

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



Patrick Reinhart
Acting Executive Director

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?



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Current GCDSE Responsibilities & Roles:

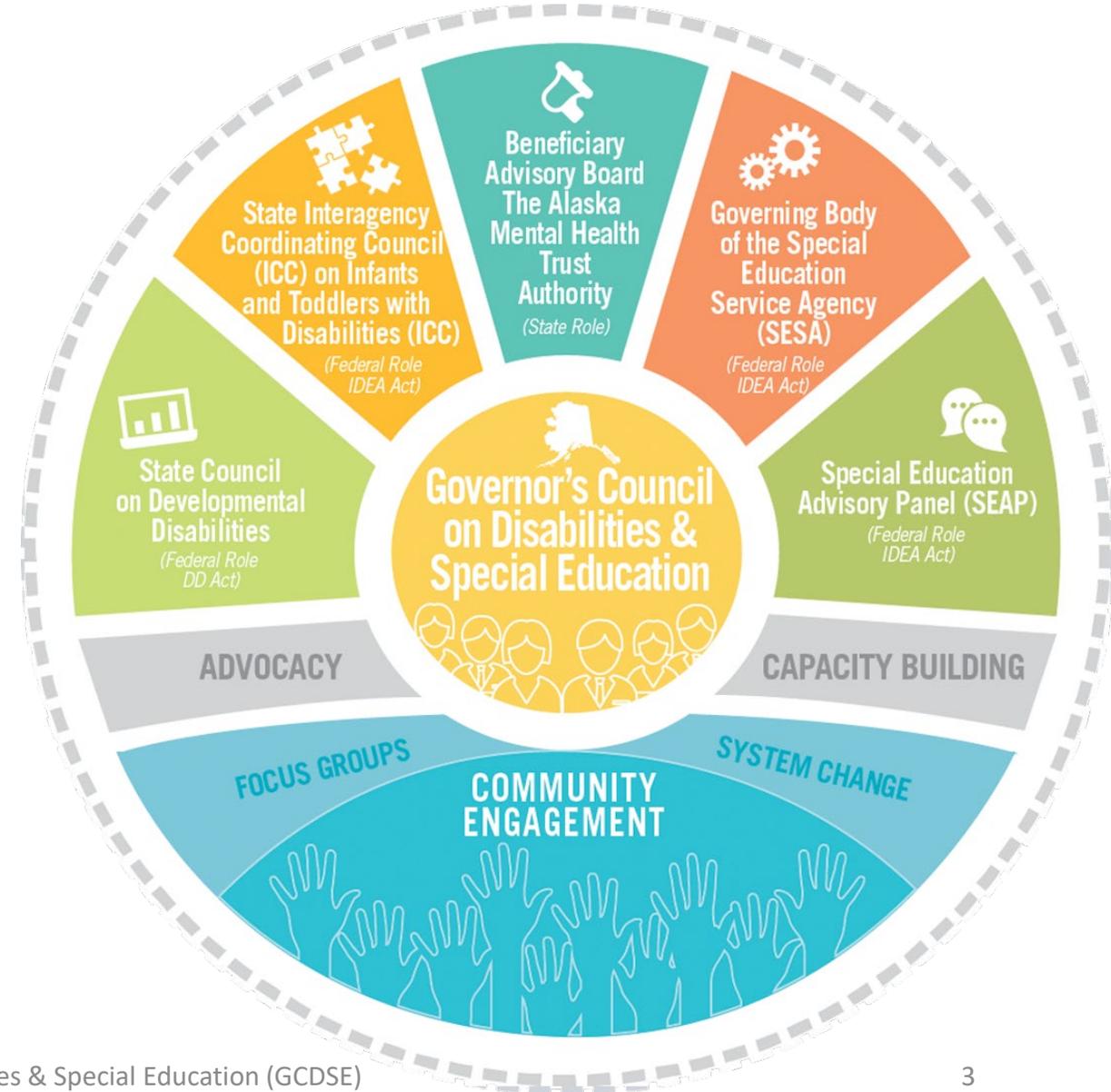
Mission: Creating change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities.

