

SB

174

<TARGET><BILL>SB 174</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
174</SUBJECT><COMM>HCRA30</COMM></TARGET>

Senator Peter A. Micciche

Alaska State Legislature

Session Address:

Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-2828
Toll Free: (800) 964-5733



Interim Address:

145 Main Street Loop, Ste. 226
Kenai, Alaska 99611-7771
Phone: (907) 283-7996
Fax: (907) 283-8127

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 174

"An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Health and Social Services; and relating to the administration of programs for persons with physical and mental disabilities."

When Alaskans with physical and mental disabilities are able to actively participate in the system of their care, a higher quality of life is achieved as well as a sense of independence. SB 174 will provide a clear pathway to achieve both of these things by allowing the Department of Health and Social Services to take a more flexible approach to administering programs. A positive, person-centered approach should be embedded within all decisions made at both systems design and service delivery levels.

So why establish an avenue for participation? All persons deserve the right to be treated with respect and dignity. Higher quality of life is achieved by encouraging individuals with physical and mental disabilities to participate fully in the social and economic environment of their homes, communities, and the State.

Improved stewardship of public monies requires stakeholder input from a broad cross-section of Alaskan urban and rural communities to ensure effectiveness of program redesign efforts. Five project teams comprised of over 70 people are already working to make this a reality by focusing on areas of person-directed culture change, workforce enhancement, community awareness, legislative engagement, and measuring success. SB 174 does not create the right to self-direct care or supersede laws related to eligibility programs. It will not have a financial impact on the State.

SB 174 does provide a long overdue unifying vision to assure that the available resources, whether great or small, are allocated and applied in a manner that maximizes the contributions to community that Alaskans experiencing disabilities can make, and the flexibility of systems to utilize those resources with responsible stewardship now and in perpetuity.

I urge your support of this legislation.

####

Staff Contact: Kaitlyn Stansberry 465-2828

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 174
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	2/22/2018

Identifier: SB174-DHSS-SDSA-2-13-18
 Title: PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
 Sponsor: MICCICHE
 Requester: Senate HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
 Allocation: Senior and Disabilities Services Administration
 OMB Component Number: 2663

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2019 Request	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By:	Duane Mayes, Director	Phone:	(907)269-2803
Division:	Senior and Disabilities Services	Date:	02/07/2018
Approved By:	Shawnda O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner	Date:	02/08/18
Agency:	Health and Social Services		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

SB174 instructs the department to administer programs for persons with disabilities in a way that affirms the "Developmental Disabilities Vision for Alaska."

Section 1 adds a new section to article 3, *Programs and Plans*, within AS 47.80, stating that (a) the legislature supports self-direction and autonomy for persons with disabilities, shares the vision of a flexible system of support for those persons in order for each to achieve a meaningful life, and supports the idea that professional staff and support services should be available to families of persons with disabilities; and (b) the state consider the vision described in (a) when determining the need for services and establishing priorities among those needs.

Section 2 amends AS 47.80.130 *Powers and duties of the department* to add language directing the department to take a flexible approach in administration of programs for persons with disabilities.

This bill does not require Senior and Disabilities Services to implement any changes or new practices that will impact the division's budget or result in additional costs.

2/6/2018

Kim Champney Consulting Mail - letter of support



Kim Champney <kim@champneyconsulting.com>

letter of support

1 message

Jo-Anne Sullivan <jsullivan@hopealaska.org>

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 11:36 AM

To: "kim@champneyconsulting.com" <kim@champneyconsulting.com>

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am writing in support of the Alaskan DD Shared Vision initiative.

I am a registered nurse and have been working in the field of IDD for almost 30 years. It has been my experience that all people wish to feel stability and security in their lives. Once this foundation is made possible, each person is able to choose their own distinct path along life's journey. Some are more adventuresome, some less so, but all desire to be captain of their own ship.

For too long the security and stability of people who experience IDD have been affected by the mercurial whims of government, politics and shifting social priorities.

Please assist us to ensure that the lives of individuals who experience IDD have the same potential for security, stability, and self-direction that you and I have.

Respectfully,

Jo-Anne Sullivan, RN

Jo-Anne M. Sullivan, RN

Deputy Director, Health & Wellness Supports

Hope Community Resources, Inc.

