



**Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education  
2016 – 2021 State Plan**

This publication was produced by the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education to provide stakeholders information on its federally required State 5-Year Plan. A small number of booklets were printed at a cost of \$6.86 per copy using federal funds to meet federal grant work plan goals in Anchorage, Alaska. The primary distribution method is via the web: [www.dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/](http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/).

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The Council would like to acknowledge the members who developed the five-year plan and thank them for their service.





# Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!

## It's all about advocacy.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (Council) is unique because it has five required duties under state law (pages 8-9). In many other states these duties are spread across several agencies. In addition, most of what we do is rooted in two major federal laws, the **Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act)**, and the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, with peripheral involvement in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**, and the **Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE)**.

Although we're housed in the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Senior and Disability Services (SDS) our responsibilities run across several state departments and divisions. We work with dozens of partners from across the state on issues including healthcare, employment, special education, autism, early intervention strategies, transportation, housing, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Project SEARCH, Inclusive Play and more .

To get an idea of the myriad of issues we're involved with just take a look at the last five years of the Council's accomplishments (pages 12-16). The Council was instrumental in advocating for major legislation and significant policy changes, such as the authorization of **Medicaid covered durable medical equipment re-use**, making Alaska an **Employment First state** and **removing the "R" word** from the state lexicon forever.

The **next five years** (pages 17-24) will be focused on significant changes to our states system of services, and protecting the rights of families. Also, we want to make sure Alaskans with disabilities are able to **live inclusively in our communities**. We can't do this work alone, so please feel free to contact the council to see how you can get involved in a committee or work group.

With thanks to the twenty-five members of the Council, seven staff and dozens of partners from across the state, please join us in our mission to **“create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities”**.



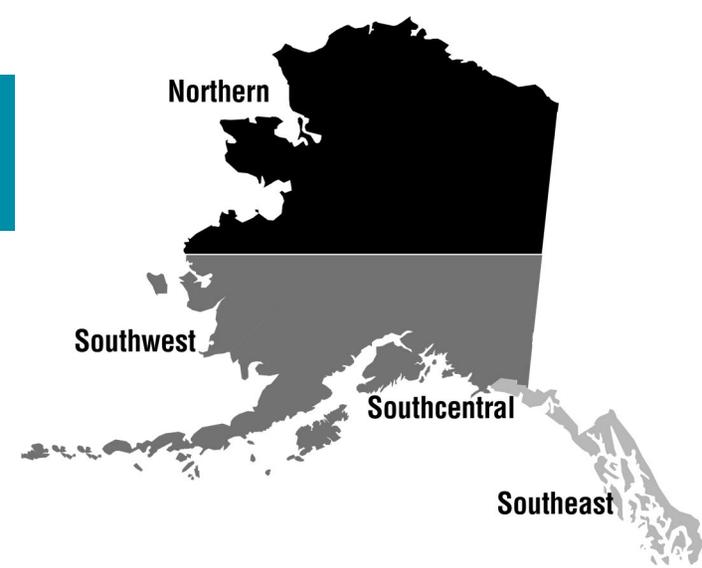
*Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director*



*Maggie Winston, Council Chair*

## Acknowledgment

The Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) would like to thank everyone who offered input in the creation of this plan. In 2015, the Council traveled to many communities around the state including Kotzebue (Northwest Region); Bethel (Western Region); Fairbanks (Interior Region); Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka (Southeast Region); Anchorage, Soldotna, Eagle River, and Wasilla (Southcentral Region); as well as Cordova (Coastal Region) to learn what people thought needed to be changed to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. While visiting these communities, the Council spoke with individuals with disabilities, families, providers, educators, infant learning programs and others to learn about services in each community. The population centers of the sites visited in person made up nearly 90% of the state’s population and included regional hubs of remote areas. Thanks to everyone who spoke with us during these visits and gave input on this plan. Also thank you to the 388 people who completed our online survey asking what should be included in our plan.



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*- Margaret Mead*





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## Who Serves on the Council?

The Council has 25 members appointed by the Governor. At least 16 of the members (or 60% of the Council) are self-advocates, parents or guardians of someone who has a disability. Other Council members are appointed because they represent a partner organization or state agency required by the Council's state and federal roles. Members serve three-year terms and may apply for reappointment.

