

# MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE



**DEAN GATES, CHAIR**

OCTOBER 2017  
COUNCIL MEETING

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Dean Gates\*, Chair
- Art Delaune\*
- Anthony Cravalho\*
- Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus\*
- Mallory Hamilton\*
- John Cannon (DVR)\*
- Dave Fleurant / Mark Regan (DLC)\*
- Heidi Frost (SILC)
- Lizette Stiehr (AADD)\*
- Kathy Fitzgerald
- Grace Gray (DEED)

\*Denotes a voting member

## Staff:

- Kristin Vandagriff
- Anne Applegate
- Lanny Mommsen



# RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Healthcare:
  - Follow up letters and emails to Alaska's US Congressional delegation
  - Posted information to the Council's Facebook page and Gov Delivery email listserv
    - Both discussed the impact on Alaskans with disabilities



# RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Collaborative letter regarding DD Council funding with:
  - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
  - Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLCA)
  - Center for Human Development (CHD)
- Completed interRAI research





# What's at Stake for Alaska?



## LOSE ESSENTIAL BENEFITS

620,000 Alaskans would lose health coverage



## \$3 BILLION LOST

Almost DOUBLING the Alaska Budget Deficit

## 23% DENIED



pre-existing condition

23% of non-elderly Alaskans with pre-existing conditions could be denied life-saving coverage

## Over 185,000 Alaskans on Medicaid 1 in 4 Alaskans 50% ARE CHILDREN



Cuts include elimination of school districts as Medicaid providers of speech, occupational and physical therapies



## IN-HOME and NURSING HOME

13% of Medicaid Enrollment is seniors and people with disabilities  
Currently one-third of Alaska's Medicaid budget is spent on long-term care



## Impact of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

- An estimated **13,200 Alaskans have developmental disabilities**; disabilities that are life-long (and often complex).
- **Tens of thousands of Alaskan families are impacted by having a family member that experiences a developmental disability**; often providing care and support.
- Alaskans with developmental disabilities and their families must navigate a complex system; **the Council is their connection to resources, support, peers, and advocacy.**



### The Council has Far Reaching Systems Impact:

- Lead and fund innovative projects, in collaboration with organizations who can sustain them.
- Bring together state agencies to work on disability topics that otherwise do not fall into any one agency's purview.
- Advise state agencies in the development of new disability programs.
- Create statewide collaborations between diverse groups of stakeholders.

### Stakeholder Survey Quotes About the Council:

*"Please keep up the good work. Keep giving people hope and opportunities to get together to work for change...and celebrate change for the better together."*

*"They do a great job, and are a key partner in advocating for improvements in the quality of life, and systems of care for individuals with disabilities."*

*"Our lives have personally benefited from all the work, training, and collaboration the council does. It has also enhanced my working knowledge, allowing me to provide for my consumers at a higher level."*

*"My son wants to live a full life to the best of his abilities but needs some extra help to learn job skills, etc. so having the councils' support and advocacy activities to help him be able to get a job that is meaningful to him is very important."*

### The Council Connects Citizens to State Government:

- Support private citizens appointed by the Governor as Council members to guide the Council's work.
- Explain regulations and policies to individuals and families.
- Facilitate public comments on regulations and policies based on the feedback of individuals with disabilities, families and other stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities for public forums on disability issues.
- Organize annual advocacy visits for individuals with disabilities and families to meet with their legislators.



# Developmental Disabilities Act & Network

The Developmental Disabilities (“DD”) Act was established by Congress, written by families impacted by significant disabilities.

The Act creates 3 programs, the “DD Network”, each addressing the stated needs of families who authored the law.

## University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

- Provide training for professionals
- Advancing research



**UAA Center for Human Development**  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

## Protection & Advocacy Systems (P&A)

- Protect rights of people with disabilities
- Prevent abuse
- Provide advocacy, legal services



**DISABILITY LAW CENTER**  
OF ALASKA

## Developmental Disabilities Act

## Councils on Developmental Disabilities

- Improve policies & practices
- Develop disability leaders
- Comprehensive review of state services
- Coordinate cross-agency collaborations
- 60% of the Council's members are private citizens with developmental disabilities or family members



**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES & SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**The President's budget would eliminate the Council from this network.**



**We urge you to keep the Council with the DD Network.**



**Creating Change that Impacts the Lives of Alaskans with Disabilities!**

3601 C Street, Suite 740, Anchorage, AK 99503

1-888-269-8990

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse>

# CASSIDY-GRAHAM AMENDMENT HEALTHCARE BILL

Maintains all the key components of the failed  
Better Care Reconciliation Act including:

- Establishes a per-capita cap on Medicaid
- Ends the Medicaid expansion as we know it
- Removes protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions
- Allows states to impose burdensome work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage
- Takes away coverage from millions of Americans



[https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/cassidy-graham-would-deeply-cut-and-dramatically-redistribute-health-coverage-funding#\\_ftn1](https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/cassidy-graham-would-deeply-cut-and-dramatically-redistribute-health-coverage-funding#_ftn1)

# CASSIDY-GRAHAM AMENDMENT HEALTHCARE BILL

On top of these devastating changes, the  
Cassidy-Graham bill would:

- Repeal the Medicaid expansion, premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reduction payments in favor of a block grant that cuts existing funding levels
- Establish a “health purpose” fund for state governors to allocate without any requirement for consumer protections
- Create a funding cliff that eliminates the guarantee of coverage in 2026



[https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/cassidy-graham-would-deeply-cut-and-dramatically-redistribute-health-coverage-funding#\\_ftn1](https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/cassidy-graham-would-deeply-cut-and-dramatically-redistribute-health-coverage-funding#_ftn1)

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Continued Medicaid research and awareness**
- **Continued InterRAI discussions and comment**
- **Monitor changes to DSDS policies, procedures and forms for the Medicaid program**



**QUESTIONS?**