540 W. International Airport Road

Anchorage, AK 99518

Tel. (907) 433-4778

Fax (907) 272-8807

January 5, 2018

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am currently working with a DD provider in the Anchorage area and I have been with this particular agency for 20 years. I stay with the agency because I believe in what it stands for and our shared vision. I believe the state needs the same. Please help us achieve this by communicating:

That getting the shared vision written into statute, once it is, the Shared Vision will provide a solid platform for how services are provided throughout the state.

That the Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a much richer and more diverse state.

That Autonomy derived from self-direction enhances quality of life by increasing independence and confidence which can support skills to better protect individuals from abuse.

That the philosophical framework will not change with every change in political leader or shift in funding/resources.

That limited resources will stretch further if people with disabilities are empowered to be more included in their communities and less reliant on the paid service system.

Thanks for your help,



Jennifer M Moore

Director, Hope Studios

Hope Community Resources

February 5, 2018

To the Alaska State Legislature,

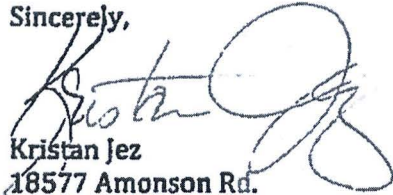
I strongly urge you to support the Shared Vision for Alaska's developmentally disabled population. The Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive supports that lead the way for them to direct their own lives, which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska.

Once written in statute, the Shared Vision will provide the foundation for how services are provided throughout the state. The philosophical framework will not change with every change in political leadership or shift in funding/resources. This allows for stability within the system and gives families a safer sense of security.

If people with disabilities are empowered to be more included and a part of their community, they can become less reliant on paid service, which will help stretch the limited resources available.

Please do the right thing, support the Shared Vision and write it into statute.

Sincerely,



Kristan Jez
18577 Amonson Rd.
Chugiak, AK 99567
krisjez@mtaonline.net

February 5, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 508
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: DD Shared Vision

I am writing to you in support of writing into statute the DD Shared Vision. Once the Shared Vision is in statute supports provided to individuals with disabilities will be guided by a specific framework across administrations or shifts in resources. The DD Shared Vision establishes the core value that people with disabilities should receive support that are directed by them, which is critical to having fully inclusive communities. Quality of life is enhanced for people with disabilities when they have the autonomy to direct their own lives and allows them greater independence, increased confidence and stronger self-advocacy. Available resources will stretch further when people with disabilities are empowered to be more included in their communities and less reliant on the paid service system.

Thank you for your support of people with disabilities and their desire to direct their own lives to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Adkison
115 Troy Ave
Juneau, AK 99801



February 5, 2018

Senator Micciche,

Crossroads Counseling & Training Services supports embedding the Shared Vision into state statute in order to provide guidance and clarity regarding the belief that people who experience disabilities should receive support that assists them in leading their own lives in their own communities. In this way, fully inclusive communities will be born from the impact of the strength, desire and input of community members. It is the autonomy from self-direction that truly enhances an individual's quality of life and confidence. These skills are natural protective factors for vulnerable individuals as well as supportive in a manner that will reduce the need for paid supports. Enshrining the vision in the regulation will support further independence regardless of political changes in the legislature.

Thank you to Senator Micciche, for supporting the long-term wellbeing for people with disabilities by enshrining the Shared Vision in the regulation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (907) 455-9737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole Nelson".

Nicole Nelson, MPS
Executive Director



The Arc of Anchorage
2211 Arca Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

T (907) 277-6677
F (907) 272-2161
www.thearcofanchorage.org

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2018

Senator Micciche,

The Arc of Anchorage is excited about the work Alaskans have done over the past year through partnership of local and state agencies to create the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision. As a member of the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative, I am enthusiastic about the progress Alaska has made and the group's support to ensure that the center of our Shared Vision is about self-determination for Alaskans with developmental disabilities (DD):

"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."

As a representative from The Arc, I applaud your effort as a legislator to support a bill that reflects this vision -- to ensure Alaskans who experience developmental disabilities (DD) can receive adequate services to meet their individual needs, wherever they live in our state. With your leadership, your bill can positively impact thousands of people, including the families of individuals living with DD in our state.