**Anna Attla** is a self-advocate from Anchorage who grew up in Galena.

**Jill Burkert** is a special education professor at the University of Alaska Southeast.

**John Cannon** represents the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, serving as its director and lives in Juneau.

**Meghan Clark** represents the Center for Human Development, Alaska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and lives in Anchorage.

**Anthony Cravalho** is a parent of a child with a disability and lives in Kotzebue.

**Sandra DeHart-Mayor** is a parent of a child with a disability and lives in Anchorage.

**Art Delaune** is a parent of an adult with a disability, and lives in Fairbanks.

**Donald Enoch** is the Special Education Administrator at the Department of Education and Early Development and lives in Juneau.

**David Fleurant** is the Executive Director of Alaska's Protection and Advocacy organization and lives in Anchorage.

**Dean Gates** is a self-advocate and lives in Anchorage.

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** is the parent of several children with disabilities and lives in Kiana.

**Corey Gilmore** is a self-advocate and lives in Juneau.

**Mallory Hamilton** is a parent of an adult with a disability and lives in Anchorage.

**Maureen Harwood** represents the Department of Health and Social Services and lives in Fairbanks.

**Alexis (Lexie) Henning** is a self-advocate and lives in Anchorage.

**Elizabeth Joseph** is a parent of a child with a disability and lives in Kongiganak.

**Heidi Kelly** is a self-advocate and a parent living in Anchorage.

**David Kohler** is a retired educator in special education for the Anchorage School District and lives in Anchorage.

**Sara Kveum** is a self-advocate and lives in Juneau.

**Banarsi Lal** represents the Alaska Commission on Aging and lives in Fairbanks.

**Rep. Charisse Millett** serves as the Council's legislative representative and lives in Anchorage.

**Christian Muntean** is a parent of a child with a disability and lives in Anchorage.

**Amy Simpson** represents the Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs and lives in Eagle River.

**Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich** is a parent of a child with a disability and lives in Anchorage.