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

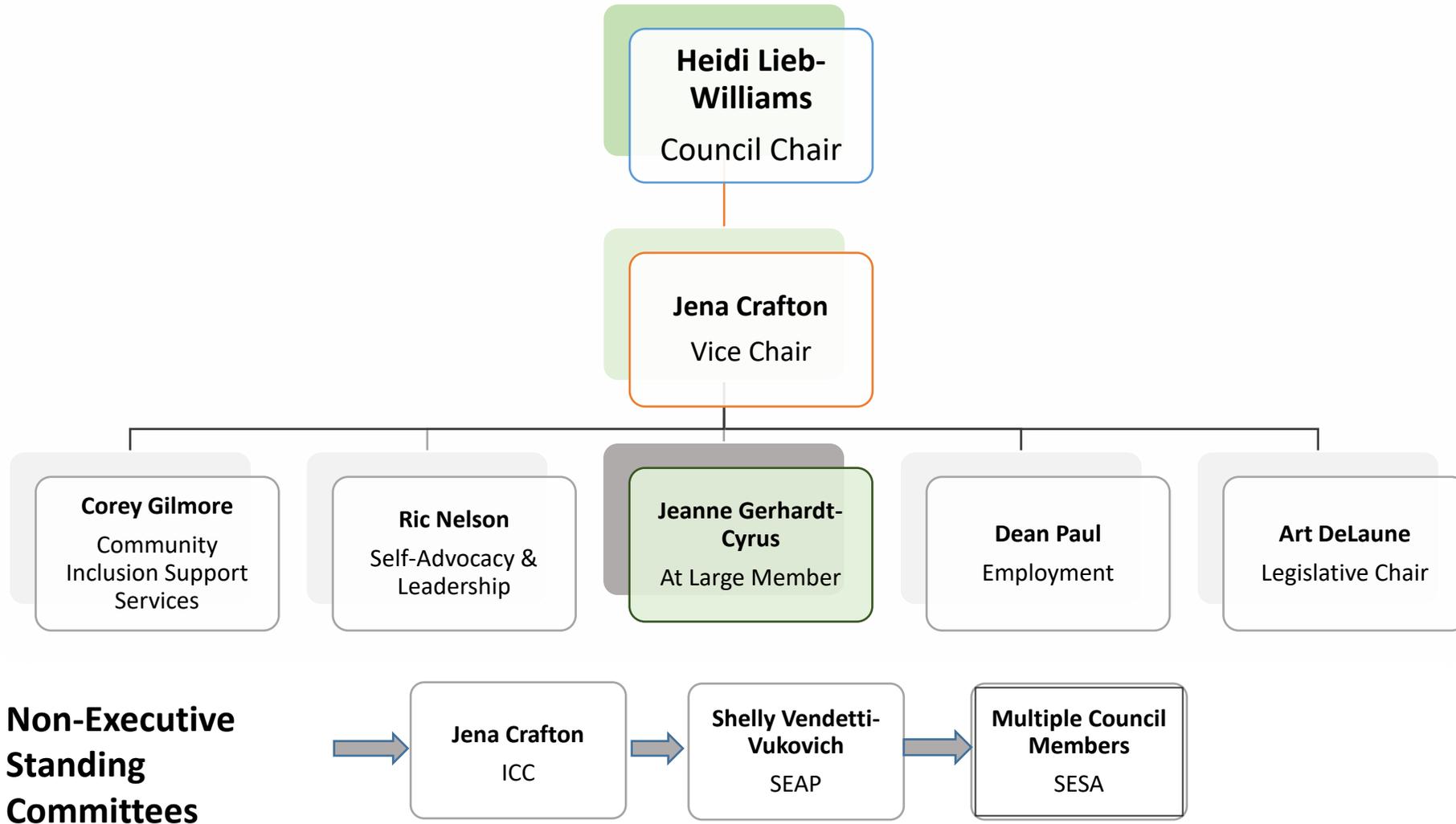
The Council fills five (5) separate state and federal roles for the State of Alaska.

