



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of  
Health and Social Services**

SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES  
Director's Office

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November 4, 2013

Dear Provider:

Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), in collaboration with the Kenai Peninsula Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), is conducting a pilot project called "ADRC First" in which all individuals seeking long-term services and supports begin the process at the ADRC. Trained ADRC staff, using a professionally designed tool, will conduct a comprehensive pre-screening, interpret the results, provide options counseling and educate the client about the most appropriate level of service that will meet their needs. In addition, for those applicants experiencing a mental health, substance abuse, or personal safety problem, the screening will trigger a recommendation for a professional behavioral health assessment.

The Alaska ADRC network, a federal initiative now funded through state and local sources, has created a "single point of entry" to long term services and supports for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. ADRC's in Anchorage, Bristol Bay/Kodiak area, Wasilla/Mat-Su Borough, Juneau/Southeast region, and the Kenai Peninsula/Valdez/Cordova area provide information, referral, options counseling, and short-term service coordination to assist as well as help linking individuals to appropriate long term services and supports.

The "ADRC First" pilot project will begin December 2, 2013 for individuals residing in the communities of Cooper Landing, Kasilof, Kenai, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Soldotna, and Sterling. PCA and Waiver applications already in process on that date but not complete will be accepted as in the past through December 31, 2013. Any **NEW** inquiries that have not started the process as of December 2, 2013 must begin the process through the ADRC First project with a pre-screening. (See enclosed Information and FAQs for date clarification as needed.) As of January 1, 2014 PCA and Waiver applications will not be accepted without going through the ADRC First pilot project for a pre-screening. SDS will send a letter to the individual and the provider agency letting them know that the application was not accepted and include the contact information for the ADRC First Pilot project. When the individual has completed the ADRC First pre-screening the PCA or Medicaid Waiver application must be re-submitted to SDS.

In the past, individuals seeking SDS programs have had to navigate through multiple systems or rely on a care coordinator associated with the Medicaid waiver program to access services. The result can be a mismatch between the individual's need and the program to which they are linked. For example, nearly half of those who receive a functional assessment for the Medicaid waiver program, the highest level of care in the SDS continuum, are found to be ineligible. Not only is this an inefficient use of resources, but also a source of delay and frustration to the individual seeking care. Additionally those found ineligible, for the higher levels of care, often fall through the cracks when they could be eligible for other long-term service and support programs administered by SDS, such as grant funded services for in-home, day programs, nutrition, transportation, or habilitation services.

SDS believes that this new model for screening will result in streamlined access as well as timelier and more appropriate linkages for those seeking home and community-based services, and more cost-effective

use of both provider and SDS resources. We will know the model is working by tracking pilot project performance measures and through surveys of participant satisfaction with their experience at the ADRC.

Enclosed you will find a brochure about Alaska's ADRCs and FAQs about the pilot project. If you have questions or need additional information Cyndee Sugar at 465-4798 or 1-866-465-3165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane G. Mayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Duane G. Mayes, MS CDMS CRC  
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Enclosures: ADRC First Information and FAQs Form  
ADRC Brochure