**Maggie Winston** is a self-advocate and lives in Kenai.

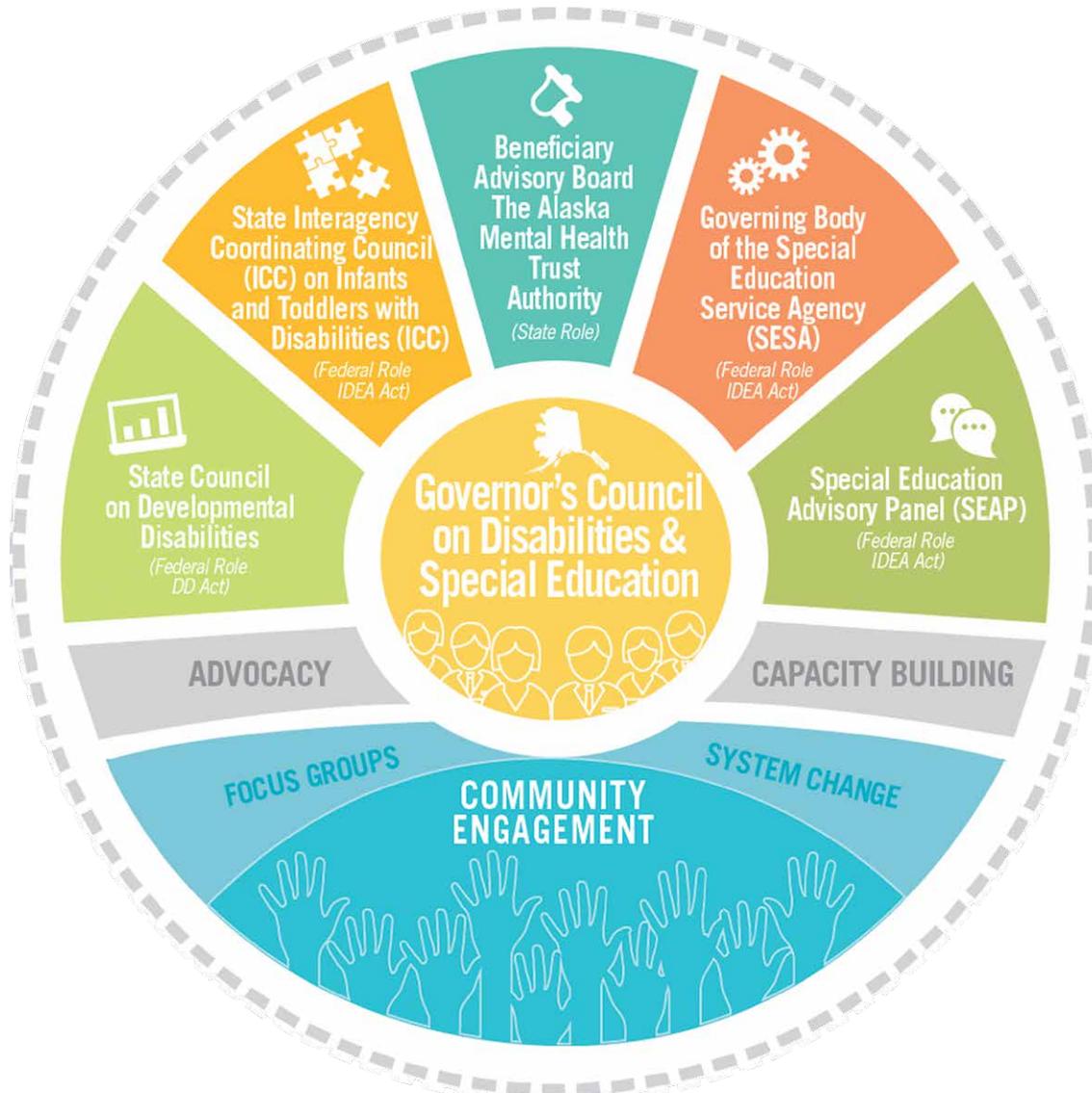


## What Does the Council Do?

**The mission of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) is to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities.** The Council was first established in 1978 through the Alaska Legislature to meet the requirements of several state and federal laws. The Council combines the expertise and experience of many stakeholders throughout the state into one unique Council. The Council works to make systems change in the following ways: recommend changes in statute, regulation, policy and/or procedures, build capacity, and coordinate advocacy activities.

1. As the **State Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services and other state agencies to ensure that people with disabilities and their families receive the services they need and participate in the design of those services.
2. As the **Special Education Advisory Panel**, the Council advises the Department of Education and Early Development on the provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities from age 3 through age 21.
3. As the **Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities**, the Council advises the state's early intervention program on the coordination and provision of quality early intervention services for children with disabilities from birth to age 3.
4. The Council also serves as **the majority of the governing board for the Special Education Service Agency** which provides training and consultation to Alaska school districts serving children with low incidence disabilities.
5. Additionally, the Council serves as a **beneficiary board of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority** advising the Trust on the status, conditions and needs of Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

# The Council's 5 Core Roles





# Our Five-year Plan

## Why Does the Council Write a Five-Year Plan?

Every five years the Council is asked by the federal government to write a plan. Planning helps the Council decide what it would like to accomplish. It helps the Council focus on what is most important to Alaskans with disabilities. Before writing the plan, the Council visits Alaskan communities to find out what people think is important. Then the Council decides what action to take. This five-year plan describes what the Council will work on from October 2016 to September 2021. This plan is sent to the federal government's Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

## How Did the Council Develop its Five-Year Plan?

In 2015, the Council traveled to many communities around the state including Kotzebue (Northwest Region); Bethel (Western Region); Fairbanks (Interior Region); Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka (Southeast Region); Anchorage, Soldotna, Eagle River, and Wasilla (Southcentral Region); as well as Cordova (Coastal Region) to learn what people thought needed to be changed to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. While visiting these communities, the Council spoke with individuals with disabilities, families, providers, educators, infant learning programs and others to learn about services in each community. The population of the sites visited in person made up nearly 90% of the state's population centers and included regional hubs for remote areas of the state. The Council also sent out an online survey asking for the same input requested during these public forums. The survey was sent to all the Council's listserv members, posted on the Council's website, as well as posted on the Council's social media. We received 388 survey responses. Council staff also reviewed public testimony received during Council meetings. Each of the Council's committees provided recommendations for priorities to be included in the plan. Staff gathered information on state and national trends. The Council also gathered information from Developmental Disability Act partners, the Center for Human Development (Alaska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities) and the Disability Law Center of Alaska (Alaska's Protection and Advocacy organization).

