

# 2018 Update



**Presentation to the Alaska State Legislature  
House and Senate Health and Social Services Committees  
*Maggie Winston (Chair), Patrick Reinhart (Executive Director),  
& Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus (Council Workgroup on FASD Chair)***

# Council Roles:



# State 5-Year Plan:





# Developmental Disability (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.*

- ▶ Project Teams are Making the Vision Reality:
  1. Person-Directed Culture Change
  2. Direct Support Professional Workforce Development
  3. Community Awareness
  4. Legislative Engagement
  5. Measuring Success
  6. Advocate Advisory



# Moving Forward Together: Alaska's Developmental Disabilities System

A clear, unified vision ensures values are upheld during both strong and weak economic times.

## AN EVOLVING SYSTEM

### From Institutions

Harborview Developmental Center closes in 1997.

### To Communities

Home and community based waivers began in 1994.

1/3  
THE  
COST

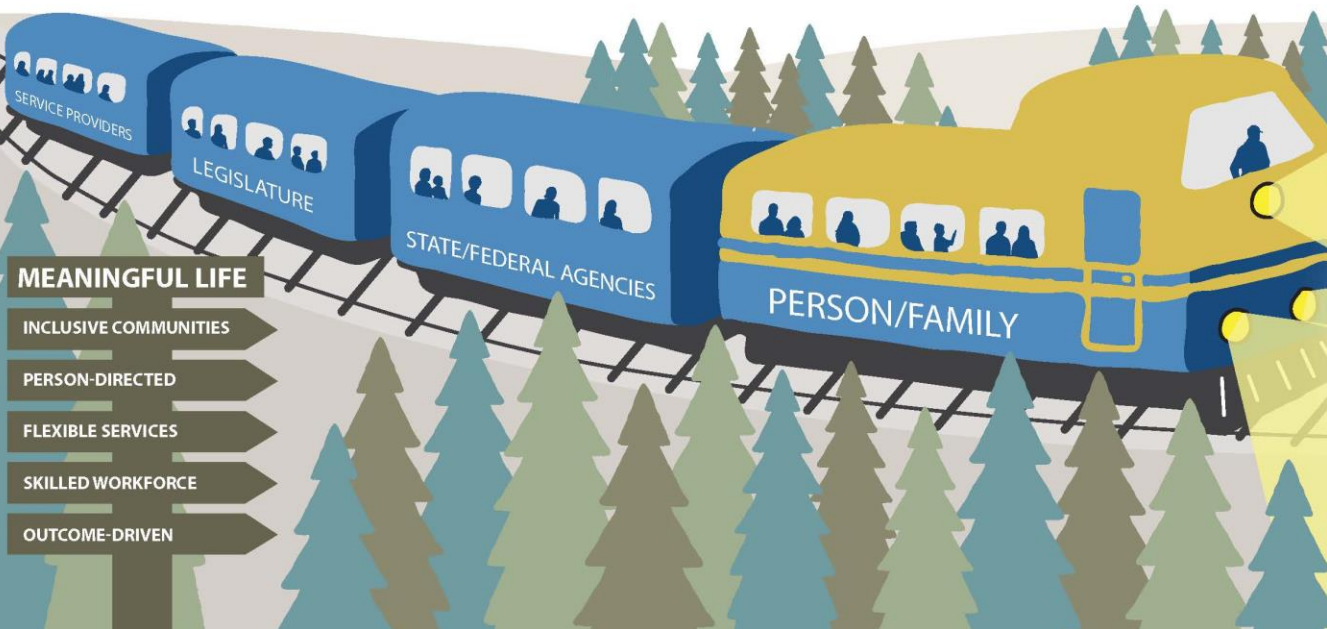
If Harborview were open today, it would cost \$252,427 per resident – **the average home and community based waiver costs just one third that!**

### To Meaningful Lives

The future!

## HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

- ☐ Full collaboration with system partners
- ☐ Transformation efforts align with the vision
- ☐ Ensure the system is person-directed
- ☐ Measure outcomes
- ☐ Be good stewards of resources
- ☐ Recruit and retain skilled workforce
- ☐ Safeguard program integrity
- ☐ A system that is flexible and simple to navigate



### 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 Shared Vision Bill

- ▶ Will be originated by Senator Micciche
- ▶ Aspirational language added to statute
  - Additional section added to AS 44.29
- ▶ Assures Alaska will focus on *meaningful lives for its citizens with disabilities*

# Supported Decision Making:

***Supported Decision Making (SDM)*** can be best defined as: relationships, practices, arrangements, and agreements of more or less formality and intensity that are designed to assist an individual with a disability to make and communicate to others decisions about the individual's life.