The DD Act sets out three areas of focus:

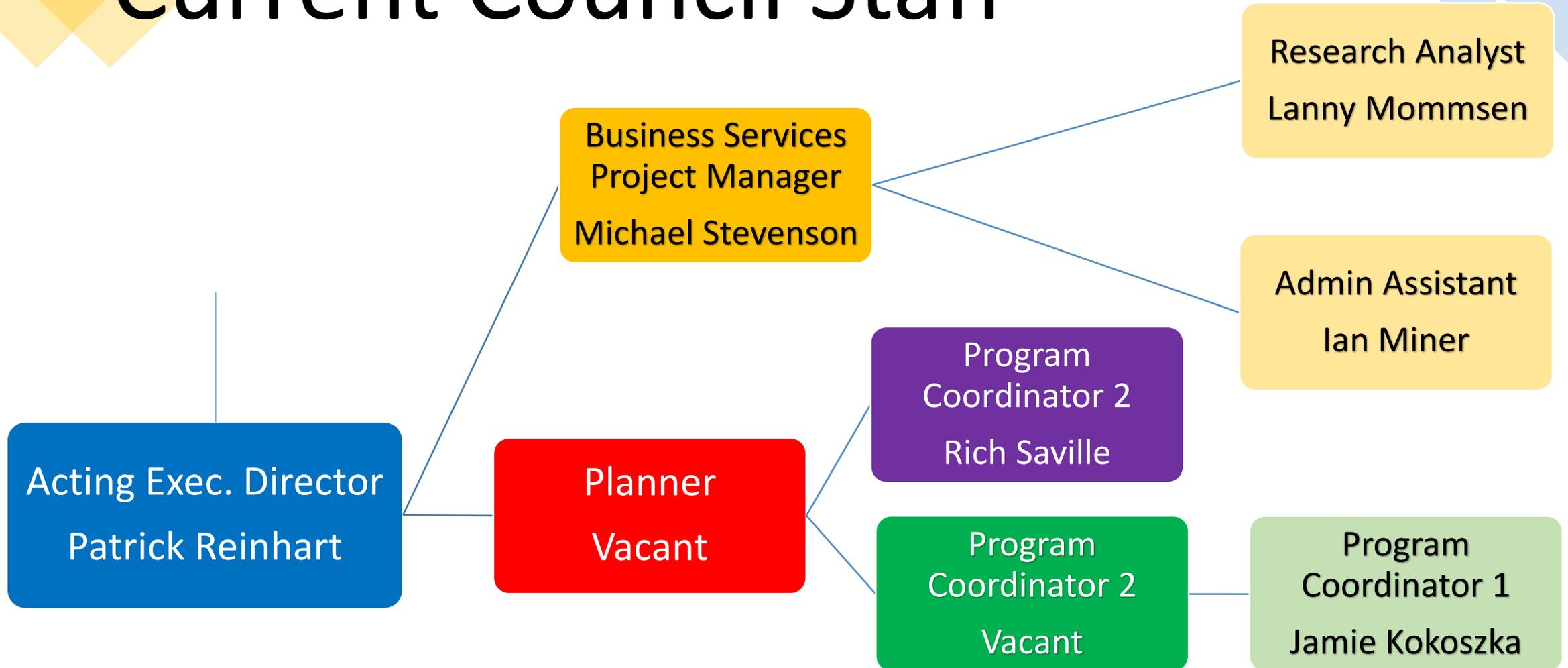
- 1) Capacity Building
- 2) Advocacy
- 3) Systems Change