In May 2015, Council members began meeting about the 5-year plan, with the May 2016 Council meeting being the time when Council members completed a final review of the information gathered, progress made on the current plan, and drafted the new five-year plan to put out for official public comment. Council committees generated a list of activities designed to meet each objective under all five goal areas. The Council will consider all suggested activities as it implements the five-year plan and develops annual work plans.

The plan was released for public comment from May 19 through July 5, 2016. The draft plan was publicized by being posted on the Council's website, posted to social media, and sent out to our listservs and contact lists. Each Council member was also asked to send the draft plan to interested stakeholders in their region. The public could respond in a variety of ways including completing an online survey, emailing staff with comments, calling on the phone to provide comments, or meeting with staff in person to provide comment. The Council received 14 online survey responses and 2 emailed responses on the five-year plan through this public comment period. All comments were reviewed and either already were included in the planned activities for each goal or were not within the Council's general purview. The Council amended this State Five Year Plan in August of 2017 and has the opportunity to amend it annually as is needed based on stakeholder input.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Cravahlo



# Accomplishments

## What Did the Council Accomplish in the Last Five Years?

### 2012

In Legislative Advocacy:

- **Autism Insurance Reform Bill (SB 74)**, (required private insurance carriers to provide insurance coverage for individuals with autism),
- SB 151 that allows for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to be included as a mitigating factor in sentencing,
- \$135,000 increment for services for the deaf,
- \$100,000 increment for Project SEARCH (a new Project SEARCH site in Kenai), and
- \$650,000 of one-time funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC). The CBC provides intensive support and intervention to individuals at risk of being removed from their community or institutionalized outside of Alaska

Funding:

- **Health promotion grant** from the Center for Disease Control (in collaboration with the Division of Public Health, Section on Women's, Children's & Family Health
- The Council secured a 5-year grant from the federal Administration on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities to increase the employment of youth and young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities which became the **Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI)**.

The Council worked with self-advocates in re-establishing a statewide self-advocacy group called **Peer Power Alaska**. The Council, in partnership with the Alaska Mobility Coalition, successfully advocated for a statute that would create the "**Community Transportation Advisory Board**" and include disability representation. Through the **Council's Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)** grant, Council staff worked with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Employment Security Division at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development on training Disability Resource Coordinators at each Job Center around the state, with five becoming Employment Networks under the Ticket to Work program.



The Council worked with the **Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)** staff and the University of Alaska Southeast to create a four-year bachelor's degree in special education program, as well as a master's degree in special education. Prior to this program, the only way to obtain a bachelor's degree in special education was to obtain a regular education degree and then take an additional year to specialize; this resulted in very few teachers opting to become special education teachers.

## 2013

### Advocacy:

- **Respectful Language Bill (HB 88)**, (eliminating the “R” word from state documents),
- The Council worked with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to initiate the Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Initiative focus area which secured a commitment to 5 years of funding of \$1 million a year to improve beneficiary employment outcomes,
- \$25,000 increment for the **Trust Microenterprise Program**, (to increase self-employment opportunities),
- \$450,000 of one-time funding for the **Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC)**, a \$1 million capital funds for community transportation providers working with the Alaska Mobility Coalition, and
- Increase of \$1.5 million from the legislature to serve children who were eligible under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

This same year, the Council published its **Workforce Survey Results: State of Alaska as a Model Employer of People with Disabilities** report looking at employment for Alaskans with disabilities within state government. Additionally, the Council received a grant with the Division of Public Health to increase the number of individuals with disabilities who receive **health screenings** and who are prepared for **natural disasters**, becoming the **Alaska Health and Disability Program**.



# Accomplishments

## 2014

### Legislative Advocacy:

- **Employment First Bill (HB 211)**, (making competitive and integrated employment the first and preferred outcome for the provision of all state funded services for Alaskans with disabilities),
- **Safe Student Act (HB 210)**, (eliminating the use of restraint and seclusion practices in schools and for school districts to develop a training plan for all school personnel on de-escalation techniques),
- Repeal of the **High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE – HB 278)**, (to receive a high school diploma including a retroactive provision removing a long standing barrier for Alaskan students with disabilities towards graduation as well as employment), \$450,000 for the Complex Behavior Collaborative in the SFY15 budget,
- **Licensing of Behavior Analysts (HB 361)**, (one of the most important elements in successful autism treatment)