Not only is your dedication to this issue important to the individuals impacted, but your bill will also serve all Alaskan communities as a whole. Communities will become more inclusive, more diverse and offer more opportunities for individuals with DD to live more independently with confidence. Resources will be available in their community of choice, and the self-direction in how they want to live their lives will help them gain skills and be empowered to be involved in their community. These factors, combined with the autonomy from the platform of the Shared Vision, will then lead Alaskans with DD to the benefits of having less reliance on the paid service system and an increase of protection from abuse that is prevalent in this vulnerable population.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all Alaskans, especially those who experience disabilities. We look forward to following your work on this bill. If you need a resource, I invite you to contact myself or any agency serving within the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative group. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Rodriguez-Rath'.

Barbara Rodriguez-Rath
Chief Executive Officer
brath@thearcofanchorage.org | 907.777.0127

Achieve with us.

To make concern,

My name is Travis Noah. I am a constituent that experiences a physical disability known as cerebral palsy. I believe in the DD collaborative vision statement because it is designed to make individuals who experience challenges of all different types have control over their individual lives to the best of their ability, for this to happen however the vision statement needs to be put into statute.

The collaborative vision statement being put in the statute is important because it will guarantee that the standards of care provided will never change. This also guarantees that we will be able to have fully inclusive lives with our friends and families and our surrounding community. To give a prime example of this I'm an individual that has a part-time job I work generally five days a week and I love what I do I get to help other people with special needs make sure that their needs and issues are being taken care of. I would not be able to have this job however if I did not have the care that is provided to me, or have the control over my life that I currently have.

Sincerely,

Travis Noah
714 W. 75th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
907-388-2424

February 6, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche

State Capitol Room 514

Juneau, AK 99801

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am a mother of a teenage boy with Autism, Intellectual Disability and Seizure.

Since the day my son was diagnosed up to this minute, I am truly grateful for the support, resources, opportunities and encouragement my family and him have received through all these years. All these allowed him to live his life fully.

It is understandable for us, his parents, to direct his life in his earlier years. As he grew older, taking time to truly know what he wants, needs, desires and aspires for... was imminent ... in order to direct his life in a way that truly reflects who he is and what he wants especially now that he is a full fledged teenager. All these steps that we have taken will not be possible without supports-whether in school, community or at home if the no one took the time to listen, advocate and implement within reasonable accommodations and realistic goals and expectations..to truly reflect our son. I believe that him...just like any human desires autonomy in their lives and in the way to live it even if they do not have the best cognitive faculties to do so.

Senator Micciche, I fully support state statutes that reflect autonomy or even supported decision making for people with developmental disabilities or those who have acquired cognitive challenges in order to enhance their quality of life by supporting them to increase independence and consequently confidence and gain dignity. I support community programs that promote inclusivity when possible and done safely.

The past two years have been challenging and scary for my family because of budget shortfall both at the federal and state level. The constant threat to cutting funding for people with developmental disabilities-whether it be in school or the community increases perception from their families what a public burden their loved one is. While we, as a family, do our best to limit or use wisely the public resources given to us...we also long to see our son be set in a path where he will also be perceived as a productive member of the Alaskan community. If only pooled knowledge and resources can also be done in order to empower people with developmental disabilities to be more included in their communities and have programs to make them less reliant on paid services.

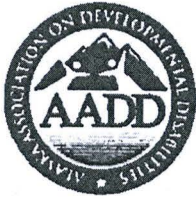
I end this letter with a lot of hope that a state statute proposed by you in a Senate hearing that will enable people with developmental disabilities be empowered to live the most autonomous life they can ever live in a community that is inclusive to a point that they are less reliant on paid system ...come to fruition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


MARIA DEL ROSARIO

joel_kiss@hotmail.com



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.

February 6, 2018

Dear Senator Micciche,

AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, is the professional association representing the voice of forty six organizations in Alaska that provide home and community based services to individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Association has been an active and strong supporter of the development of the Shared Vision. The Vision brings a renewed energy and excitement to the work the provider community. The Shared Vision reminds each of us why we have dedicated our professional life to this field and where we want the focus of services to be, on the individual being supported.

We are so appreciative of your efforts to embed the Shared Vision in statute. In statute this Shared Vision will provide a consistent and strong platform for individuals to lead their own services, rather than a bureaucracy. It enriches their lives and the fabric of the community in which they participate. Services matching the Shared Vision will provide for a more independence life and greater personal confidence for individuals. This will help stretch limited funds farther with greater participation in the community involving unpaid natural supports.