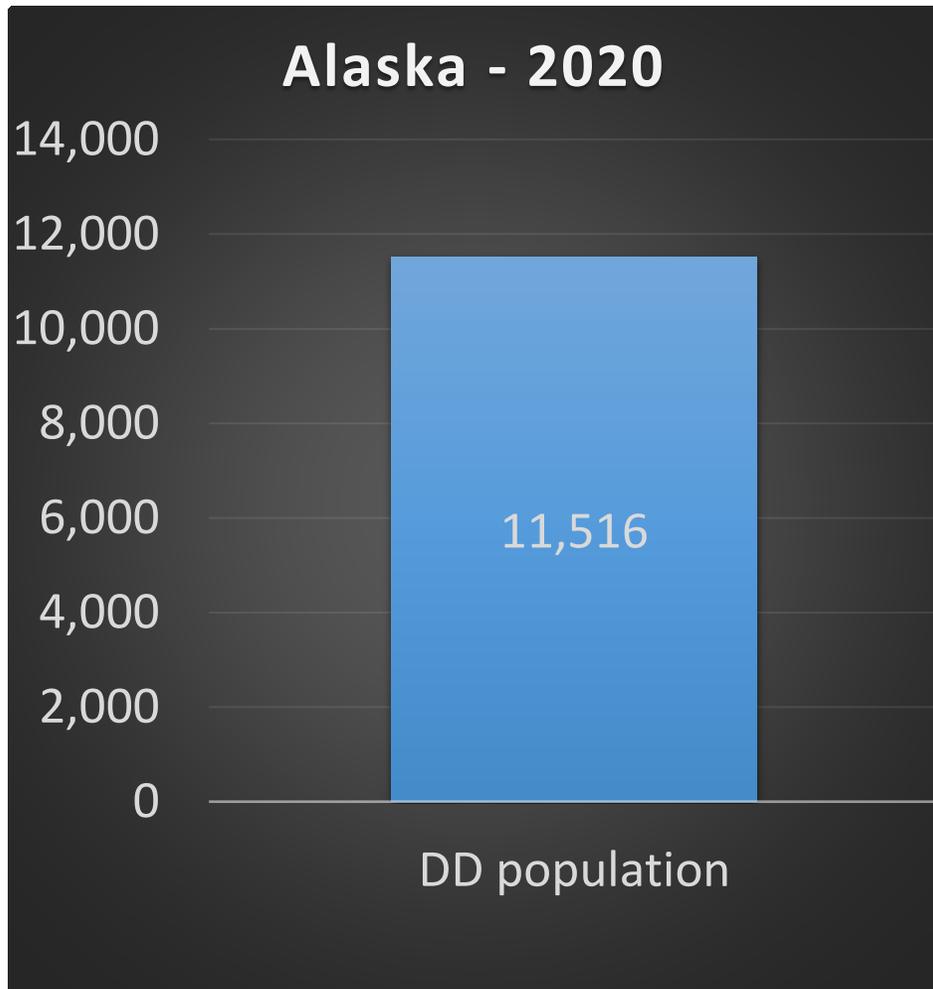
Council Executive Leadership



Current Council Staff



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).

State Council on Developmental Disabilities: New Five-Year Plan (2022 – 2026) Overview

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!



5/23/2022

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

Solutions

1. a. Sliding scale cab rides for senior/disabled
- b. transit system in rural areas to key locations on set schedule.
- c. have wheelchair/ada compliant vehicles for easy access to appts on a call in/same day. Shuttle van or shopping
2. Ebt cash/cab for rides according to needs
3. have caregiver/coordinator help set up appts. and transportation with Doctor/care team

Transportation Vouchers

1. IIC cab tokens not cost effective for working. You pay 7 for every ride on token
2. - sliding scale cab rides for seniors/disabled
2. - some places taxis dont 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 by drs because right now its up to patient to make sure ride is scheduled

