

# Leadership Report

## Chair & Executive Director

### Spring Council Meeting – May 13, 2021



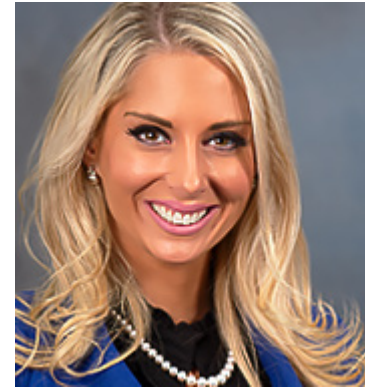
**Corey Gilmore**  
Chair



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

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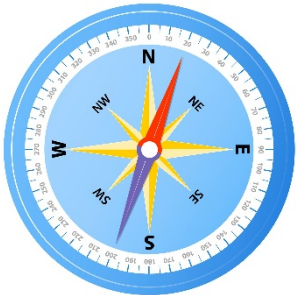
**Kristin Vandagriff**  
Executive Director

# GCDSE Mission, Vision, & Roles:

26 Council members appointed by the Governor

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

**DD 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 and services available throughout the state now and into the future.



# DD Council Role:

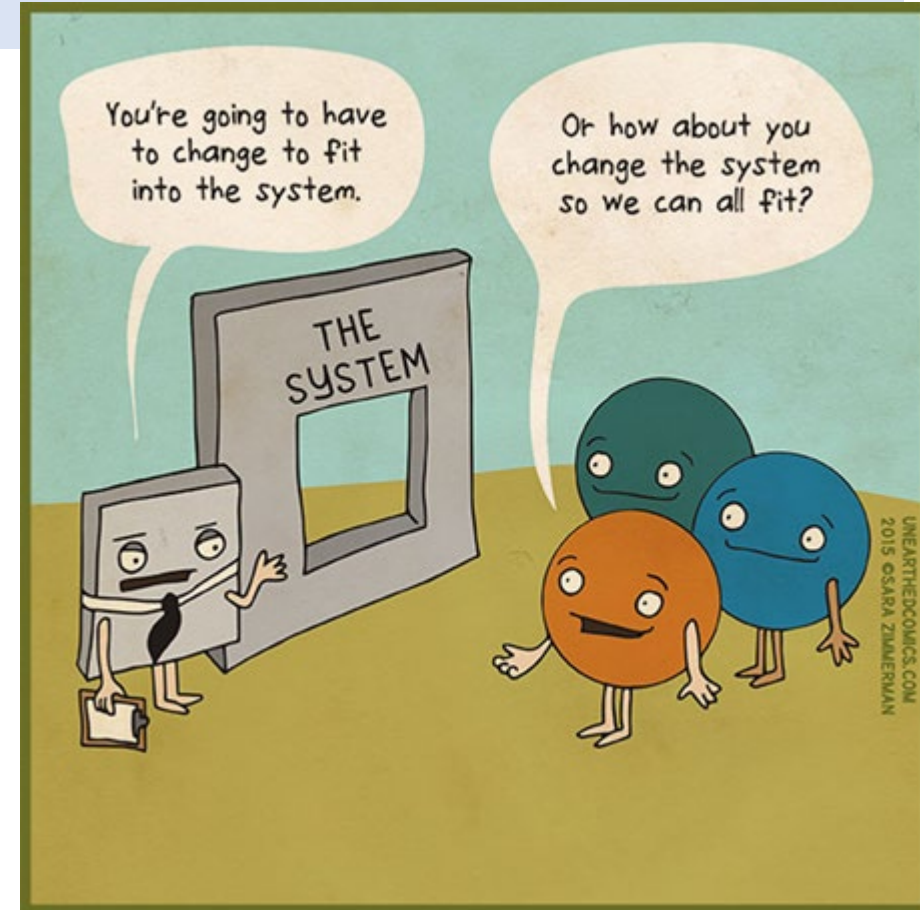
Advocacy: To change what is to what should be



