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# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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**Alaska Mental Health Trust Presentation**  
May 24, 2024

# Presenters



**Patrick Reinhart**, Executive Director  
Homer, Alaska



**Jena Crafton**, Chair  
Eagle River, Alaska

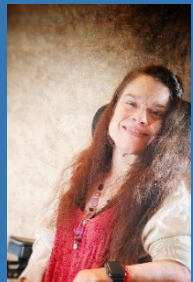


# Today's Presentation

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- Quick Recap of History and Structure
- Council Updates, News and Projects
- Legislative update—How Did We Do?
- Wrap up/Questions

# Who is the Council?



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Up to 26 Members from Alaska appointed by the Governor - 3 Vacancies currently

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60% must be persons with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability (I/DD) or family member

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Includes many federal and state designated partners like DVR, DEED, SDS

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One seat designated for current member of the Legislature -Rep. Stanley Wright

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Council staff: 8 persons, 50% who experience a disability or family member

# Five Statutory Roles and Responsibilities

State Developmental Disabilities Council from federal law, DD Act

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) for Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) from federal law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Dept of Health, Senior and Disability Services (DOH/SDS); also, IDEA

Special Education Service Agency (SESA) board oversight from state law

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Beneficiary Advisory Board (I/DD) ; state law

# 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
- Services available throughout the state now and into the future.



*Artwork by GCDSE Member, Corey Gilmore*

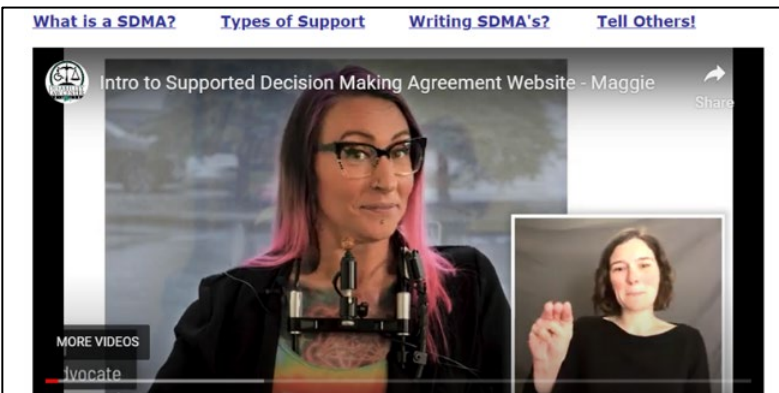


# Community Inclusion, Supports, and Services Committee (CISS)

ACL Living Well: SDMA Website Update



**Disability Policy Seminar (April 2024):** Council members, LEND fellows, and Matsu LINKS staff met with Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, Congresswoman Peltola and key members of their staffs.



**Discussed issues of importance to the Council related to:**

- Autism Cares Reauthorization
- Social Security
- IDEA funding for Special Education
- Community Living

# CISS Committee – Cont.

**Housing Conference:** Attended Housing First conference, meeting with other agencies to improve housing and homelessness in Alaska

## Full Lives:

- Table and presentations \*Jena, Anna, and Karen presented about GCDSE

## Emergency Prep:

- Presentations at \*Full Lives, \*LEND, and \*ALH Orientation
- Updating GetReady Toolkit
  - Discussion with Public Health for event coordination





# Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Registry

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*As of May 11, 2024*

- **I/DD Registry (Waitlist):** 359 individuals, 308 of whom are active on the ISW waiver ; 15 on ISW registry only
- **ISW Waiver:** 577 individuals on, or offered a spot
- **I/DD Waiver:** 2,113 individuals on, or offered a spot
- **IDD Draws in FY23:** 72 for the I/DD waiver, 145 for the ISW waiver
- **DSP Challenges:** # of Care Coordinators is still down and providers still reporting 40% decrease in workers since pre-pandemic

# Self Advocacy and Leadership (SAL) Committee

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Council supported Peer Power Summit with:

- Funding (along with Trust)
- Survey creation
- Staff assistance at the summit



# SAL Committee Cont.

- Council assists Empower Hour through Living Well funding.
- Council supporting Disability Pride celebration in July 2024.
  - Booth
  - Funding
  - Planning Committee
  - T-shirts