This same year, the Council worked with partners to support the creation of an **Alaska Association for People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE)** Chapter. The Alaska Health and Disability Program, which the Council led in partnership with the Division of Public Health, launched the **Get Ready! Emergency preparedness toolkit**, a guide for individuals with disabilities giving step-by-step instructions on how to make a plan and prepare for a disaster. Self-advocacy continued to be a strong focus for the Council which supported Peer Power Alaska, a statewide self-advocacy organization, to secure additional grant funds to create a regional self-advocacy network, called **EPIC (Equal Partners Interstate Congress)**.



## 2015

### Legislative Advocacy:

- **Medicaid: Used Durable Medical Equipment Bill (HB 161)**, (allowing for the reuse and recycling of Medicaid-purchased durable medical equipment)

The Council embarked upon a large-scale research project with partners, incorporating qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies to produce a comprehensive **Housing Barriers Report for Alaskans** who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Council worked with a LEND fellow (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities) whose research project was to compile background and historic materials to develop a **new autism 5-year plan**, with. At the January 2015 Council meeting, the Trust made a formal request to the Council to spearhead this collaborative effort. The Council approved the formation of an Autism Ad Hoc Committee.

This same year, the **AK APSE Chapter** became a fully chartered chapter with the national APSE (Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst) and held its first events in collaboration with the Council and the Trust. Due to the overwhelming success of interagency employer engagement partnerships through job fairs and federal contractor trainings, the **Business Employment Services Team (BEST)** was created, facilitated by the Council and is an interagency collaboration between the Alaska Departments of Health and Social Services and Labor & Workforce Development dedicated to meeting the workforce needs of Alaska businesses while improving hiring outcomes for individuals with disabilities and veterans. At the State Board of Education & Early Development meeting in Anchorage, the Board unanimously approved changes to special education regulation 4 AAC 52.130(k) **Criteria for determination of eligibility**. The changes add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to the list of health impairments that may render a student eligible for special education and related services as a child with Other Health Impairments. It also allows Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) to diagnose FASD and other health impairments to determine student eligibility for special education and related services. This inclusion makes Alaska the first state in the country to recognize, in education regulation, the profound impact FASDs have on student's performance in school and provides clarity for schools, families, and professionals.





# Accomplishments

The Council was integral in advocating for these changes and providing the needed research.

## 2016

Legislative Advocacy:

- **Alaska Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act (HB 188)**, (allowing qualified persons with a disability the ability to save without jeopardizing vital public benefits)
- **SB 74 the Medicaid Reform Act**, and
- **HB 76** removed the word “gifted” from the Council’s enabling statute to better clarify the work of the Council.

Federal Advocacy:

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**,
- **Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE)**, and
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**.

The Council’s **Alaskan Employer Perspectives on Hiring Individuals with Disabilities** report was published analyzing survey results from Alaskan employers on social norms of hiring individuals with disabilities.

The Council collaborated with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) on a **technology work group**, developing a white paper exploring enabling technology as both a way to increase independence for individuals with disabilities and also save on the long term cost of care. The Council has also begun research of the new proposed waiver assessment tool to replace the **ICAP**. In partnership with DSDS, the Trust, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD), the Council collaborated on a **DD System Assessment** to develop a **shared DD vision** moving forward.

## Shared Vision

Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

The Council was also an active partner in redesigning the Alaska case management (care coordination) system so that it is conflict free in addition to providing comment on DSDS' Transition Plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Integrated Settings Final Rule. The **Autism Ad Hoc Committee** finished a **Statewide Five Year Plan** with five major priority areas dedicated to improving areas across the lifespan: 1. Screening and Diagnosis, 2. Workforce Development, 3. Early Intervention and Education, 4. Integrated Systems, and 5. Funding and Sustainability.

The National Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) approved **Alaska's Certificate in Employment Services training**, allowing the state to offer a pathway to ensure service providers attain the required competencies necessary to apply to be a **Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP)** with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). This capacity building effort was a collaboration between the Council and the UAA Center for Human Development and its Alaska Training Cooperative (ATC).

The Council, in partnership with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Trust, facilitated the launch of the **Alaska Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) website** to help individuals with disabilities and those supporting them navigate through questions around benefits and work. The Council also provided support for Alaska's Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program as it moved divisions from Office of Children's Services (OCS) to the Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS).





