Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
May 24, 2018
Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

Topics Addressed

• Overview of the FY 19 Legislative Session – Key Bills, budget impacts
• Potential Impacts on our Providers and beneficiaries
• DD Partner Reports
• What’s the Buzz!
Legislation that Passed

- **SB 174: Developmental Disabilities Vision Bill**
  - Sponsored by Senator Micciche. Introduced Feb. 2, 2018
  - PASSED unanimously in the Senate and 36-1 in the House. 15 Senate Cosponsors and 28 House Cross sponsors
  - Shout out to Senator Micciche, Rep. Millett, the Trust, Kim Champney, Hope Resources, AADD, Key Coalition and our own Maggie Winston

- **What’s next?**
  - DD Collaborative Meeting yesterday
  - Workgroups building on vision to put person centeredness and person directedness into practice
  - Bill Signing
  - Training! Training! Training!

- **HB 336: Supported Decision Making (SDM) Agreements Bill**
  - Passed 39-1 in the House and unanimous in the Senate. 15 House Cosponsors and 12 Senate Cross sponsors
  - Shout outs to Rep. Millett & staff, Hans Rodvik, our own Anne Applegate, Art DeLaune, Heidi Kelly, the Trust, SAGA, WINGS, AARP, Key Coalition and Hope Resources

- **What’s next?**
  - Pilot Project with Hope and AARP off and running with videos being produced featuring person with a disability and senior
  - Bill Signing
  - SDMA Summit November 15
  - Training! Training! Training!
Legislation that Passed

- **SB 80: Telecommunications for Disabled Subscribers**
  - Sponsored by Senator Costello. Passed 19-0 in Senate and 38-1 in House.
  - Shout out to Senator Costello, and RCA Commissioner Norm Rokeberg, and our own Dean Gates and Ric Nelson

- **HB 106: Civil Legal Services Fund (Rep. Claman)**
  - Ended with 10% of all civil court filing fees being set aside for legal services for low income Alaskans (125% of Federal Poverty)

- **HB 64: Reading Proficiency Task Force; Dyslexia (Rep. Drummond)**

Legislation we followed but did not pass

- **HB 27: Chemicals of High concern for Children of products with certain Flame retardant chemicals.**

- **HB 54: Voluntary Termination of Life**

- **HB: 258: Establish Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing & Deaf Bill of Rights**

- **SB 198: Study of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC)**
  - Did not pass but $500 K put in budget
Overview of Budget Changes in FY 18 and 19

- $20 Million less than requested for Medicaid in FY 18 Supplemental Budget - Impacts???
- SDS held level in FY 19 – some intent language on DayHab
- Funded Medicaid at Governor’s requested, less $30 Million
- Added 11 new positions for Office of Public Advocacy
- Added 4 new Public Defenders
- Added $20 Million for Education
- Added $1.2 Million for early learning programs
- Added 20 new positions to deal with Division of Public Assistance backlog of 18,000 applications
- $500 K less for Public and Community Transportation State Match is in Governor’s Budget – Down to $500 K

Impacts on DD System

- We asked AADD to do quick poll of its provider members and 13 responded
- 7 of 10 reported their average waiver costs are exceeding their reimbursement from the State
- 6 providers listed the use of their budget reserves as the first concern, and it was top 3 for 6 others
- All agencies said they are self-funding or providing pro-bono services to clients no longer receiving grant dollars
- 12 agencies reported the reduction of services and programs (day hab and grant) were in their top four concerns
Impacts on DD System

- 12 agencies reported concerns on having to reduce their staff

- Care Coordinators reported:
  - Asked to ready plans of care (Medicaid eligibility, assessments, etc.) for shift to ISW with no reimbursement (not approved yet)
  - No reimbursement for waiver amendment development, which are increasingly requested or required by the State.

DD Network Partners: Center for Human Development

- STAT MD Training (Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children)
  - 24 participants from 7 communities and including medical an early intervention program providers

- Assistance with Self Administration of Medication
  - 27 agencies, 40 communities; 1,010 participants

- Frontline Leadership Institute
  - 2 institutes, 45 individuals, 16 communities

- Person Centered Thinking, Planning & Services
  - 1st time offering, 20 persons (10 certified)
  - Going to offer 2-4 X per year

- Family Navigation
  - 34 individuals plus 15 for lunch and learn series
  - 3 part series on family navigation, pediatric care coordination, and case management
DD Network Partners: Center for Human Development

- Registered Behavior Technicians
  - 11 trained, 19 in process
- Mental Health First Aid
  - Over 9000 individuals in 37 communities trained since 2011
- Employment Training
  - National Certificate of Employment: 14
  - SBA Prime Funding: 25 individuals with disabilities, low income, Alaska Native or formerly incarcerated persons trained in starting a business/entrepreneurships
  - Financial and Work Incentives Navigator training for 20 people
  - Public Benefits and related trainings:
    - Working Disabled Medicaid Buy-In offered once
    - ABLE Act: Offered 5 times
    - SSA Work Incentive Training – offered 8 times
- Full Lives: 3 Days in April combined with SDS Care Coordinator Conference
  - 255 attendees and 26 exhibitors

