



AADD ALASKA

August — 2015

From The AADD Board of Directors

Reducing draws a tough decision in tough times

SDS is in the process of making a tough decision – reducing the number of individuals drawn from the DD registry (aka “the waitlist”). Almost 10 years ago, the commitment to eliminate the waitlist was a great victory after decades of advocacy.

But now, as oil prices drop below \$40/barrel and the Medicaid pie is shrinking, Alaska is in the midst of a budget crisis.

AADD’s current strategic plan includes this envisioned future: *AADD is a full partner with the State of Alaska and is proactive in addressing the needs of people with developmental disabilities.*

It’s critical that as these tough decisions are discussed, providers continue our commitment to partnership. It is in this spirit that the AADD board of directors supports SDS’s decision to reduce the waitlist draws.

This is a difficult statement, and is not made without mixed emotions. We all know individuals who are waiting for services and many of us have been very committed to advocacy efforts over the years. It’s chal-

lenging to support a decision that may adversely affect families, and is not done lightly.

But it is imperative that the DD service system identify cost-saving measures which will have the least impact on the people we serve and the agencies that work to continue services. If we don’t take clear and

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significant steps to cut back, the legislature will make those decisions for us.

We will communicate with SDS to obtain assurances that the registry prioritization process prevents, as much as possible, individuals from being disproportionately impacted (such as youth transitioning to adult services) if they don’t fall within the top 50 in the current scoring system. SDS recently communicated on our monthly teleconference that when existing waiver recipients move or pass away, replacement

draws will be maintained, in addition to the 50 new waivers offered in the next year.

We appreciate that SDS is working to implement a longer-term strategy to greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the waitlist by adding 1915 (i) and (k) waivers to our system. These waivers will tap into federal funds so individuals receiving grant services can access waived services that will meet their needs in a more consistent, long-term manner. We will continue to look at options to support a more sustainable system such as the use of technology to provide cost-effective assistance.

As providers we are here to advocate and assist the people we serve. It is our belief that this step will benefit the people we serve long-term as Alaska figures out how to meet many needs with more limited resources. Providers have the opportunity to reach out to our communities – to the people we serve – and ask for their input on how we can reduce expenditures and create a more sustainable system.

It is important that we communicate honestly and with integrity to the DD community so we can all be informed and work together.

Alzheimer's Resources of Alaska



UPDATE

Conflict-Free Care Coordination

The Request for Information concerning Care Coordination has been submitted by 90% of organizations to SDS. They are working on compiling the information and hope to forward a report to the PC3 group (see below) soon. Thank you to one and all who completed the detailed questions.

The Person Centered Care Coordination Group (PC3) has been meeting every other week with a large group with Sandra Heffern facilitating. State staff from quality assurance, certification, and waivers along with providers and care coordinators are represented on this workgroup.

The group will meet twice each month until September to tackle the following topics: service definition, conditions of participation, qualifications, certifications, training, and functional assessment to ensure that Alaska is providing Person Centered Services as defined in the CMS Final Rule.

Southcentral Foundation provides conflict free care coordination (case management) for Alaska Native/American Indian individuals 18 years of age or older or their spouses. They have added a waiver type and now serve the IDD, APDD and ALI waivers for individuals who live in the Anchorage or Mat-Su area. For more information contact Liam Salter at 729-8606 or email him at LSalter@SouhtcentralFoundation.com.

National DSP Week is September 13–19

ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) is spearheading a national recognition week for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) September 13th - 19th.

This annual celebration features special events and ceremonies to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable people with intellectual, developmental and other significant disabilities and their families to live healthy community-oriented lives. We know DSPs' advocacy on behalf of, and along-side, people with disabilities has resulted in significant changes in the community.

AADD is seeking a proclamation from Governor Walker.

Alzheimer's Resources of Alaska has expanded their care coordination certification in Alaska to serve all four waiver types. They are transitioning out of direct services to become a statewide conflict free care coordination agency says Karl Garber, Executive Director. Alzheimer's Resources is recruiting care coordinators wishing to maintain their current trusted relationships with families and individuals who want to work for an agency.

Thirty-two years ago Beverly Tallman and Becky Clement began Alzheimer's Resources with the vision that people with dementia and disabilities would live safely at home as long as possible. While the agency continues to provide its educational services it is also committed to offering person-centered care coordination with the individual at the center of the planning process, tailored to their needs.

The organization has offices in Fairbanks, Juneau, Mat-Su and Anchorage and provides care coordination services in Bethel and Dillingham also. Their future plans include looking for local sites and keeping care coordinators in their home community.

For more information contact Rebecca Marinelli, Manager at 561-3313 or via email at marinelli@alzalaska.org.

Executive Director News

- ◇ Thanks to the 13 programs who have paid their dues.
- ◇ I will be out of the office Sept. 14 - 18 cooking at a hunting camp.
- ◇ Core Competency Train the Trainer—9/15 & 9/16/15
- ◇ Shop smile.amazon.com for dollars to come to AADD
- ◇ Welcome to Jean Kincaid who is THE MSSCA Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDER: AADD Face to Face Annual Fall Meeting—October 22nd, 2015