# The Next Five Years

## What Did the Council Learn in the Process of Creating a New Five-Year Plan?

### Goals

The Council's selection of goals was based on information that members gathered from meetings with individuals around the state as well as public testimony, recommendations from Council's committees, meetings with providers, personal experiences of Council members, and duties assigned by state regulation. The Council heard many of the same issues of concern over and over including the fact that all the challenges were exacerbated in rural and remote communities. Selected goals include community choice and supports, employment, early intervention, education, and health.

### Community Services and Supports

Issues surrounding home and community-based services are always a top priority based on public input and Council members' personal experiences. With the Alaskan budget being negatively impacted by the low worldwide price of oil, work on preserving current community services and supports for Alaskans with disabilities will be crucial. This area will also include the Council's advocacy, self-advocacy and leadership work as it continues to be the foundation for all other work done by the Council. Additionally, this goal area will include a focus on underserved and unserved populations in the state, with public input overwhelmingly directing Council efforts towards improving the services and supports system for Alaskans with neurodevelopmental disabilities (i.e. Autism and FASD).

### Employment

The Council chose to keep employment as a separate goal area due to continued great need in this area. The Council has many projects that are employment focused. The Council has successfully managed the Partnerships in Employment federal Administration on Community

Living grant and will seek to use a no cost extension in 2017 to continue activities under this grant for another year. The Council will continue to develop the Employment First Initiative, Supported Employment, Alaska ABLE program, Trust Microenterprise grant program, as well as work with the Disability Employment Initiative and the Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Initiative. The Council will also work to expand Project SEARCH sites across Alaska. This goal area includes extensive planned collaboration between the Council and its Developmental Disability Act partners, the Disability Law Center of Alaska and the University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Human Development.

### Early Intervention and Education

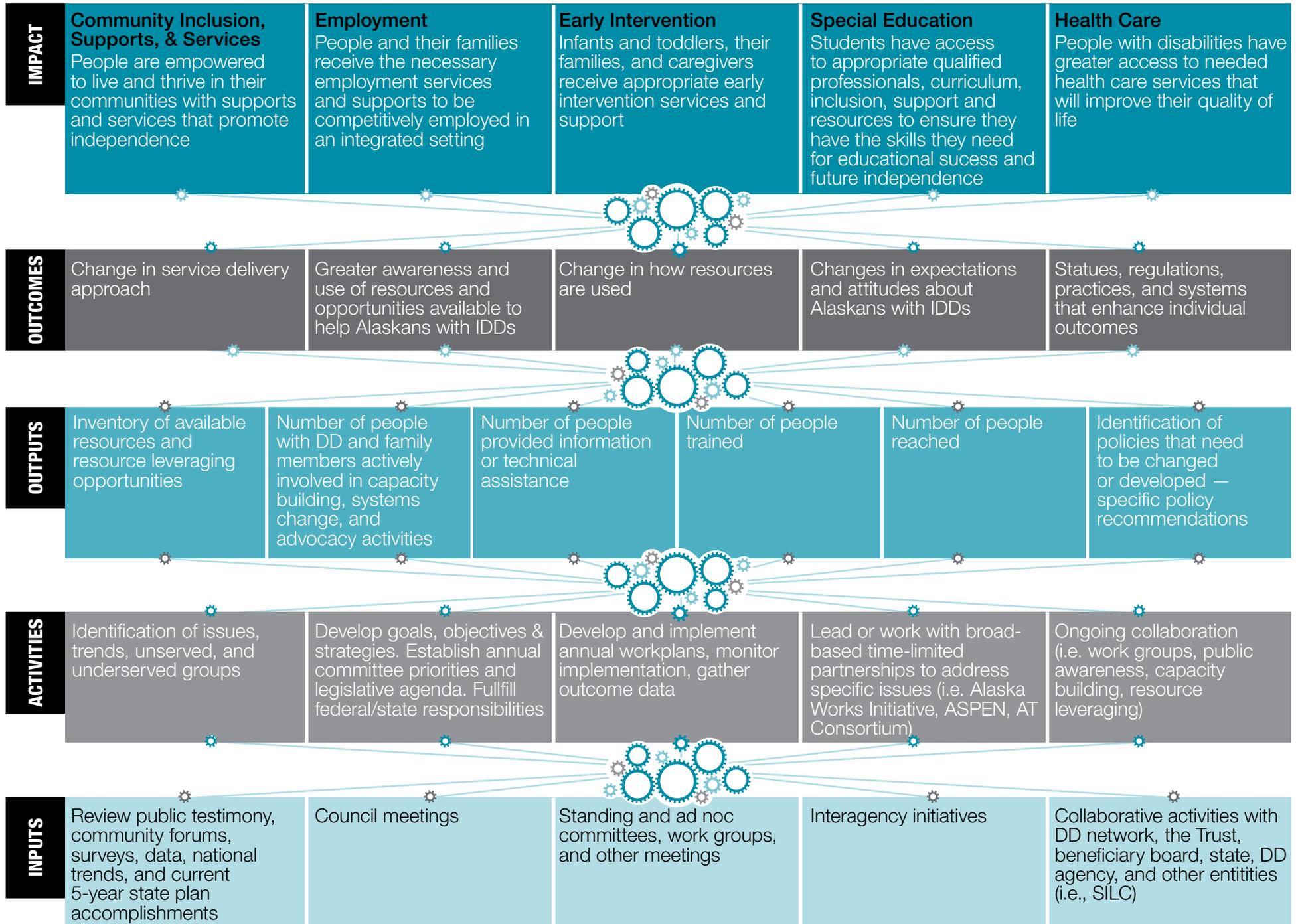
Early intervention services and the special education system are always issues that are brought before the Council as needing improvement. Under state statute, the Council also serves as the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, the Special Education Advisory Panel, and the majority of the governing board for the Special Education Service Agency. The Council continues to hear about the difficulty in providing early intervention and special education services in a state with vast geography and low populations in conjunction with severe living conditions (i.e., weather, isolation, housing, etc.).