Having the Shared Vision in statute will assure that the underlying philosophy of dignity, respect and choice doesn't change with shifts in funding or political leaders. Thank you again for your time, attention and efforts on behalf of so many individuals in Alaska both providing and receiving services and supports.

Sincerely,

Lizette Stiehr
Executive Director
AADD



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

Senior and Disabilities Services
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special
Education
Patrick J. Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

February 6, 2018

RE: Letter of Support for the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the "Council") fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. As the state DD Council, the Council works with Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services. One of the duties of the state DD Council is providing comments on bills that may have an impact on individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

To this end, the Council would like to issue this letter of support for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Shared Vision Bill which would enshrine this vision, through aspirational language, in statute.

The DD Shared Vision offers the following important guiding language developed by individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, state agency staff, and community members:

"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."

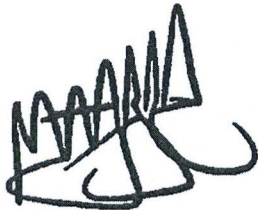
Once written into statute, the DD Shared Vision will provide a solid platform for how services are provided throughout the state. This ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities will receive services that lead to meaningful lives, for current and future generations of Alaskans. It will solidify a spirit of self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities within the Alaskan service system. The DD Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to having fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a much richer and more diverse state. Autonomy derived

from self-direction enhances quality of life by increasing independence and confidence which can support skills to better protect individuals from abuse.

With aspirational language added to AS 44.29 relating to the DD Shared Vision, there will be a solid platform for the State of Alaska as it moves through major system transformation associated with SB 74 as well as other future changes. The DD Shared Vision is anchored in person-centered thinking, self-determination, and individualization. The DD Shared Vision will guide our state in times of strong fiscal resources as well as in times of fiscal shortfalls thus the DD Shared Vision statement is absent any fiscal language. Regardless of the particular level of fiscal resources, the DD Shared Vision will guide decision-making in a manner that supports meaningful lives for Alaskans with developmental disabilities.

The Council stands ready with its partners in the Alaska Developmental Disability Collaborative to complete the work necessary to make the vision a reality and fully supports the Developmental Disabilities Shared Vision Bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Winston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maggie Winston, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Reinhart', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

Trust

Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508
Tel 907.269.7960
www.nihtrust.org

February 6, 2018

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol Room 508
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Vision Collaborative

Senator Micciche:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Alaska Mental Health Trust's commitment to and support of the DD Vision Collaborative. The Trust has been proud to support this effort since inception and continues to work closely with the collaborative and its members to integrate the Vision into policy and practice.

The Vision offers a solid platform to guide developmental disability service delivery throughout the state. The Shared Vision clearly establishes that individuals with disabilities should receive support to lead the way in directing their own lives which is crucial to achieving fully inclusive communities within Alaska and results in a richer and more diverse state. Additionally, the Vision exemplifies a fiscally responsible framework that maximizes family and community resources through empowerment of people with disabilities which ultimately reduces reliance on the paid service system.

We appreciate your support of the DD Shared Vision and look forward to working with you and your staff to embed its tenants into state statute.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Abbott
Chief Executive Officer

Putting Values into Practice

We're Making Progress

MEANINGFUL LIVES

- Over 20% of individuals served (469 individuals) are employed or working towards employment
- 44% of individuals live on their own or with their families
- Young adults (age 18 to 49) with developmental disabilities receive an average of 27 hours per week of unpaid support from family and friends

SKILLED WORKFORCE

- The Alaska Training Cooperative provided training to 3,753 direct support professionals in 2017

INTEGRITY

Myers and Stauffer Audits

- 2010: 89.63% of claims are supported by verifiable documentation, 7 developmental disabilities providers included (impacted by one outlier now decertified)
- 2011: 96.41% of claims are supported by verifiable documentation, 9 developmental disabilities providers included
- 2012: 92.04% of claims are supported by verifiable documentation, 8 developmental disabilities providers included

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- ABLE Accounts: 101 open accounts, 86 are funded, Total assets: \$347,165
- Alaska Disability Benefits 101 work calculator: <https://ak.db101.org>
- Alaska Transition Handbook: Pathway to Adulthood and Employment: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/TransitionsHandbook.pdf>
- Secured funding to increase assistive technology related activities

- Statewide DD Vision strategic planning process with 70 people actively participating
- Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) begun to focus on supported decision making
- National Core Indicator data (N = 138)
 - Full guardianship: US - 55%, Alaska - 96%
 - Support workers have the right skills to meet the family's needs: US - 57%, Alaska - 42%

