

3/1/00

Overview

Key

Camp.

SFIN

FILE

Joint Senate-House Finance Committee Hearing
March 1, 2000

1. Emily Ennis - Fairbanks
2. Brian Bennett - Homer
3. Marla and Melonie Adams - Fairbanks
4. Jose Silva with interpreter
5. Ned Magen, D.O. - Soldotna
6. Steve Lesko - Anchorage
7. Ernie, Debbie and Sean Dummann - Anchorage
8. Sherry and Christina Gallagher - Wasilla
9. Annie and Jonathon Johnson - Bethel
10. Wayne Gould and son Taylor - Anchorage
11. Emily Ennis - closing

For the 13th year, the Key Campaign unites service providers, consumers and families from across Alaska to stand together in advocacy for those who still wait for services.

That's what it's all about

- Community Services are the key for individuals who experience a developmental disability.
- Community programs are the most cost effective way of providing services.
- Community programs support over 2,100 people in 197 communities.



What is the Key Campaign?

Key Campaign is the annual advocacy effort staged by the Key Coalition. This gathering of individuals who experience developmental disabilities, their friends, families and advocates come to Juneau every year to remind state officials that there are people associated with the numbers on the wait list, that fiscal decisions effect real people, and that the needs of Alaskans continue to be unmet largely due to lack of state funds.

The four basic tenets of the Key Campaign are;

1. Community is truly a place for everyone,
2. Individuals who experience a disability have a need and a right to live in the community of their choice,
3. Individuals and their families must be empowered to assume a meaningful role in their neighborhoods, wherever they might choose to live in Alaska,
4. And, it is a primary responsibility of government to provide realistic, non-intrusive, non-segregating, community supports which facilitate the building of community for all of its citizens, not just a select few.



Together the Key Coalition and all of the participants in the Key Campaign pledge to come to the Legislature for as long as people are forced to go without supports; for as long as bureaucracy chooses to look at faceless statistics instead of at human beings in need; for as long as families disintegrate under the pressure of living without adequate supports.

The Key Coalition is a statewide body of advocates who leave behind labels like "provider", "consumer", "parent", "bureaucrat", etc. and join in a movement across all sections of our state to sponsor and operate the Key Campaign. The Key Coalition also advocates on a year-round basis for those who wait for services and to promote a wide network of excellent, family-centered and driven community supports for everyone in need.

Please be one of those who chooses to help and not one of those who looks away. Please be one of those who sees the need and realizes the advantage of helping families stay together and of helping everyone to have an active role in their community. Please join the Key Campaign and the Key Coalition and help us achieve the dream—that the family of Alaska must include all of its citizens, and, that Community is truly for everyone.

Family Support Project

Family Resource Specialist
Task Centered, Short Term Supports
Core Services

In-Home Supports

Respite
Personal Care Attendants
Core Services
Specialized Equipment

Residential Supports

Accessible Housing
Individual Leases/Home Ownership
Low Interest Loans

Employment Supports

Subsistence Activities
Community Jobs
Job Training

Home Modifications

Ramps
Accessible Bathrooms
Stair Climbers

TEFRA

Children Staying at Home

- Community programs contribute back to the economy.
- Community programs help people become self sufficient.

"Unity,
Advocacy,
Community"

Key XIII Campaign
February 29

&
March 1, 2000
Juneau, Alaska

"Community is the Key for
individuals who experience
developmental disabilities, and for
their families."

The Key Campaign is Alaskans caring about Alaskans—forging the way toward equal opportunity, accessibility, and an inclusive community for anyone who experiences a disability.



To keep family together, healthy, functional...



To home, neighborhoods, belonging...



To jobs, a salary, self-sufficiency.



To cost effective individualized supports.



To keep children at home, where they belong!



To early intervention, growth, learning development.



To preventing institutionalization, maintaining independence.

The Statewide Wait List remains at over 700 names. Names of people who are our neighbors, our friends and our family members. These people who need some extra assistance to live a quality life which you and I might take for granted. The State of Alaska, with all of its greatness, should not be a place where people wait, with their names on a list, for services.



