

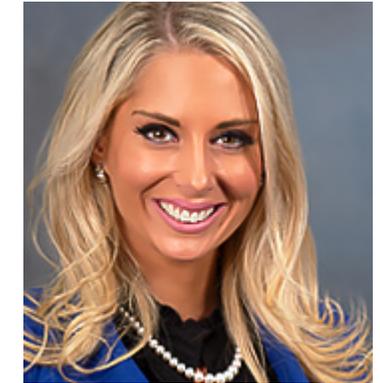
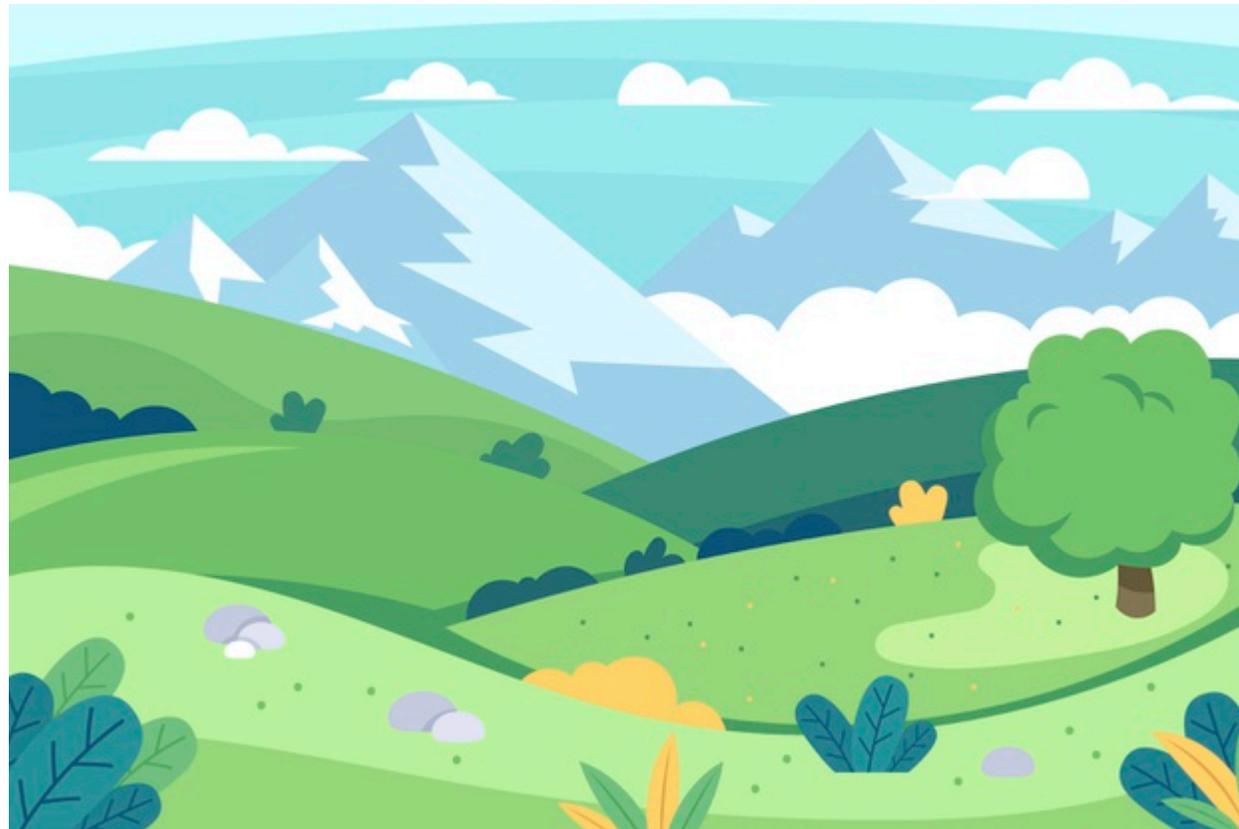
Leadership Report

Chair & Executive Director

Winter Council Meeting – May 12, 2020



Corey Gilmore
Chair



Kristin Vandagriff
Executive Director



Executive Director Highlight:

- Met regularly with DHSS Commissioner's Office staff, DVR Director, Trust Program Officer, and with DSDS Director
- Presented as part of the Western Governors' Association's *Reimagining Disability Employment Policy in the Rural West*
- Administration on Disabilities for Projects of National Significance Performance Measure Development Workgroup
- Legislative follow-up after advocacy visits
- Participated in several NACDD national calls, including as a member of the public Policy committee