UPCOMING SYSTEM CHANGE:

INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORTS WAIVER

For many individuals and their families this will be a significant change to how their services have been provided under the grant program. The Individualized Supports Waiver is targeted to begin in CY2018. Highlights of the new program include:

- 600 individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities to be served
- Eligibility is the same as the IDD waiver
- Individuals selected for the waiver have been previously served by the Community Developmental Disabilities Grant program
- The Individualized Supports Waiver will have a maximum of \$17,500 available for a limited menu of services
- Individuals will be placed on a registry for services until eligibility and level of care are determined and a care coordinator is identified to develop the service plan
- The individualized supports waiver will draw down additional federal Medicaid funds

"Developmental Disabilities" is an umbrella term for disabilities which are severe, chronic, appear before the age of 22, and are likely to be lifelong.



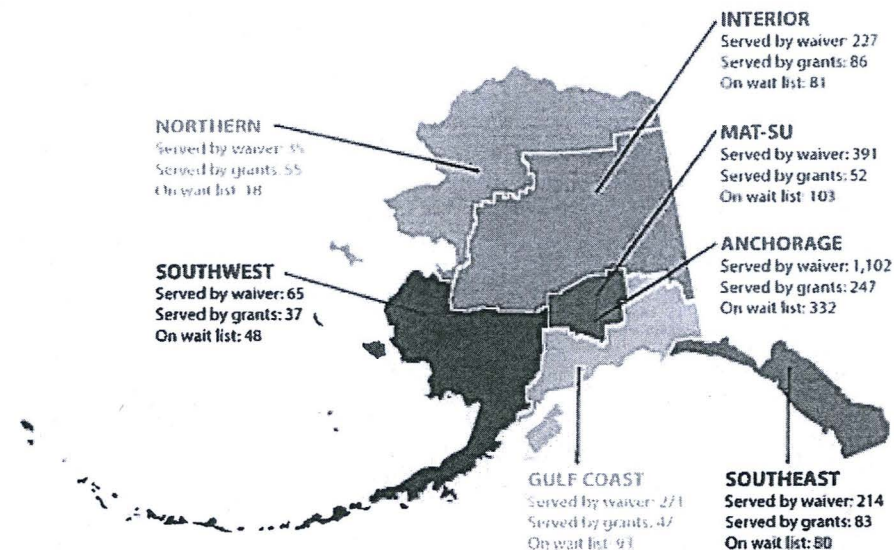
SOURCES:

Martens, L. (2001). *Financial management for human service administrators*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
 Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Rate Review, SFY16
 Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, Senior and Disabilities Services, Research and Analysis Section, as of 1/18
Caregivers of Younger Adults: A Focused Look at Those Caring for Someone Age 18 to 49 (2015). June: NAC and AARP Public Policy Institute
 University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Human Development, Alaska Training Cooperative, SFY17
 Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, as of 12/17
 Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Medicaid Program Integrity, as of 12/17
 Produced in cooperation by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Key Coalition of Alaska, Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities and the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

Alaska's Developmental Disabilities System in 2018



IMPACT: \$138 Million in wages were paid to staff supporting Alaskans with developmental disabilities.



Produced in cooperation by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Key Coalition of Alaska, Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities and the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. January 19, 2018

