

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT STATUTE (DD 11.13.2017)

Title 44. STATE GOVERNMENT

Chapter 44.29. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

AS 44.29.020 Duties of department

NEW SUBSECTION (d)

(d) The Department of Health and Social Services in administering programs for persons with physical and mental disabilities shall utilize 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.

NEW SECTION:

AS 44.29._____ [insert proper statute number] **Policy for administering programs for people with physical and mental disabilities**

(a) It is determined and declared as a matter of legislative finding that having the power to decide what and how services are provided in a person's life enhances quality of life, supports independence, builds self-confidence, and generates skills towards protecting oneself from abuse. It is also a finding of the legislature that 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; this Alaskan vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

(b) Therefore, it is the policy of the state to consider this shared vision when determining the needs for existing services and new services, establishing priorities among those needs, and to encourage and enable persons with physical and mental disabilities to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state. It is not the purpose of this chapter to supersede laws pertaining to eligibility for programs, to create rights to services not otherwise included in this chapter.