The people of Alaska and their elected officials should be embarrassed by the level of funding available to assist individuals who are asking for help. In years past the Key Campaign has advocated for a reduction of the Wait List and for funding to meet the needs of everyone who receives services from provider agencies. This need is no less urgent today than it was 13 years ago, when the Key Campaign first came to Juneau, and now there are additional critical issues which face providers of services to individuals who experience developmental disabilities. It has become harder and harder to recruit and retain staff who provide the front line of supports for individuals who experience disabilities.

Some economists have predicted that the labor shortage we now see may last for the next 20 years. Agencies cannot afford to lose staff who are already working, agencies must be able to recruit staff who can stay for the long term. Vital to accomplishing both of these tasks is the ability of agencies to offer competitive wages and benefits. This is possible only if the Legislature funds Institutional Prevention increments to assist provider agencies in addressing this issue. Agencies also continue to struggle with rising insurance costs, increased physical plant costs, and program development costs.

In the face of declining revenues, and little or no rational action on the part of the Legislature to develop new sources of revenue, we must be ever more strident in our cry to not let the budget be balanced on the backs of those with special needs. We must be more vigilant in our duty to fight an unwritten policy of bureaucratically impoverishing the disenfranchised. We must live up to our oath to return to Juneau, year after year, after year.

What needs to be done

1. "Turning 22" Initiative:

This increment request targets individuals leaving the educational system at age 22. Because many individuals do not have DD services in place when they leave school, they are left without supports and services and lose many of the skills that they have learned. It may take years for a person to come up on the wait list and receive funding. This increment would provide the ability to transition from the educational system to "adult life" and minimize the loss of skills.

Governor's Budget = \$0
Key Increment: = \$1,000,000

2. DD Institutional Prevention:

Last year the Legislature provided a \$960,000 increment to help provider agencies address this issue of attracting and retaining direct staff. As part of an agreement with the Mental Health Land Trust Authority and the State, the Legislature needs to fund a \$120,000 increment to maintain our current funding level and not lose money. The amount funded last year was of some help, but far short of the amount needed. If we are to maintain a community based service system, we must be able to recruit and retain staff to provide the service.

Governor's Budget = \$0
Key Increment = \$1,050,000

3. Adult Dental Demonstration Project:

This funding increment would allow DD providers to develop a system of dental services for adults who experience developmental disabilities. There are about 7,000 adults with developmental disabilities in Alaska. Of these, - 1,200 are eligible to access dental services through Native health corporations. Most of the referrals for this program (about 1,000 to 2,500 adults) will come from people who are current recipients of DD services or who are identified on the wait list.

Governor's Budget: = \$0
Key Increment: = \$250,000

4. Wait List - Institutional Prevention:

This increment would reduce the wait list and help Infant Learning Providers recruit and maintain direct staff workers. ILP professionals and associates earn less than persons in comparable positions.

Governor's Budget: = \$700,000
Key Increment: = \$700,000

5. Rural Outreach Vocational Rehabilitation (ROVR):

This program has provided support services for deaf and/or blind individuals. The program has served 60 individuals and placed 33 person in employment with a 97% retention rate. The grant cycle has ended and this increment is needed to continue to provide long term employment supports for deaf and blind individuals in rural Alaska.

Governor's Budget: = \$0
Key Increment: = \$200,000



COMMUNITY IS THE KEY

Hi, my name is Melanie Adams, I am 17 years old, and I live in Fairbanks. I work at Headstart, where my job coach helps me learn new things. I like working with the kids and they tell me I do a good job. I take Van Tran to and from work. I belong to 4 H club and I like to ride horses for Special Olympics and I have won ribbons. I have been the ball girl for the UAF women's basketball team for 5 years. I like to swim on Thursday nights at the parks and rec swimming. I can do lots of things for myself like making my favorite breakfast of eggs and toast, taking care of my personal care, and staying home alone. I will graduate from High School next year and I have a dream of what I want to do.

I like to see my family so I will move to Juneau where my big family lives. I want to have my own place to live, have my own dog and cat, and work at a good job. I need someone to help me shop for groceries, do my laundry, help me with my money and budgeting, and help me tell time and follow a schedule. I also need a job coach to help me with my job and make sure I catch my bus.

I want you to give me money so I can have the help I need to have my own home and a job. It is not fair to have a wait list and have to wait a very long time for me and my friends to reach our dreams and goals. You need to give people a chance and give them the money so they can have a place to live, have someone to help them buy the things they need, and have a job coach so they can work.

