

Council 5 Year Plan (2017-2021) Draft Overview

GOAL 1

People with disabilities have the knowledge and skills to advocate on an individual and systemic level.

Objective 1.1 – The Council, in collaboration with CHD and DLC, will continue to provide support to a statewide self-advocacy organization comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Provide support by arranging regular teleconference meetings and one annual face-to-face meeting
- Assist the self-advocacy organization to hold a self-advocacy conference every other year
- Assist self-advocates in advocating with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's (The Trust) Beneficiary Projects focus area for funds to support the self-advocacy organization and conference
- Assist the self-advocacy organization in creating a five-year strategic plan and annual work plan
- Provide opportunities and support for self-advocates to participate in state and/or national trainings and conferences
- Develop an award program to recognize self-advocates who have done outstanding work
- Create opportunities for self-advocates to advocate for changes in public policy
- Assist self-advocacy organizations to develop and maintain Facebook pages or websites
- Assist self-advocacy organizations to develop a plan to recruit new members

GOAL 1

People with disabilities have the knowledge and skills to advocate on an individual and systemic level.

Objective 1.2 – Provide opportunities annually to self-advocates with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to other individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Provide support to 5 self-advocates per year from across Alaska in preparing presentations for the self-advocacy conference or self advocacy meeting
- Provide support to self-advocates in developing a youth leadership program
- Provide support to self-advocates to create web-based leadership trainings
- Work with Center for Human Development to include self-advocate as presenters during Partners in Policymaking (PiP) training

GOAL 1

People with disabilities have the knowledge and skills to advocate on an individual and systemic level.

Objective 1.3 – Support and expand participation of 4 individuals with developmental disabilities per year in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Provide support and a mentorship program for self-advocates to actively participate on other state boards, coalitions or committees (i.e., Key Coalition, Alaska Mobility Coalition, Advisory Board on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, FASD Partnership)
- Provide support for self-advocates to make presentations at state and/or national conferences
- Assist self-advocates to participate in The Trust Beneficiary Project Initiative activities

GOAL 1

People with disabilities have the knowledge and skills to advocate on an individual and systemic level.

Objective 1.4 – Increase the knowledge of policymaking process and advocacy skills for Alaskans with developmental disabilities, family members, and /or service providers each year.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Expand the Partners in Policymaking (PIP) trainings (i.e., self-advocate training, web-based version of training, PIP for youth)
- Advocate for an annual Parent/family conference
- Provide training for Council members and other interested stakeholders
- Provide training on grassroots advocacy
- Organize grassroots advocacy activities that forward the Council’s legislative agenda, including opportunities to provide testimony to the legislature and comment on proposed regulations
- Provide support for families and self-advocates to participate in Key Coalition and Key Campaign
- Develop a mentor program for new Council and committee members
- Make presentations at various conferences on issues important to the Council
- Inform the congressional delegation, the Governor and legislature of issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities & recommend changes & solutions

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.1 - Advocate for appropriate lifelong service access for all populations who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advocate to ensure these populations are included in Medicaid reform
- Advocate to ensure these populations can acquire services based upon needs
- Work with various state agencies to improve data collection for baseline data, evidence-based practices, service renewals and inter-agency data sharing

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.2 - Monitor, review, and comment on state law, regulations and policy changes around the delivery of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Alaska.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Participate in Medicaid reform development, implementation and related services
- Participate in the Community First Choice development and implementation council on Medicaid reform
- Advocate for the use of functionality (versus diagnosis or IQ) assessment tools
- Support the development of a re-use and recycling program for durable medical equipment
- Review and monitor the state transition on HCBS settings
- Advocate for increased availability and access to assistive technologies for individuals with I/DD's
- Assist telepractice entities with establishing evidence-based best practices to deliver services and assessments with an emphasis on rural and remote communities
- Advocate for the development and implementation of data collection on remotely provided services and assessments
- Monitor the person-centered care delivery system including but not limited to conflict-free care coordination, CFCC "rural exempt" systems and the state transition plan on HCBS settings

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.3 - Conduct statutorily mandated responsibilities as a beneficiary board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (The Trust).

2-yr workplan activities:

- Continue to participate in The Trust budget recommendation planning process
- Continue to collaborate with The Trust and partner boards on legislative priorities including participation in advocacy coordination meetings
- Continue to collaborate with The Trust in implementing public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma
- Continue to participate in The Trust focus area work groups (Criminal Justice Reform and Medicaid Redesign) and new focus areas as they are developed

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.4 - Support the Council workgroup on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders to expand Medicaid services to include this underserved population.