### Health

Health issues are also continually brought before the Council. Challenges in this area come up at most of the forums, in addition to being an area of significant change over the past few years with Medicaid Reform and Redesign efforts. Challenges in this goal area are often directly related to Alaska's size, poverty, remoteness, and lack of qualified staff due to low population numbers. The Council will continue to pursue increased use of technology to increase the services available in rural and remote communities in addition to collaboration with partners on the Aging and Disability Coalition Workgroup.



# Five-year Strategic Plan Logic Model



# The Next Five Years

## Unserved and Underserved Groups

Developmental Disability Councils are required to develop a goal or objective with corresponding activities that identify a sub population where disparities exist. The Council identified unserved and underserved populations in development of this 5-Year State Plan through feedback from: 15 community forums across the state, public testimony opportunities, as well as survey response. From the feedback obtained as part of this process, the Council identified the most significant underserved/unserved groups as including: rural and remote communities, those with challenging behaviors, those with barriers to eligibility, youth transitioning from school to adult services, post-secondary transition age youth, individuals with developmental disabilities who have aging caregivers, individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities such as Autism or FASD, and parents with developmental disabilities. Unserved and underserved populations are also referred to as a targeted disparity population. The Council plans to work towards improving services for the populations noted above across its goal areas, but has a specific targeted disparity objective under goal one, community choice services and supports, with respect to specific work around improving access to services through early identification by Universal Developmental Screening and supports for Alaskans with Autism and FASD.

## Self-Advocacy

The Developmental Disability Act (DD Act) requires Developmental Disability Councils to have a goal or objective to: 1) establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities; 2) support opportunities for individual with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders; 3) support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions. While the Council supports and partners on self-advocacy efforts through many work areas, there is a specific self-advocacy objective under goal one, community choice services and supports.

DD Act, Section 124 (c)(4)(ii)(I-III)





## The Next Five Years

### Developmental Disability Network Collaboration

The Developmental Disability Act (DD Act) requires Developmental Disability Councils to address collaboration in three ways: 1) as a network, 2) with each other, and 3) with other entities. Developmental Disability Councils must include a goal or objective with activities that relate to planned collaboration efforts with DD network partners: 1) the Disability Law Center of Alaska (Alaska's Protection and Advocacy organization), and 2) the University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Human Development (Alaska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities). While the Council partners with DD Act network partners frequently on a variety of work efforts, the Council's specific DD network collaboration objective is within goal two around employment.

