

Leadership Report

Chair & Executive Director

Fall Council Meeting – September 29, 2020



Corey Gilmore
Chair



Kristin Vandagriff
Executive Director

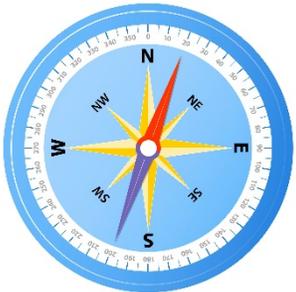


GCDSE Mission, Composition, & Roles:

26 Council members appointed by the Governor

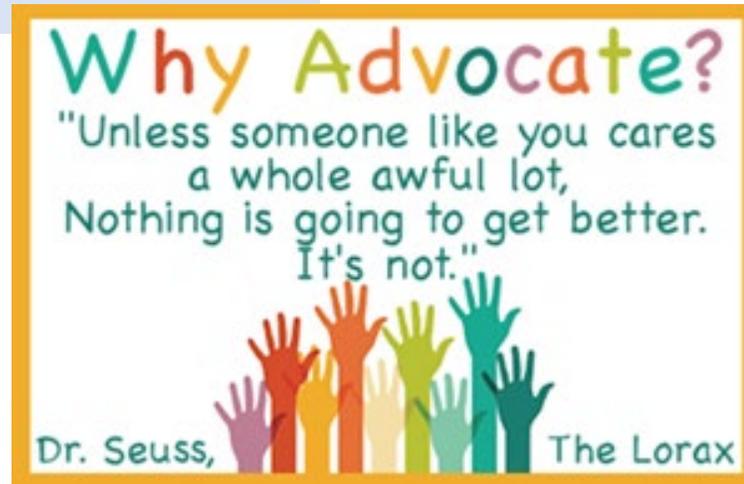
Mission: *Creating change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities*

DD 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.



DD Council Role:

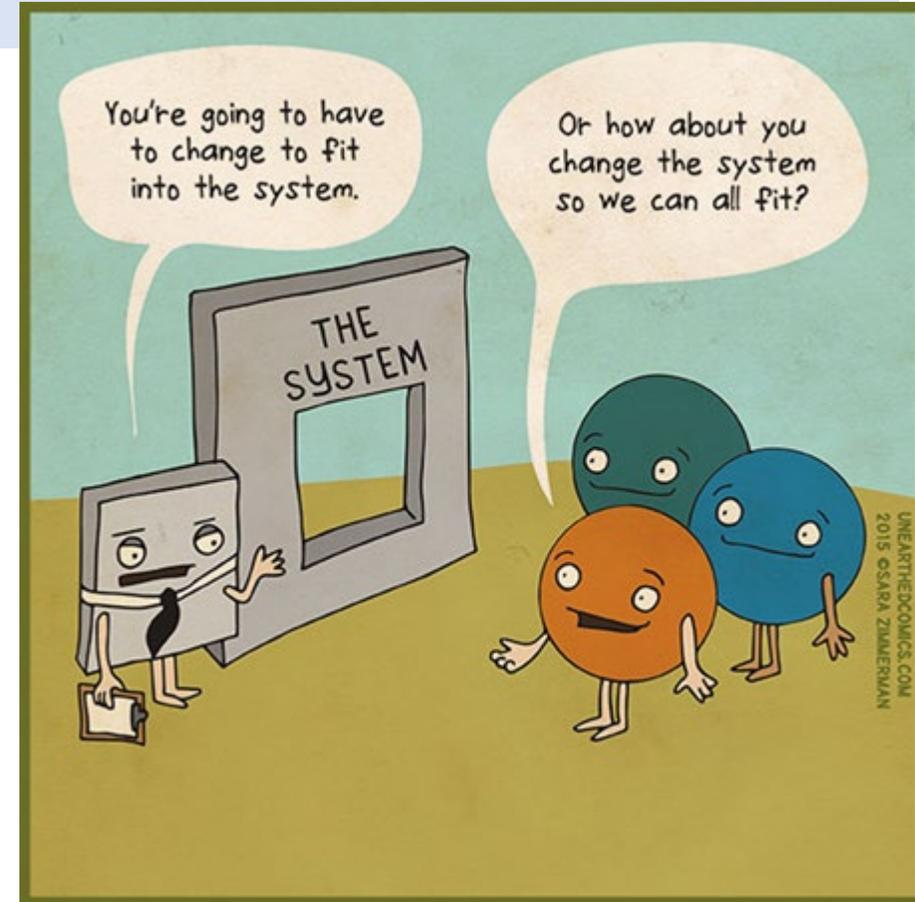
Advocacy: To change what is to what should be