2-yr workplan activity:

- Work with the FASD workgroup, Senior and Disabilities Services, and other organizations to develop recommendations for needed services for individuals experiencing FASD

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.5 - Explore and create a multidisciplinary, person-centered autism infrastructure for centralized coordination and collaboration to improve referral, diagnosis, education, training, and services for professionals, individuals on the autism spectrum, and their families

2-yr workplan activities:

- Autism ad hoc works with service providers, state agencies (SDS, DEED, DVR, etc) and partner organizations in developing recommendations for evidence-based service provision for individuals experiencing Autism
- Create Autism center

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Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.6 - Advocate for new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices that increase accessible public transportation options.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Continue to support efforts to create a dedicated public transportation infrastructure fund
- Advocate for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations/policies
- Promote the expansion of taxi voucher programs for individuals with disabilities
- Advocate for accessible travel options for visitors with disabilities, including accessible hotel courtesy vehicles
- Continue to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.7 - Support capacity building activities (i.e., training, technical assistance, collaboration, consultation) for individuals with I/DD's that increase accessible public transportation options.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Continue to collaborate with the Alaska Mobility Coalition to enhance community transportation options statewide
- Promote public awareness campaigns regarding transportation resources and funding options
- Provide technical assistance to help communities establish coordinated accessible transportation options
- Support and participate in the annual statewide transit conference hosted by the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Develop and promote training on disability etiquette for TSA agents, taxi drivers, and public transportation providers
- Assist in developing a TSA training for individuals with disabilities and their families

GOAL 2

Improve service delivery to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal *supports and services* that promote independence.

Objective 2.8 - Advocate for caregiver / provider support through the lifespan.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Develop and advocate for recommendations to provide accommodations for working parents assisting family members with I/DD while maintaining their (the family caregiver/provider) employment
- Develop and advocate for recommendations for appropriate compensation, training and support for Direct Service Providers and paraprofessionals, including job-sharing opportunities for families of care recipients
- Develop and advocate for recommendations for increased access and flexibility in acquiring respite services

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GOAL 3

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

Objective 3.1 - Oversee full implementation and adherence of Employment First Act.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Develop a list of what is currently in alignment with this act, what is not, and what best practices should be with department representatives and stakeholders
- Facilitate ongoing department representative meetings
- Facilitate a common progress measurement tool and unified state plan
- Establish Employment First Partnership Council or similar body for ongoing implementation
- Establish baseline of data sets to be monitored and evaluated including service definitions
- Support AK APSE Chapter in policy work, growth of a diverse chapter board and membership, and sustainability
- Reviewing annual progress report to the Trust and offering recommendations

GOAL 3

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

Objective 3.2 – Provide support regarding the implementation of Alaska Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Oversee implementation with state agencies and financial instructions
- Research best practices nationally regarding implementation of the ABLE Act in other states
- Provide education and awareness to the community regarding the ABLE Act

GOAL 3

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

Objective 3.3 - Increase career pathways for youth with disabilities in transition.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Support continuation and expansion of Alaska Project SEARCH sites
- Collaborate with the Disability Employment Initiative regarding youth transition programs in the state (to include, but not limited to, parent resources and outreach)
- Collaborate with the Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement Initiative regarding transition age youth
- Support Discovery Class Pilot sites in curriculum development, teacher & para professional training, class startup and post class outcome data analysis
- Partner with the Center for Human Development to expand post-secondary education options
- Partner with Peer Power to provide youth employment presentations statewide
- Collaborate with the Center for Human Development on transition handbooks for multiple stakeholder groups (including, but not limited to: parents, individuals with disabilities, and educators)
- Monitor DEED Indicator 14 competitive employment data

GOAL 3

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

Objective 3.4 - Work with partners to develop and implement a plan to double the number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are employed by December of 2021.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advocate for changes in the State’s I/DD Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Medicaid around supported employment services
- Increase the number of Community Work Incentives Coordinators
- Increase asset building opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities including free tax preparation, IDA's and financial literacy trainings
- Work with CHD, the Trust and other partners to increase provider capacity for employment services and supports
- Develop a collaborative for providers, employers and agencies interested in becoming Ticket to Work Employment Networks
- Disseminate information on employment through job fairs, conferences, and other events
- Provide support to the Peer Power employment initiative
- Increase awareness and utilization of the Alaska Disability Benefits 101 online tool
- Continue to provide support to the Business Employment Services Team collaborative (BEST)
- Advocate for accessible and affordable transportation across the state
- Advocate for a percentage hiring benchmark for State contracts on hiring people with disabilities

GOAL 3

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

Objective 3.5 - Increase opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become self-employed using the Micro-enterprise program.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advertise the program statewide (especially to individuals with I/DD)
- Convene the evaluation committee to review applications
- Award grants to entrepreneurs with disabilities
- Provide ongoing business coaching services to help entrepreneurs maintain and grow their business
- Advocate for level or increased funding for the Trust Microenterprise Fund
- Hold at least two information events and mentoring events with specific marketing to the DD community
- Hold at least one informational webinar with rural DD communities as the target attendees

GOAL 4

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

Objective 4.1 - Assist, advise and collaborate with statewide partners to optimize funding and program parity in Alaska's Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP).

2-yr workplan activities:

- Investigate funding sources and barriers
- Collaborate to strengthen statewide telepractice use for early intervention
- Assist the Alaska EI/ILP program in increasing the current rate of service delivery
- Research billing for developmental services

GOAL 4

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

- Objective 4.2 - Increase the knowledge of professionals and families of infants and toddlers with disabilities resulting in appropriate early screenings, identifications, referrals and interventions.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Participate in statewide multidisciplinary collaborative efforts to improve appropriate early screening, referral and interventions.
- Collaborate with state programs to improve the timely transition of toddlers before their third birthday.
- Advocate for increased family involvement and understanding of ILP policies and programs at all levels.