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**

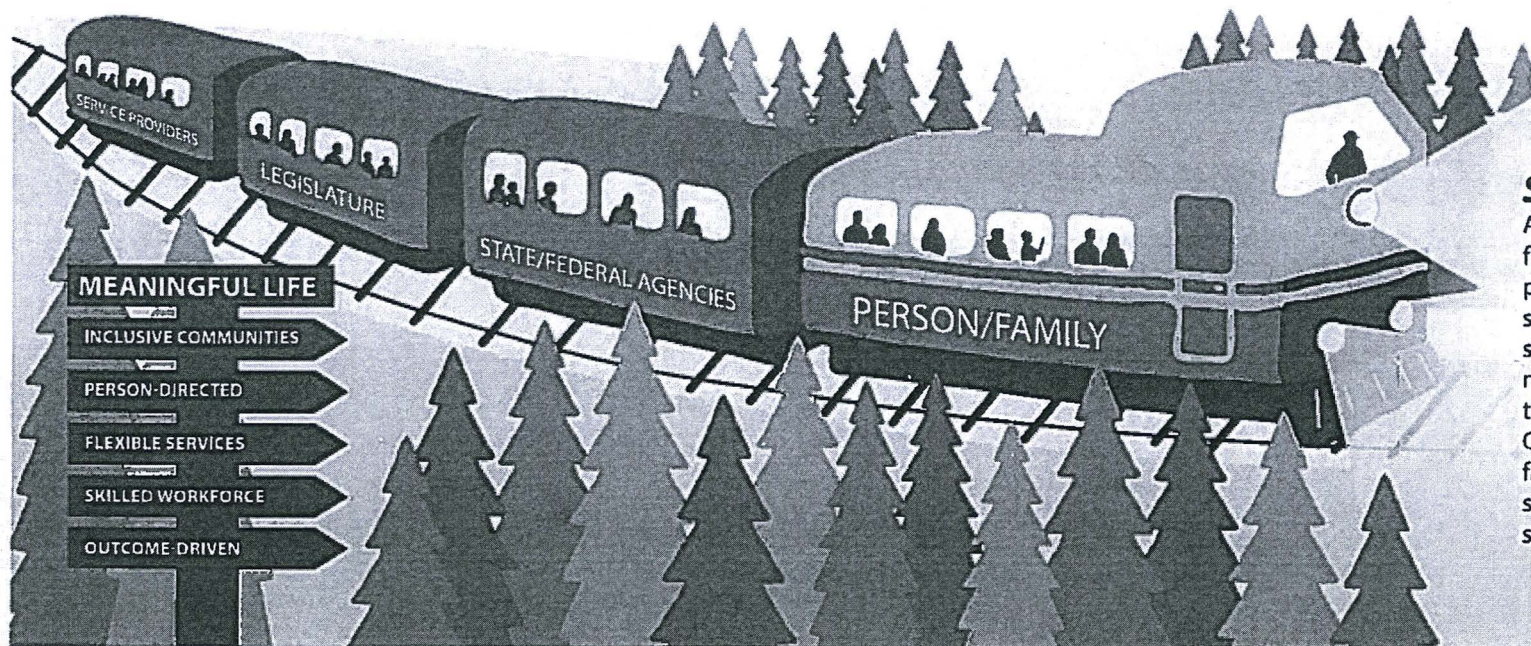
If Harborview were open today, it would cost \$252,427 per resident – the average home and community based waiver costs just one third that!

To Meaningful Lives

The future!

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

- Full collaboration with system partners
- Ensure the system is person-directed
- Be good stewards of resources
- Safeguard program integrity
- Transformation efforts align with the vision
- Measure outcomes
- Recruit and retain skilled workforce
- 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.

Living with Meaning

Meet the People



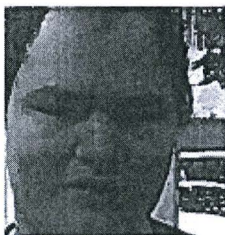
MEET COREY, JUNEAU

Corey Gilmore, originally from Maine, moved to Juneau in 2012 to be with his girlfriend. He was introduced to his girlfriend through a mutual friend. Corey and his girlfriend had a long-distance relationship through social media avenues for over a year before a friend helped him with a crowd funding site to help cover the costs of moving to Alaska. Corey and his girlfriend live a very full life. They volunteer two days per week at an integrated pre-school and teach a youth group at church. They live in a house they hope someday to own. Corey was recently appointed to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and believes strongly that his role in life is to make a positive difference in someone else's life. Corey wants to go to school to become a youth pastor. Corey appreciates the support he receives so he is able to get out in the community to be able to give back.



MEET DENNIS, DILLINGHAM

Dennis Bernard Pete has lived in Dillingham for about 20 years. The group home he lives in benefits from a subsistence lifestyle including fishing in the summer, berry picking, successful fall moose camp and productive bird hunting. Fresh frozen seafood from the cannery adds to the variety of locally resourced food supplies. The home has raised garden beds that Dennis helped build and as soon as they can get good dirt they have plans for a vegetable garden. Dennis is very active in the local community. He volunteers at the senior center every day by cleaning up after lunch and visiting with the seniors. He enjoys shopping, going out to eat for hamburgers, riding sno-go's, taco Tuesday, playing pool, listening to music and watching basketball. Dennis is a good woodworker. He has helped build a kayak from dropping the tree to pounding the nails, makes birdfeeders and wind chimes to sell at holiday bazaars and is currently working on a dog sled. Family is very important to Dennis. He stays in touch with family by phone, especially with his mom and favorite sibling. His family lives in a remote area and the Dillingham community has often come together to support and assist Dennis in making the long trip to visit.