Capacity Building: Making something stronger

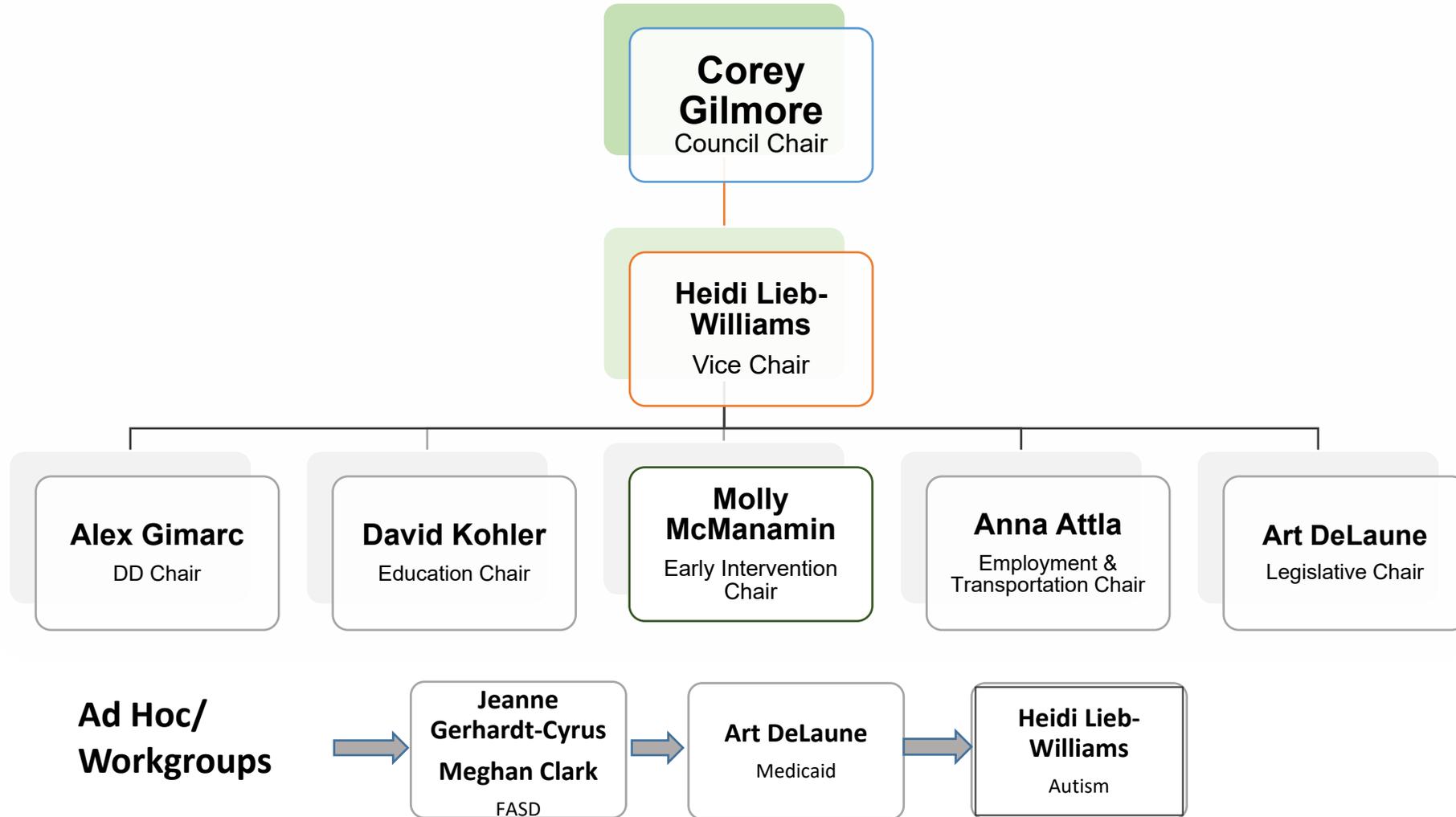


Systems Change: Making a system better so people can fit

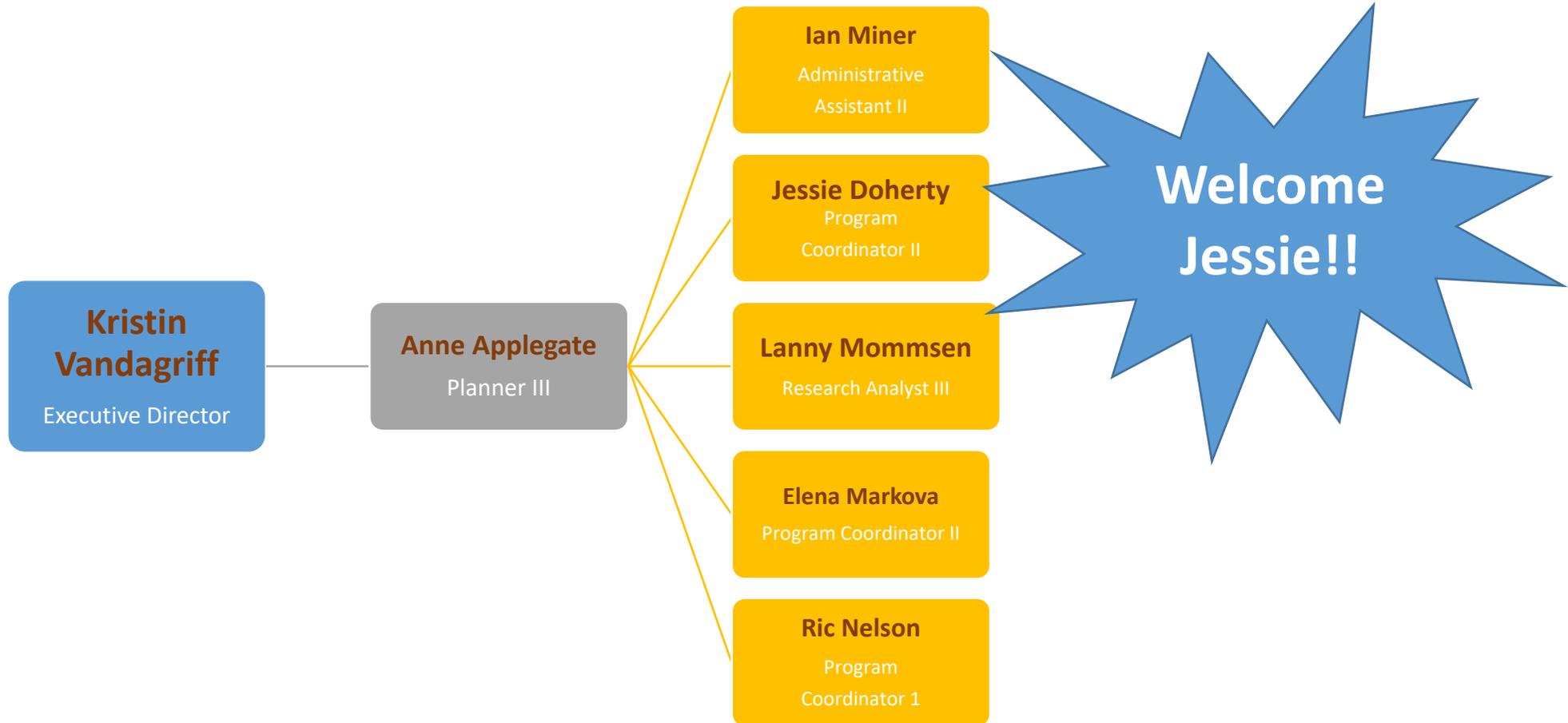


Reference: Kellie McCain, Kentucky DD Council

Council Member Leadership



Council Staff



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 Council on State Government's West ADA 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Presented at CSAVR with Dir. Mayes before the Nation's Vocational Rehabilitation Directors
- Presented to the Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Administration on Disabilities for Projects of National Significance Performance Measure Development Workgroup
- Participated in several NACDD national calls, including as a member of the Public Policy committee
- NACDD Technical Assistance Institute Training



