with those secondary choices being distributed to the two finalists. And then the remaining person who has the most support will win.

Regular Primary Election

The regular primary election will take place the same day, August 16th, as the special general election mentioned above. In this election there will be 31 candidates and the top four candidates from this election will go forward to the general election to be held on November 8th, in the same process listed above.

Please make sure you are registered to vote and that you are sharing election information with the folks you work with and care about. And note that if you are using a mail-in ballot the witness signature, which was waived in the 2020 election, is once again required in these elections for mail-in ballots. If you do not have a witness signature your ballot will be discarded.



Thank you for all your kind comments. In the future I can be reached at 907-854-0322 and lizette.stiehr@gmail.com

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Your AADD Board

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