- Project Echo
  - 3 Project Echo Clinics: Neurodevelopmental, Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury, and BCBA
  - Echo immersion training scheduled for the end of June
- LEND
  - Participated in Disability Policy Seminar in DC and met with delegation about issues
  - Completed recruitment for FY 18-19 Cohort
- Neurodevelopmental Outreach Clinic
  - Served 5 communities, 46 patients, 45% of which diagnosed with Autism
- Tapestry
  - 8 students graduated in May
  - Summer Academy coming up
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency
  - Received grant to get Georgetown UCEDD training
- Microenterprise Grants
  - 13 applicants funded in amounts of $900-$10,000
- WIPA
  - 35 new beneficiaries received counseling and 20 more receiving ongoing counseling
DD Network Partners: Stone Soup Group

- Parent Conference in March a Success!
  - 2 day conference: 80 attendees
  - Next year’s focus: Behavior, March 22-23
- Youth Transition Video
  - Working with Gov’s Council to highlight a youth’s perspective on transition from high school, and then one from a parents perspective
- EmployAbility – 6 youth completed
  - Soft job skills like non-verbal communication, appropriate attire, mock interviews, job applications, etc.
- STAR/Safety Net Program

Safety Net Program

- Administered by Stone Soup Group
  - Statewide Parent Navigation and STAR agency
  - Has expertise in assisting families and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Part of transition from DD grants to Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW)
- Who’s this for?
  - Individuals who have been previously supported by the Community Developmental Disabilities Grant (CDDG) program
  - Individuals who have been found to not meet the level of care required for waiver services (but who are Medicaid eligible)
  - Individuals who still need services to remain independent
    - Individuals meeting both might be eligible to continue to receive limited grant-funded supports through the DD Safety-Net program
- Begins July 1.
DD Network Partners: Disability Law Center (DLC)

- Two major lawsuits filed against the State:
  - DHHS/BHS for delay in implementing ABA services
  - DHHS/SDS to end day habilitation caps for persons with severe disabilities
- Participation in Human Trafficking working group
- Participation in Wings (Guardianship Reform)
- Alaska Bar Foundation Grant to investigate why Alaskans are denied social security disability benefits (17% successful applicants vs. 45% nationally)
- Juneau Community Foundation grant to target to assist at risk or homeless persons to apply for SSI/SSDI – serving people with mental health, substance abuse, persons in abusive situations, and incarcerated persons with disabilities transitioning back to the community

DD Network Partners: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

- Assistive Technology Pilot Project
  - 12 waiver participants will be selected to receive an array of assistive technology, medication management and/or telehealth services that will increase independence and decrease dependence on direct care
  - Up to $10,000
  - Sponsored by Trust, with apps into Matsu Health Foundation and others
- Nursing Home & Assisted Living Home Transitions
  - Using General Relief funds from the state, will support people moving from nursing facilities and assisted living to independent living using Section 8 vouchers
- Service Animals Education and Training
  - Educating the public and businesses about their rights and responsibilities in understanding the difference between a pet and a service animal
- Council meeting June 7-8, Wasilla
What’s the Buzz? Tell Me What’s Happening

- Spring Council meeting held on May 15.
- Next one is Oct. 2-3 in Anchorage; also
  - Universal Screening Task Force, June 5
  - Aging and Disability Policy Summit Sep. 26-27
  - Self Advocacy Summit Sep. 29-30
  - FASD Face to Face, Oct. 1
- Council member changes:
  - Saying goodbyes to Dean Gates, Amy Simpson, Sandra DeHart Mayor and John Cannon of DVR, who retired—Welcome Cindy Murphy-Fox as our new VR Representative
  - Recruiting now: 1 seat for a DD Provider Rep; 1 for parent of a child with a disability under 6 years old; 1 self-advocate
  - Corey Gilmore of Juneau (self advocate) is now Vice-chair

What’s the Buzz? Tell Me What’s Happening

- IDD Registry: 871
- Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI Advisory Board
- Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)
- New Harmony Data
- Companion Services Exploration
- Council Cultural and Linguistic Competency Plan
- Integrated Settings Transition Plan 4
- Individualize Supports Waiver and Community First Choice Roll Out
- Project SEARCH Expansion
- Transitions Outreach (new program)
**ABLE is Growing!!!!**

- As of May 15 Alaska has:
  - 133 funded ABLE Accounts (35 more since January; 18 unfunded for total of 151
  - $682,468 in savings for an average of $4,520/account.
  - Annual contributions limit increased from $14,000 to $15,000
  - Some changes (good) coming related to tax reform bill, but not live yet

- Continued Outreach for 2018 to families, service providers and general public.

**What Were Watching in DC**

- Housing—“Making Affordable Housing Work Act” and “Promoting Resident Opportunity through Rent Reform Act”
- Farm Bill and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- TIME ACT: National Repeal of Subminimum Wage
What Were Watching in DC

➤ Amendment to CURES Act to delay CMS requirements for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)
   ✓ CMS Just issued guidance on this
   ✓ Exempted 24 hour facilities!
   ✓ Senator Murkowski to sponsor amendment to Cures Act to delay for one year (Led by Alaska and Washington)

➤ Weakening of Americans With Disabilities Act

➤ Medicaid! Medicaid!

Questions?

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