Executive Director Highlight:

- Monitored FY 21 Budget Process
- ACL Living Well grant semiannual reporting completed and carryover amendment submitted
- Coordinated legislative efforts with the Trust and Advisory Boards (weekly calls)
- Trust reporting updates completed
- State 5-Year Plan Development Efforts
- New Executive Director Orientation attended (virtually)



Council Covid 19 Pandemic Efforts:



- Recommendation Letters
 1. Flexibility of system to best meet needs – jointly with AADD
 2. Concern over rationing care – jointly with the Trust, DLC, CHD, SSG, AADD, AMHB, and ABADA
 3. Signed onto TASH national letter –care rationing concern
- Council Emergency Plan Developed
- Robust resource dissemination (social media, email listserv, website)
- Reviewing local, state, federal guidance including mandates and press conferences
- Council Communications Plan Developed



- *Inform policymakers (AK and DC)*
- *Get out tools and information, specifically focusing on resources accessible to DD population*
- *Get out local, state, and federal policy updates and guidance*
- *Bring personal impact/perspective of Alaskans with DD to the forefront*

Stay Home – Save Lives!



#DoingMyPartAK

Spread the message, not the virus!

Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

COVID-19 Communications Plan

Our Role

Inform Policymakers in Alaska and Washington, DC:

Partnering for best practices in communicating with and meeting broader (i.e. non-service-based) needs of people with disabilities during time of crisis; connecting directly to on-the-ground disability perspective (through Council members, DD Network, & other stakeholders) – really focus on connections with agencies that allow us to help address needs as they are communicated. Includes letter communication to the Governor, DHSS Commissioner, DSDS Director, and Alaska's US Congressional Delegation.

Disseminating national & state policy updates:

Supporting dissemination of updates, especially plain language and with visuals, to DD community through review of local, state, and national updates and participating in statewide Covid 19 response meetings.

Amplifying personal perspectives:

Personal perspective: Continuing to share personal views of how this is directly affecting people with disabilities in AK – making the news personal, helping audience feel less isolated/alone.

Tools/information specifically for children and adults with I/DD (and other critical stakeholders):

Disseminating regularly tools/resources which become available – a "best of" list for specifically talking TO (rather than about) people with disabilities. Social media, email listserv, and GCDSE website (where applicable) will be used.

Guiding Questions

- Has it been shared widely elsewhere (in places our audiences are likely to have seen it)?
- Does it provide direct relevance to the disability community?
- Does it represent best practices in speaking directly to people with I/DD?
- Does this add something new and relevant to the discussion?
- Will it become outdated quickly? *(If yes but still meets other criteria, may need to be a one-off social media post)*

Framing

Our voice as the sage – a trusted guide and voice of calm and reason, valuing harmony and collaboration.

We are not here to duplicate or replace other efforts, but to amplify key messages from partner agencies and serve as a guide/resource for connecting with the disability community.

People are being INUNDATED with information from every single organization about COVID-19. We are not communicating in a vacuum.

Our information MUST BE unique, concise, intensely relevant, and easily navigable.



Council Covid 19 Pandemic Efforts:



- Monitoring state and federal funding for Covid 19 and its possible impact on Alaskans with DD
- Adjusting State 5-Year Plan Community Forums to online format
- Council meeting and committee meetings via online format
- Council staff teleworking
- Staff part of weekly statewide Covid 19 meetings
- Adjustments with ACL Living Well efforts (toolkit under development)
- Events canceled - Trainings via online format



Message from Corey...



- Committee participation – ensuring we have quorum
- Covid 19: physical distancing while avoiding social isolation
- Systems changes due to Covid and what that could mean for the future and self-directed services



What's on the known horizon for 2020:

- Some Council member terms expire June 30
- Monitoring legislative developments on a state and federal level as well as mandates regarding Covid 19 pandemic
- State 5-Year Plan Development
- ACL Living Well federal grant efforts
- ACL Living Well Semiannual Reporting (October)
- Program Performance Reporting as DD Council and State Plan Update (December)
- Monitor NACDD Conference 2020 date/format
- Prepare for September Council meeting



Questions?