DD Act, Section 124 (c)(3)(D)



## What Will the Council Be Working on in the Next Five Years?

### GOAL #1: COMMUNITY CHOICE AND SUPPORTS

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DDs) to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal supports and services that promote independence.

- Objective 1.1: Targeted Disparity Objective: Expand early identification of school age children (0-22 years) who experience Autism and/or FASD.
- Objective 1.2 Increase person-centered practices for home and community-based service (HCBS) settings in the Alaskan service delivery system.
- Objective 1.3 Expand the public's knowledge and awareness through outreach and community involvement on advocacy issues of importance to people who experience I/DDs.
- Objective 1.4 Increase self-advocacy and self-





## The Next Five Years

advocacy leadership opportunities for individuals with I/DDs and their families in Alaska, including participation in coalitions and strengthening the state's self-advocacy organization.

### GOAL #2: EMPLOYMENT

**Alaskans with disabilities and their families receive the necessary employment services and supports needed to become competitively employed in an integrated setting.**

Objective 2.1: Improve Alaska employment policies, procedures, or regulations around individuals with disabilities.

Objective 2.2: In collaboration with the DD network and state self-advocacy organization, improve the Alaska transition system from school to work for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 2.3: Increase the number of individuals with I/DDs who are employed in integrated and competitive employment through collaboration with partners.

### GOAL #3: EARLY INTERVENTION

**Strengthen policies and programs so that infants and toddlers with disabilities, their families, and caregivers receive appropriate early intervention services and supports.**

Objective 3.1 Improve the use of funding sources, program parity, and utilization of early intervention services and inclusive childcare for infants and toddlers with disabilities statewide.

Objective 3.2 Increase early screenings, identifications, referrals, and interventions of infants and toddlers with disabilities through information and education outreach for professionals and families.

Objective 3.3 Increase the number, scope, and use of evidenced-based practice of early

childhood professionals to meet the needs of the state through partner collaboration and coordination.

## GOAL #4: EDUCATION

Participate in activities that lead to enhanced practices so that children and youth with disabilities have access to appropriate qualified professionals, curriculum, inclusion, support, and resources to ensure they have the skills they need for educational success and future independence.

Objective 4.1: Increase graduation rates and postsecondary transition activities for students with disabilities through collaboration.

Objective 4.2: Improve the training, recruitment, and professional development of education professionals to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

## GOAL #5: HEALTH CARE

Alaskans with disabilities will have greater access to needed health care services that will improve their quality of life.

Objective 5.1 Increase access to knowledge and education on health promotion, safety, and/or emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 5.2 Increase the number of individuals aging with I/DDs that have appropriate support systems in place through collaboration with partners.

Objective 5.3 Improve the Alaska Medicaid system for individuals with disabilities through collaboration with partners and community workgroups.





## How Will the Work be Completed?

The Council accomplishes most of its day-to-day work through its committees. Council members chair and lead this committee work following annual work plans, in many cases, in partnership with other community members. Most committees meet monthly; however some are less frequent.

### **Council Committees Include:**

- Executive Committee
- Developmental Disability Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Education Committee
- Early Intervention Committee
- Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
- Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee
- Autism Ad Hoc Committee
- FASD Workgroup

If you are interested in participating in the day-to-day work of the Council by becoming a public member on one of the Council's committees noted above, please contact us: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/contacts>



## Who Works for the Council?

- **Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director:** Staff to the Executive and Legislative Committees
- **Kristin Vandagriff, Planner:** Staff to the Developmental Disabilities and Medical Ad Hoc Committees
- **Lanny Mommsen, MPH, Research Analyst:** Staff to the work group on FASD
- **Anne Applegate, Program Coordinator:** Staff to the Education Committee
- **Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator:** Staff to the Early Intervention and Autism Ad Hoc Committee
- **Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator:** Staff to the Employment Committee and Self-Advocacy Advisor
- **Ian Miner, Administrative Assistant:** Responsible for all of the Council's administrative functions.



Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director



Kristin Vandagriff, Planner III



Anne Applegate, Program Coordinator II



Lanny Mommsen, Research Analyst III



Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator II



Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator I



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State of Alaska • Department of Health & Social Services  
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education



Bill Walker, Governor  
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