#1 = Transportation

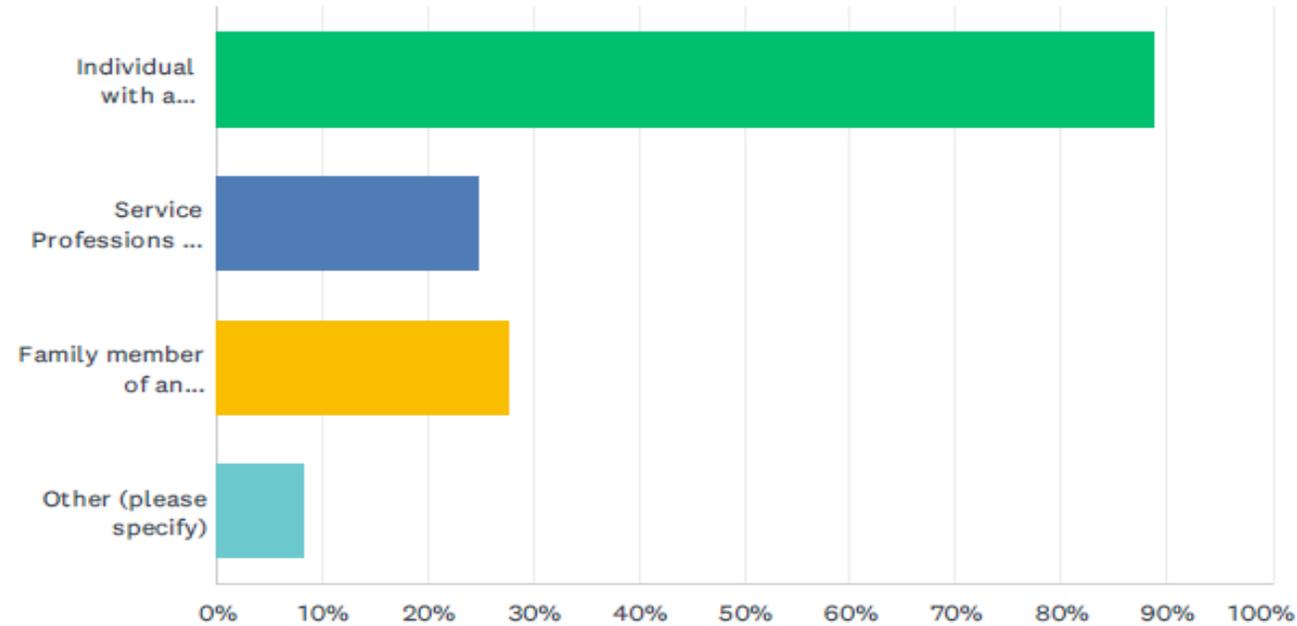
- affordable
- accessibility
- getting to work
- staff who can drive / more staff
- public transportation - incl. accessible cabs
- flexible / on-demand / as needed
- barriers w/ taxi vouchers
- Medicaid transportation
- safe sidewalks

Peer Power Small Group Focus Area Example

TRANSPORTATION

Q4 Please check ALL categories below that describe your interest or involvement in disability issues:

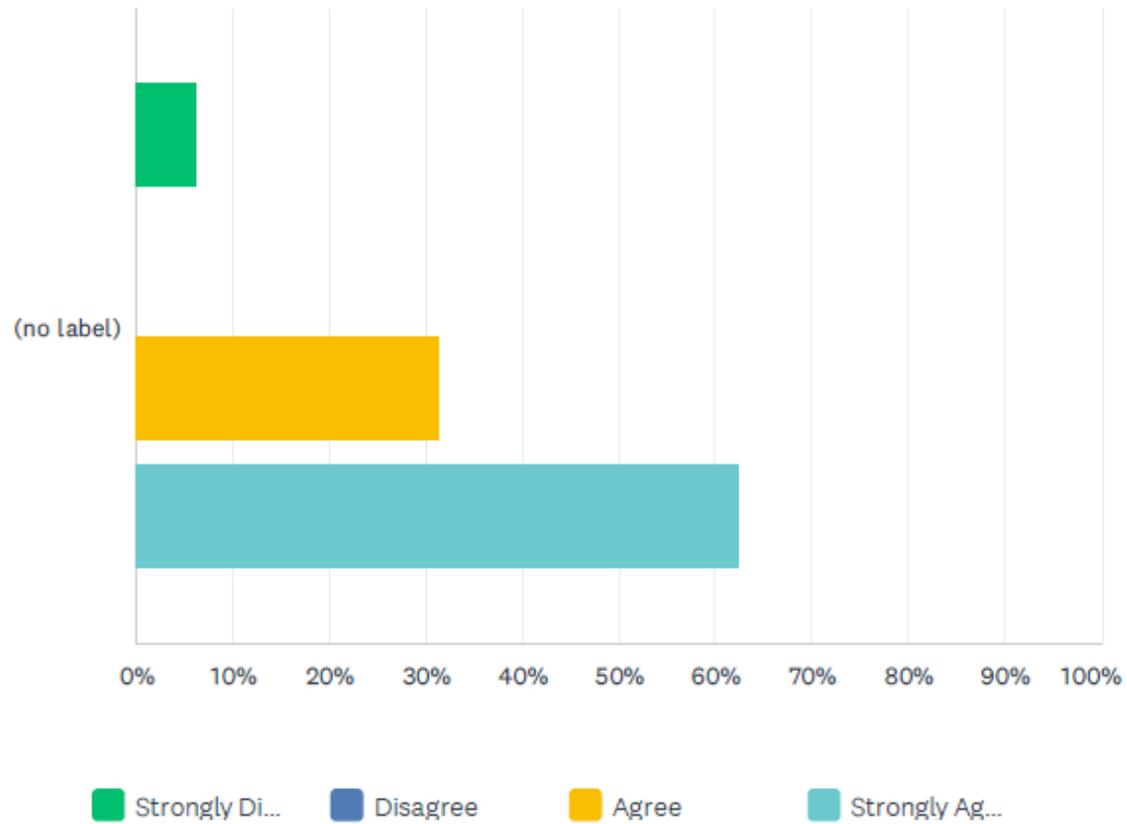
Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Individual with a Developmental Disability	88.89%	32
Service Professions & Care Coordinators	25.00%	9
Family member of an individual with a developmental disability	27.78%	10
Other (please specify)	8.33%	3
Total Respondents: 36		

Q6 As a result - my knowledge of Advocacy topics/ Issues has increased

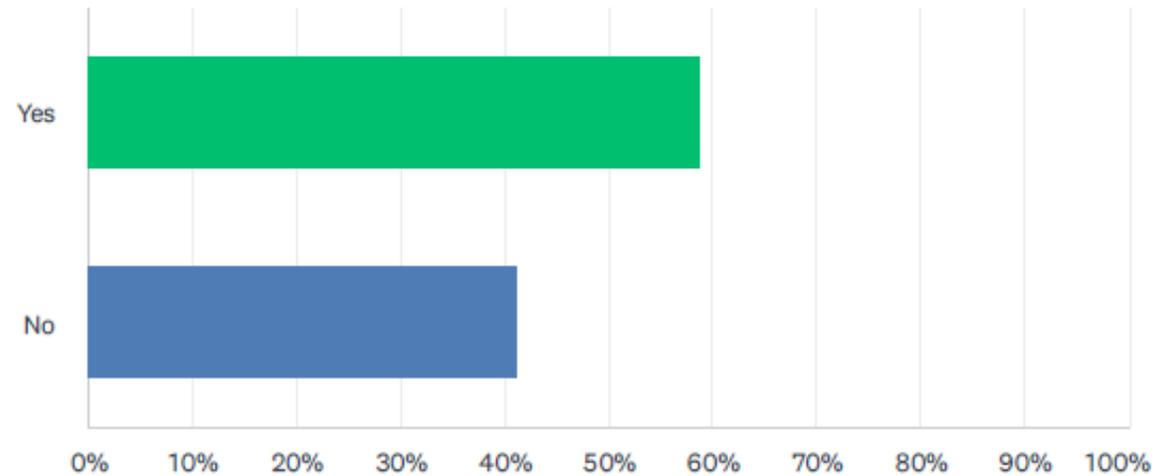
Answered: 32 Skipped: 4



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	6.25%	0.00%	31.25%	62.50%	32	4.44
	2	0	10	20		

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



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.82%	20
No	41.18%	14
TOTAL		34

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

Questions?

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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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