- ▶ Constitutional and civil rights concept
- ▶ Recognizes that full guardianship is often not the least-restrictive alternative for adults with disabilities
- ▶ The equal rights philosophy underlying SDM is that:
  - All people use support for making the important decisions of life
  - Needing more, different, or structured help does not justify unequal treatment and removal of all rights to make a decision

# Supported Decision Making Bill

- ▶ Will be originated by Representative Millett, Council Member
- ▶ Equal access to decision making through supported decision making agreements
  - AS 13 would be amended by adding a new chapter
- ▶ Texas and Delaware have enacted similar legislation
- ▶ Assures Alaskans with disabilities retain as many civil rights as possible combined with applicable supports



# FASD 5–Year Plan:

## Vision:

*The prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) is reduced and individuals who experience FASDs and their caregivers are empowered to reach their unique and full potential. Through education, prevention, and provision of quality, relevant supports and services, Alaska is a FASDs–informed state.*

# FASD 5-Year Plan:

- **Goals:**

1. **Raise awareness of FASDs**, a range of neurodevelopmental (brain-based) disabilities that can affect any person exposed to alcohol before birth.
2. **Reduce the incidence of alcohol-exposed pregnancies.**
3. **Address the stigma associated with FASDs** by educating Alaskans to understand the complexities of the disability in a way that honors the strengths of those impacted, to promote an inclusive, accepting culture.
4. **Reduce the co-occurrence of childhood trauma and FASDs** by increasing supports for high-risk families, building resilience, and improving access to treatment for early childhood trauma.
5. **Define and promote FASDs-informed care in Alaska.**
6. **Advocate for fully funded appropriate services, supports and education** for individuals and families with FASDs to increase self-advocacy, prevent crises, and reduce adverse outcomes, such as substance misuse, incarceration, and suicide.

# Autism Update:

- ▶ We have 2 Pediatric Neurodevelopment Specialists!
  - Dr Siv Fasci – Providence
  - Dr Randy Zernzach – South Central (will start in the Spring)
- ▶ Rural Outreach Clinics
  - Traveled to 11 communities
- ▶ Alaska ECHO Autism
  - An interdisciplinary virtual learning network of providers offering real-time access to autism and ADHD experts
  - Professional training



# Autism Update: ABA–EPSDT Regs

- ▶ Division of Behavioral Health drafted regulations covering Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
  - Early Periodic Screening Detection and Treatment (EPSDT) requires Medicaid autism treatment coverage for children under 21
  - Final regs in March or April
  - 8.2 Million fiscal note
  - Council gave comments
    - Needs supervision coverage
    - Remove “fail first” requirement
    - Rates are low
    - Recommended working with Alaska Association for Behavior Analysis (AKABA)





# Universal Developmental Screening

**Goal:** *to develop and implement a sustainable, cost effective, efficient method of universal screening*

- ▶ One in four children ages 0–5 years is at risk for a developmental delay
- ▶ Only 32% of Alaskan parents report having any standardized developmental screening
- ▶ Council convened a Universal Screening Task Force Midwest Academy with multiple partners
  - Public and Tribal Health
  - Head Start
  - Child Care
- ▶ House efforts in one place (*Help Me Grow*)
  - Streamline data collection
  - Maximize impact

**Council's Targeted  
Disparity Objective**



# ABLE Update:

## ▶ Currently Alaska has:

- 94 funded ABLE Accounts
- \$395,771 in funds

## ▶ The Council:

- Held outreach webinars and presentations
- Led Alaska's #ABLEtoSave Campaign
  - Mail out to over 23,000
    - DSDS and DPA consumers
    - Individuals who serve individuals with disabilities



There are **NO** limits to what people with disabilities can do

Including building a savings account without losing benefits

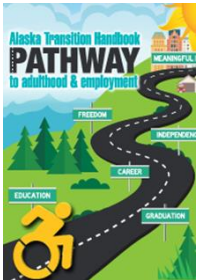


**ALASKABLE** plan  
a member of The National ABLE Alliance

# Employment First Update:

## Real Jobs and Real Wages for Individuals with Disabilities Competitive and Integrated Employment

- ▶ Repeal of subminimum wage in Alaska (DOLWD)
- ▶ Transition handbook launched (DHSS)
- ▶ MOU with Employment First Philosophy (DHSS & DOLWD)
- ▶ Employment First Job Fair entering 4th year (DHSS & DOLWD)
- ▶ Business Employment Services Team (BEST) continued joint employer engagement efforts (DOLWD & DHSS)
- ▶ Increased focus on transition through Jobz Clubs, Transition Camps, and summer work experiences (DOLWD & DEED)
- ▶ Regulation changes – including employment first language of “employment and work in competitive, integrated settings” (DHSS)



# Questions:

**Patrick Reinhart**

*Executive Director*

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

3601 C Street, Suite 740

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

907-269-8994 (Desk)

907-301-0728 (Cell)

[patrick.reinhart@alaska.gov](mailto:patrick.reinhart@alaska.gov)

