Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Trustee Meeting Presentation: May 2022
Presentation Outline & Topics

• GCDSE Overview, Responsibilities, & Structure
  • Council Membership & Staffing

• State Council on Developmental Disability
  • Estimated DD Population in Alaska
  • New Five-Year Plan (2022-2026)

• Peer Power Annual Summit 2022 Highlights

• Upcoming June Council Meeting

• Questions?
Current GCDSE Responsibilities & Roles:

Mission: Creating change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities.

Twenty-Five (25) GCDSE Council members are appointed by the Governor and serve three (3) year terms.

The Council fills five (5) separate state and federal roles for the State of Alaska.

The DD Act sets out three areas of focus:
1) Capacity Building
2) Advocacy
3) Systems Change
Current Council Staff

Acting Exec. Director
Patrick Reinhart

Business Services
Project Manager
Michael Stevenson

Research Analyst
Lanny Mommsen

Admin Assistant
Ian Miner

Planner
Vacant

Program Coordinator 2
Rich Saville

Program Coordinator 2
Vacant

Program Coordinator 1
Jamie Kokoszka
Estimated Alaskans with Developmental Disabilities

Data Context & Limitations:

• There is no Alaska-specific data for estimating the prevalence rate of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD).

• According to Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce, the 2020 (most recent year data is available) estimated population of Alaska was: 728,903 (Source: https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop/)

• The unavailability of state-specific data on the prevalence of DD is a national issue. Our estimate is based on the widely-used (and accepted) national prevalence rate of 1.58% cited in Larson et al (2001).
  • This prevalence rate is twenty (20) years old and is being reviewed nationally.

• The actual rate may be much higher due to issues like FASD in Alaska being significantly underreported (but again, we don’t have accurate Alaska specific data on FASD).

Goal 1: Community Inclusion, Supports, & Services

Goal 2: Self-Advocacy & Leadership

Goal 3: Employment
GCDSE Spotlight – Peer Power Summit
Peer Power Self-Advocacy Summit

- Group Identified Three Important Issues
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Access to Services
- Broke into Small Groups
- Each group created presentation on the topic of their choice
- Had a rap, a skit, a video, several speeches, and lots of great ideas!
Peer Power Small Group Focus Area Example

TRANSPORTATION

Solutions
1. Sliding scale cab rides for senior/disabled
2. Transit system in rural areas to key locations on set schedule
3. Have wheelchair/ADA compliant vehicles for easy access to appts
4. Call in / some day, shuttle van or shopping
5. Get cash for rides according to needs
6. Have caregiving/care coordination help set up appts and transport with doctor/care team

Transportation Vouchers
1. ICC cab tokens not cost effective for working. You pay $7 for everyone on token
2. Some places taxis don’t take medicaid vouchers
3. Patient has to call referring doctor to make sure ride is scheduled / week in advance, what happens when voucher is cancelled, you have to pay for ride.
4. Transit system in rural areas to key locations on set schedule.
5. Medicaid travel voucher to appts need to be automatically set to be due because right now it’s up to patient to make sure ride is scheduled

#1 = Transportation
- affordable
- accessibility
- getting to work
- staff who can drive / more staff
- public transportation - incl. accessible cabs
- flexible / on-demand / as needed
- barriers w/ taxi vouchers
- Medicaid transportation
- safe sidewalks
Q4 Please check ALL categories below that describe your interest or involvement in disability issues:

Answered: 36  Skipped: 0

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual with a Developmental Disability</td>
<td>88.89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Professions &amp; Care Coordinators</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family member of an individual with a developmental disability</td>
<td>27.78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
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Total Respondents: 36
Q6 As a result - my knowledge of Advocacy topics/Issues has increased

Answered: 32  Skipped: 4

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<th>STRONGLY DISAGREE</th>
<th>DISAGREE</th>
<th>AGREE</th>
<th>STRONGLY AGREE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
<td>62.50%</td>
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<td>4.44</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
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Q11 Do you participate on any cross-disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions?

Answered: 34  
Skipped: 2

![Bar Chart]

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<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58.82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>41.18%</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Open Ended Question & Answer Samples

What do you think the most valuable information for you from this summit?

• Connecting & Networking
  • “Hearing from other Alaskans”
  • “Making friends & connecting
  • “I feel like I matter, and now I believe I matter to someone else”
  • “Really getting to know and respect the knowledge, intelligence, and talent of the people in the room”

What topics would you like to see in future Peer Power Summits?

• Navigating systems/services
  • Types of waivers
  • Connecting with services
  • Choosing services

• How to advocate
  • Knowing what to do
  • How to become a speaker/leader

• Games
  • More fun games
  • Zumba

5/23/2022

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education (GCDSE)
Questions?

Patrick Reinhart
Acting Executive Director

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Anchorage, AK 99507

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Next Council Meeting Date: June 1st & June 2nd in Anchorage