# Employment Committee

- Participated in MatSu Employer Expo March 27
- #ABLEtoSAVE Campaign in April 2024
- Project Search Statewide Coordination
  - Participated MatSu Site Intern Interviews
  - Anchorage Site Mock Expo
  - Anchorage Site Intern Graduation 5/2, and MatSu Fairbanks 5/10
  - Anchorage Project Search team recognized by School Business Partnerships Board, awarded Spirit of Tomorrow Superintendent Award
  - Work on Mental Health Trust Comp Plan Section Employment Workgroup
  - AADD Employment Champions Workgroup



# Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Grant

- Presented at ASSEC Conference in February
- First Advisory Committee Meeting in March
- DEED Complete Cooperative Agreement and MOU's with RSA and Partner Agencies

## Partner Milestones

- SAIL RecWORKS! Spring Break Camp in Juneau March (8 youth)
- SAIL Transition Camp May 28-31
- Project SEARCH Founder Erin Riehle visit in March
- Indigenous Skills Curriculum in schools (Hoonah, Savoonga, Grayling, Buckland) 8 Students
- DB101 School and Youth Calculator Due to launch November 30, 2024



# Microenterprise Grants

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## Microenterprise Grant Committee—Trust Funded

- Grant Applications are processed 2x per year, last review April 15 & 19, 2024

## Most Recent Application Period :

- 8 of 8 applications were awarded
- Of 8 applicants, 3 were I/DD
- **Total of \$72K awarded**
- All fiscal year funds were awarded

**Next Application in Fall, 2024**



# Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

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## ➤ Update to funding formula needed

- Currently formula based on total enrollment in the state
- Should be based on number of children receiving services

## ➤ Host site for Traditional Transitions curriculum: (<https://sesa.org/resources/educational/alaska-traditional-transition-skills/>)

- Pilot project Fall 2023
- 4 schools – Hoonah, Grayling, Buckland, Savoonga
- On track to develop a guide for teachers to implement in the future

# Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

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## Financial Sub-Committee

- Work with Raviant continues
- Potential recommendations in July
  - How to serve more children
    - Lower percentage of delay
    - Add automatically qualifying diagnosis'

## AND

- How to pay for those services
  - Addition of new Medicaid billing codes
  - Addition of ILP provider type for Medicaid



# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

2024 Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference Inclusive Practice Award Winners

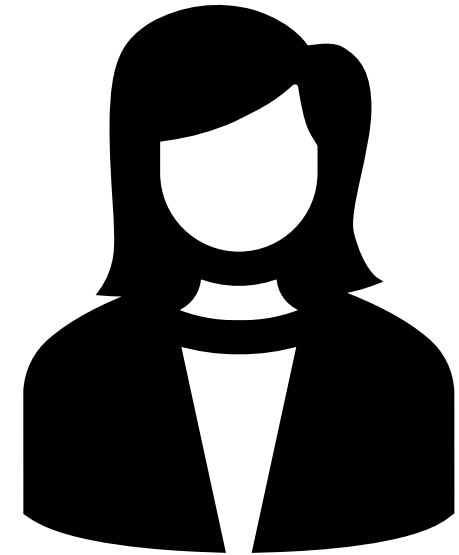
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**Dale Ebcas**  
Inclusive Practices Individual  
Joseph and Olinga Gregory  
Elementary – Kalskag, Alaska



**Mary Lillie and Lacy Davis**  
Inclusive Practices Team  
Manokotak School  
Manokotak, Alaska



**Jenny Miller**  
Paraeducator of the Year  
Hoonah City School  
Hoonah, Alaska

# 2024 Advocacy Agenda



**Civil Legal Service fees in support of Alaska Legal Services**

**Environmental Mods and Participant Directed Services**

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bill of Rights**

**Appeal Assistive Technology Loan Fund**

**Medicaid Services in the Schools**

**Community and Public Transportation**



# State Capitol Visit 2024



# Questions?

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**Jena Crafton**, Chair

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“Change never happens at the pace we think it should. It happens over years of people joining together, strategizing, sharing, and pulling all the levers they possibly can. Gradually, excruciatingly slowly, things start to happen, and then suddenly, seemingly out of the blue, something will tip.”

— Judith Heumann, [Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist](#)