MEET HARLEY, FAIRBANKS

Harley Hogan is a triplet. He and his brothers were placed in institutions in the lower 48 as adolescents when their behaviors became unmanageable in the family home. Harley was in and out of institutions for about five years. Previous efforts to bring him back to Alaska had failed. His last institutional placement reached out to Alaska with a plea for an alternate placement due to his behaviors. They provided video footage of a very destructive young man, living in a bare-bones setting with no quality to his life. A provider organization in Fairbanks saw the video and decided to serve Harley. His return to Alaska was accompanied with out of control behaviors that resulted in about \$80,000 worth of damage to his house in the first year. This led to hospitalization at API where he met two young staff who discovered that Harley did well when his environment had limited stimulus and instructions were given with no more than 3 steps. His house staff tried this approach and it has worked. Harley has not been hospitalized for two years. He still requires a high level of staff support but now he's able to go out to eat at a restaurant once a week and he goes grocery shopping with his Sunday newspaper coupons. Harley's life is moving in a positive direction.



MEET MAGGIE, KENAI

Maggie Winston is a mom of twin adolescent boys. When Maggie's boys were one year old, her life changed in a matter of hours when she experienced a rare auto immune disorder that left her with no use of her arms and legs. Fast-forward twelve years and we find Maggie working at the Soldotna Independent Living Center as a Systems Advocate. She lives in Kenai in a 3-bedroom, fully accessible house with her boys that was built with sweat equity of her brother and other family members through the help of the Rural Cap program. She has a lift equipped van that was purchased through fundraising and the grace of an anonymous donor. She also completed a degree in Psychology and is the Chair of the State of Alaska's Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. She's an ardent advocate for disability awareness and advocates for the developmental disability system to be good stewards of service dollars. Maggie says she has a really great life because of the services she receives. She is able to be as independent and autonomous as possible by choosing and training her staff, making choices that are right for her and her family and continuing to live a full life.



MEET REBECCA, PALMER

Rebecca Allely is the proud owner of Becca's Alpacas in Palmer. Her nine alpacas require daily feeding, watering and mucking out of their stalls. Rebecca does this every morning without fail. She's hoping three more alpacas will be born next summer. Once a year, her alpacas are sheared and the lengthy process of turning the fleece into useable yarn begins. The fleece must be picked, tumbled, washed, dried, hand spun, and packaged for sale at local crafts fairs and markets. Rebecca has faced the challenges of every entrepreneur and start-up company of developing a sound business plan, accessing capital for purchase of her alpacas and keeping track of ongoing business expenses like hay. The alpacas can graze in the summer but winter time requires a lot of hay to be purchased. Rebecca continuously explores new product lines. Her felted dryer balls sell like hot cakes and hand-dyeing wholesale purchased yarn has expanded her customer base. Rebecca lives with two other self-employed entrepreneurs who share her desire to be independent business owners. Rebecca's alpacas keep her close to home but she still finds time for fun through archery, fishing, hiking and bowling. Rebecca hopes her story can inspire others.



MEET TRAVIS, ANCHORAGE

Travis Noah came to Alaska as a little boy with his family. His father retired from his last duty station in Fairbanks and the family settled outside of North Pole. After graduating from high school, Travis went on to several customer service jobs in the Fairbanks area but for health reasons needed to relocate to the warmer climate in Anchorage. Travis lives in an apartment with a service dog and technology that offers him the ability to move freely from his bedroom to bathroom with a ceiling track, voice activated lights and other auto-controlled devices such as door locks and window blinds. Travis liked his previous jobs but when it comes to his current job as a peer advocate, he's totally animated as he talks about having a job where he can combine his love for disability politics with his appetite for helping other people with disabilities and their families. Travis's employer offers him flexibility to get his job done and understands the constraints earned income can place on benefit eligibility. Travis is eloquent and comfortable whether speaking to the Anchorage zoning commission about accessibility issues or with an individual with a disability on ways to be heard. Travis is an asset to our community.