Executive Director Highlight:

- Monitored SFY 20 budget close out
- Began SFY21 budget, including new expenditure process
- ACL Living Well grant (semiannual reporting in process as well as annual carryover amendment; renewal contracts)
- Coordinated joint advocacy efforts with the Trust and Advisory Boards (every other week calls)
- Overseeing Trust reporting (Due Oct.)
- Supporting State 5-Year Plan Development Efforts
- Leading virtual meetings with US Congressional Delegation



COVID-19 Response:

Stakeholder Concerns:

- Mask requirement (businesses, airlines, community)
- Social isolation
- DD services providers - fiscal concerns and staying afloat
- Special Education students – skill regression

Council Research Analyst (funded by Trust):

- Attends weekly COVID-19 statewide meetings (bringing in Alaskans with disabilities)
- Leads the Alaska Disability Advisory Group (ADAG) on Emergency Preparedness
- Reviewing local, state, federal guidance including mandates and press conferences
- Robust resource dissemination (social media, email listserv, website)
- Working with partners to create website link to more information regarding masks



COVID-19 Messaging Collaboration with DHSS



Remember: Some people may not be able to wear face coverings due to health and safety conditions, including:

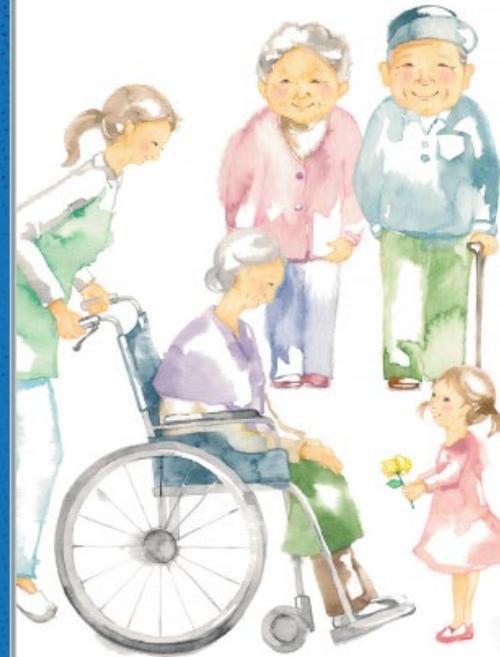
- ✓ Individuals with Disabilities
- ✓ Children under the age of two

Patrons who state they have a functional need which prevents them from safely wearing face coverings should be allowed to enter a retail establishment.

COVID19.alaska.gov



State of Alaska · Department of Health & Social Services · 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone: (907) 269-7800
Adapted with permission from King County Design and Civic Engagement



COVID19.alaska.gov

Remember some people may need someone to go with them when going into the community due to health and safety conditions

Support person might include:

- ✓ Personal care attendant
- ✓ Parent or family member

People who state they have a functional need preventing them from entering a retail establishment on their own may need assistance from a personal care attendant. Whether the assistant is a household member or other service provider type, they should also be allowed entry.



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Senior and Disabilities Services and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education Presents:

The Alaska COVID-19 Toolkit Webinar for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

~~Friday, July 21st | 11AM-12PM~~

Sold Out!!! See below:

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Ric Nelson:
Email: ric.nelson@alaska.gov
Call: 907-269-8989

If you were unable to sign up for the first Webinar before it sold out, please use [this link](#) to sign up for the second version of this Webinar, held on:

August 7th at 11:00 AM-
12:00 PM

[https://gcdse.ticketbud.com/covid-19-toolkit-for-people-with-disabilities?
ga=2.162420348.151882020.15947
63952-52417430.1593556413](https://gcdse.ticketbud.com/covid-19-toolkit-for-people-with-disabilities?ga=2.162420348.151882020.1594763952-52417430.1593556413)



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Living Well on the Last Frontier

A Health & Safety Toolkit for Alaskans
with Disabilities

IN THIS
TOOLKIT:

Stay Healthy

Stay Safe

Stay Connected

Frequently
Asked Questions



COVID-19 RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Information and Resources to Keep
You Healthy, Safe, and Connected

The coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, outbreak has left a lot of people in need of new or different resources and clear information. While the situation continues to change all the time, we want you to have access to the information and tools you need to stay healthy, safe, and connected.