GOAL 4

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

Objective 4.3 - Collaborate and coordinate to improve the number, scope and practice of early childhood professionals.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Research student loan forgiveness and tuition incentives for difficult to recruit fields and locations
- Collaborate with partners on workforce development activities
- Research the job turnover, "burn-out" and other obstacles to long term retention of program staff

GOAL 4

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

Objective 4.4 - Assist in increasing and expanding the utilization and availability of inclusive childcare for infants and toddlers with disabilities statewide.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Identify and provide comment on obstacles, statutes, regulations, policies and procedures that limit or prevent families with children with disabilities from accessing inclusive childcare
- Collaborate with statewide partners to optimize childcare providers' access to funding, training and program quality improvement initiatives

GOAL 4

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

Objective 4.5 - Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advise State Early Intervention Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) regarding its responsibilities to provide early intervention services to infants & toddlers with disabilities, particularly with identification of sources of fiscal & other support for services, assignment of financial responsibility and the promotion of interagency agreements
- Advise State EI/ILP in the preparation of Part C early intervention applications & annual performance reports
- Advise State EI/ILP & the Department of Education & Early Development (EED) regarding the transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool & other appropriate services
- Prepare & submit an annual report on the status of early intervention programs in Alaska for infants and toddlers with disabilities
- Advise State EI/ILP & EED regarding the provision of appropriate services for children from birth through age 5
- Advise appropriate agencies with respect to services for at risk infants & toddlers

GOAL 5

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 5.1 - Participate in collaborative initiatives to improve graduation rates for students with disabilities.'

2-yr workplan activities:

- Provide stakeholder input for the planning and implementation of the Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- Investigate the creation of tiered, endorsed or differentiated diplomas, including diplomas for students taking alternate assessments

GOAL 5

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 5.2 - Research, advise, and assist with statewide efforts to improve postsecondary transition for students with disabilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Participate in collaborative initiatives that lead to employment training and assistance for students with disabilities
- Participate in the "Discovery" assessment pilot in schools
- Help identify and provide support for transition activities, especially in rural Alaska (camps)
- Investigate barriers to students with disabilities accessing the Alaska Performance Scholarship which provides scholarships to pay for college or career training in Alaska

GOAL 5

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 5.3 - Identify and advocate for activities that enhance the training, recruitment, retention, and professional development of education professionals to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advise and assist in activities that reduce the use of exclusionary discipline for students with disabilities
- Coordinate to provide professional development on I.D.E.A., discipline, suspension and expulsion
- Coordinate to provide professional development on behavior, P.B.I.S. and other evidence based practices
- Participate in activities that enhance the use of distance delivery of education and related services for students with disabilities
- Participate in telepractice statewide initiatives
- Investigate regulatory barriers to effective telepractice
- Advocate for teacher preparation and professional development to enhance school staff's use of technology
- Advocate for paraprofessional professional development and credentialing
- Advocate for teacher preparation programs in Alaska to include a basic course in evidenced based behavior theories and practice
- Advocate for autism specialized student teaching experiences; pre-school - CTE

GOAL 5

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 5.4 - Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Special Education Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Advise the Department of Education & Early Development (EED) and the State Board of EED of unmet need within the state in the education of children with disabilities
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities
- Advise the Department of EED on developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of Education
- Advise the Department of EED in developing corrective action plans to address finding identified in Federal monitoring reports
- Advise Department of EED in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities
- Prepare and submit an annual report of panel activities and suggestions to the Department of EED

GOAL 5

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 5.5 - Govern the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) to ensure SESA meets its statutorily mandated responsibilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Ensure designated Council members (5) and Executive Director continue to participate as SESA Board members
- Continue to advocate for a change in the formula for how SESA is funded
- Continue to advocate for the removal of the sunset provision for SESA
- Provide annual training for SESA Board members on their roles and responsibilities
- Ensure SESA meets its statutorily mandated responsibilities
- Assist in implementation of SESA's strategic plan

GOAL 6

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

Objective 6.1 - Provide training to individuals experiencing disabilities, direct care professionals, and caregivers regarding health promotion for individuals with disabilities.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Develop health care training and present at conferences, health fairs, expos, etc.
- Increase physical activity and decrease obesity in people with disabilities through adaptive PE workshops offered to Direct Service Providers
- Disseminate best practices and other educational materials to health care providers, caregivers, and case managers on key preventive screenings for Alaskans with disabilities
- Train provider agencies serving people with intellectual disabilities on the adapted Diabetes Self-Management and Education program

GOAL 6

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

Objective 6.2 - Collaborate with partners to increase the number of individuals aging with I/DD that have appropriate support systems in place.

2-yr workplan activities:

- Collaborate with the Aging and Disability Task Force for planning of the annual Aging & Disability Summit
- Participate in monthly meetings of the statewide advisory Aging and Disability Task Force