Alaska Specific Plain Language COVID-19 Toolkit
(everything from understanding the virus and how to stay safe, to ideas on how to keep engaging with people virtually):

- <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/covid-19/Alaska-COVID-19-Toolkit.pdf>
- This was a collaborative effort with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.



COVID-19 Resources:

Following are some resources the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) has developed with partners to support Alaskans with disabilities and their families amidst the current pandemic.

- Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services FAQs:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Extended-School-Year%20FAQs--Accessible.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- Your Child's Rights to Special Education During COVID-19:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Rights-to-special-ed-COVID19--Fact%20sheet.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- FAQs – COVID-19 Stimulus Payments and ABLE Accounts:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/news/2020-Stimulus-FAQs--Accesible.pdf>
This was a collaboration with Department of Revenue and the Disability Law Center.

Empowerment Through Employment Guide



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT:

Employment Resources Guide for Alaskans with Disabilities

This resource was developed to help realize the vision of “Empowerment through Employment” for Alaskans experiencing a range of disabilities, including mental illness, substance use/abuse disorders, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries. There are many resources available to support Alaskans with disabilities in becoming employed and maintaining employment. This document includes many of those resources with web links to where you can find more information.



Alaska is an 'Employment First' state and employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems.

Alaskans with mental health and substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, as well as traumatic and acquired brain injuries may benefit from services and supports around employment to improve their health outcomes, including treatment and recovery efforts for some.





30 YEARS

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by Congress, establishing America's commitment to end discrimination against people with disabilities.
- Council ADA Page Created:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/history/ADA-30-anniversary.aspx>



Alaska Disability Pride 2020

- Disability Pride means accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing disability as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.
- Disability Pride awareness events promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.
- Council Planner, Anne Applegate, was awarded as the 2020 Statewide Community Champion for Disability Pride!



CELEBRATE WITH US

2020 STATEWIDE DISABILITY PRIDE

DISABILITY
PRIDE

Join us Live on the Facebook event page:
"2020 Virtual Alaska Disability Pride Celebration!"

JULY 20, 2020 - JULY 25, 2020
STARTING AT 12PM EVERYDAY

JULY 26, 2020 (30 YEARS OF ADA CELEBRATION)
2:00PM-4:00PM

Join us for surprise guests:

- Zack Gottsagen
- Judy Heumann
- Squirmy and Grubs
- Temple Grandin
- Stand Up For Mental Health Comedy Troupe
- Lydia XZ Brown
- Micah Fialka-Feldman

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY INFO ON DISABILITY PRIDE,
MESSAGE OR SHARED VISION ALASKA FACEBOOK PAGE



<https://facebook.com/events/95000-virtual-alaska-disability-pride-4255827099882/?fbclid=IwAR1...>

Council Member Recognition by the National Association on Developmental Disabilities

Induction into the NACDD Self-Advocate Leadership Circle



Heidi Lieb-Williams



Sydney Krebsbach



Corey Gilmore



The Betty Williams
Champion of
Equal
Opportunity

Heidi Lieb-Williams

Alaska



Meeting U.S. Senator
Lisa Murkowski



Testifying before the Legislature
on Supported Decision Making



Meeting with U.S. Congressman Don Young



Meeting the Mayor



Meeting the Governor!



Bill signing for
Supported
Decision
Making
Agreements
Act

Message from Corey...



- Committee participation – ensuring we have quorum
- Important reminder going into the next session
 - Council positions and vetting process
- Executive Director Evaluation Process
- What's next for the DD Shared Vision



What's on the known horizon for 2020/2021:

- Monitoring local, state, and federal mandates/guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (ongoing)
- ACL Living Well Semiannual Reporting (October 2020)
- Program Performance Reporting as DD Council and State Plan Update (December 2020)
- Winter Council Meeting (February 1st and 2nd, 2021)
- Monitoring legislative/budget developments on a local, state, and federal level
- Virtual Legislative Visits (February 4th and 5th, 2021)
- Key Campaign 2021 (virtual)
- Some Council member terms expire June 30, 2021
- Completion of next State 5-Year Plan (due August 2021)



Questions?