Capacity Building: Making something stronger

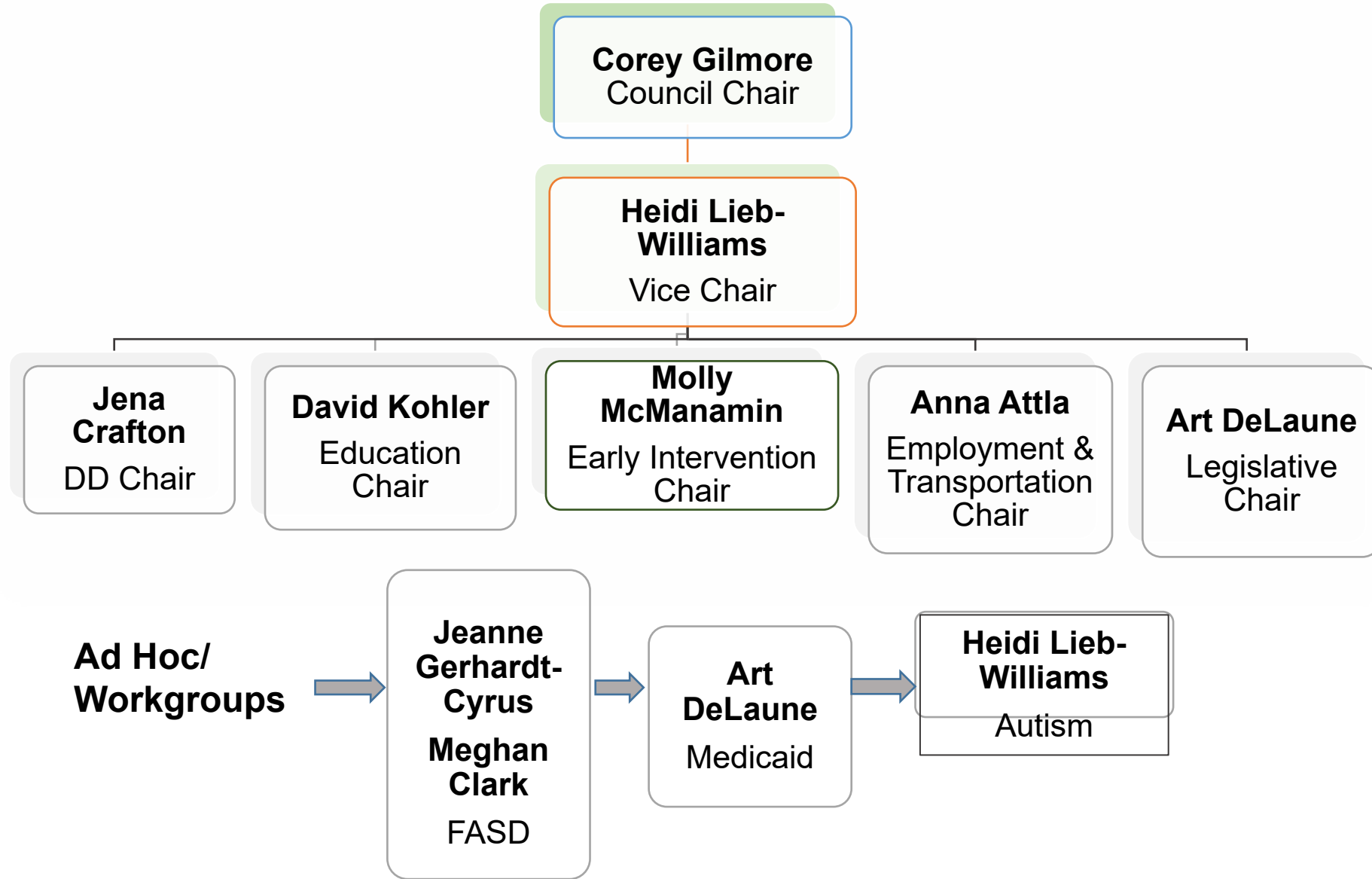


Systems Change: Making a system better so people can fit

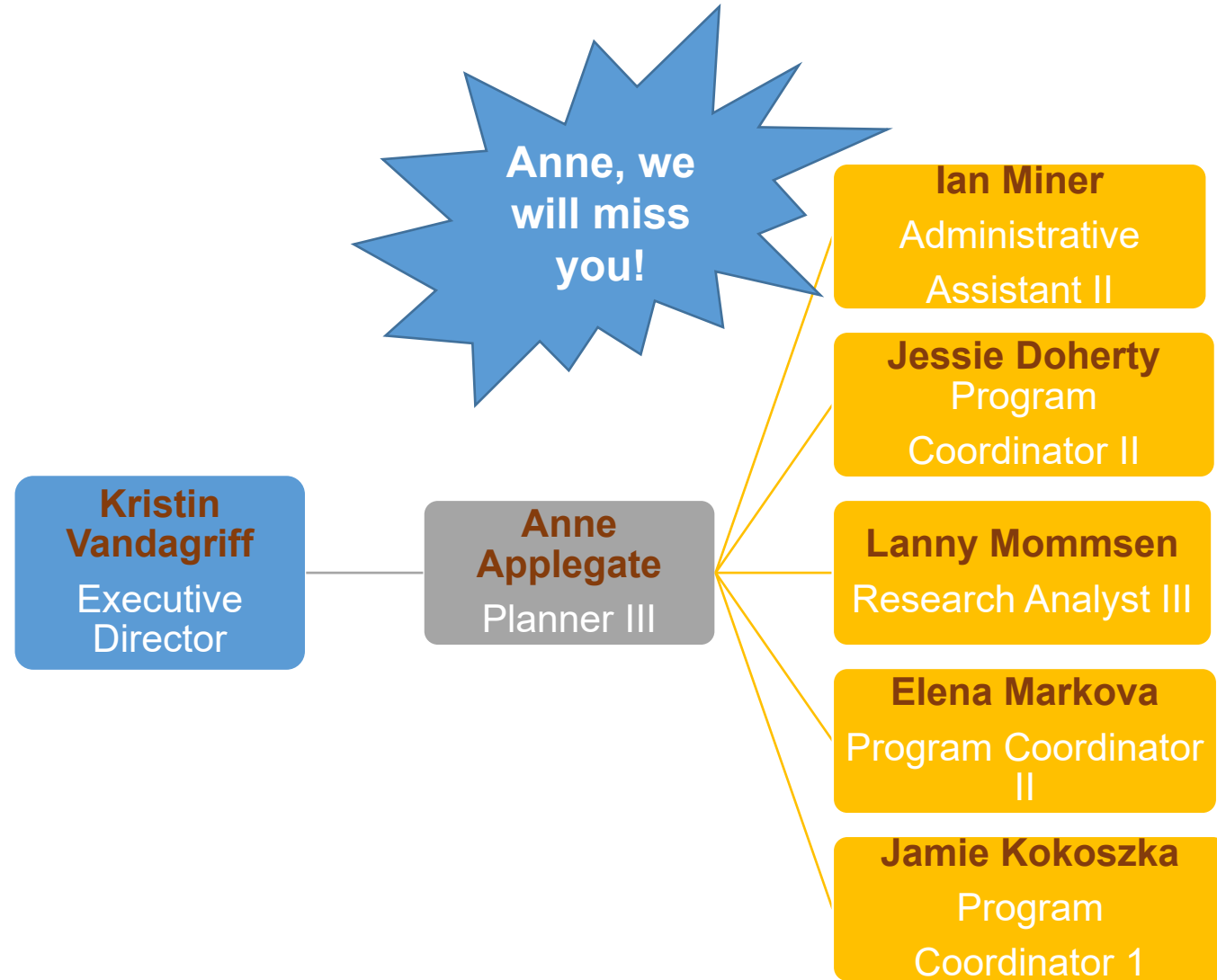


Reference: Kellie McCain, Kentucky DD

# Council Member Leadership



# Council Staff



# Executive Director Highlights:

- Met regularly with DVR Director, Trust Program Officer, as well as DSDS Director and Deputy Director
- Oversaw Council virtual legislative visits and follow up efforts
- Served on DD Collaborative Legislative Team
- Served as Alaska State Captain for Disability Policy Seminar
  - Supported Alaskans to participate
  - Facilitated stakeholder meetings with U.S. Congressional Delegation
- Participated weekly several NACDD national calls, including as a member of the Public Policy committee
- Oversaw initial process to accept DD Council COVID funding

# Executive Director Highlights:

- Monitored SFY 21 budget and processed SFY21 contracts
- SFY22 budget review and monitoring of process
- ACL Living Well grant (semiannual reporting submitted; carryover amendment written and in-process)
- Attended coordinated calls and joint advocacy meetings with the Trust and Advisory Boards (weekly)
- Oversaw Trust reporting update (submitted March 2021)
- Supporting State 5-Year Plan Development Efforts
- Oversaw DD Council Program Performance Reporting

# Executive Director Highlights:

- Panelist for Alaska Leadership Institute (April 2021)
- Presented to SDS All-Staff Gathering on the Council (April 2021)
- Served as the Alaska Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator
- Staff Legislative, Medicaid Ad Hoc, and Executive Committees
- Facilitated DDDR recommendation efforts
- Co-facilitated (with DVR) the first meeting of the Alaska Work Matters Task Force
- Supported Council members in developing several letters:
  - HB 133 and HB 103/HB89
  - Partner letters of support (DLC, CHD, LINKS)
  - Employment Services Proposed Regulations
  - Summary of February public testimony for state agency leadership
  - I/DD and APDD Waiver Renewal Application



# COVID-19 Resources:

- **Alaska COVID-19 Website:** [covid19.alaska.gov](https://covid19.alaska.gov)
- **Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19 Website:** [dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx)
- You may call the Alaska COVID-19 Care Line Phone Number at **(844) 985-8275**.
  - They may offer resources and mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **More Resources for well-being:** [dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Pages/Well-Being-Alaska.aspx](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Pages/Well-Being-Alaska.aspx)

# Council COVID-19 Resources:

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON  
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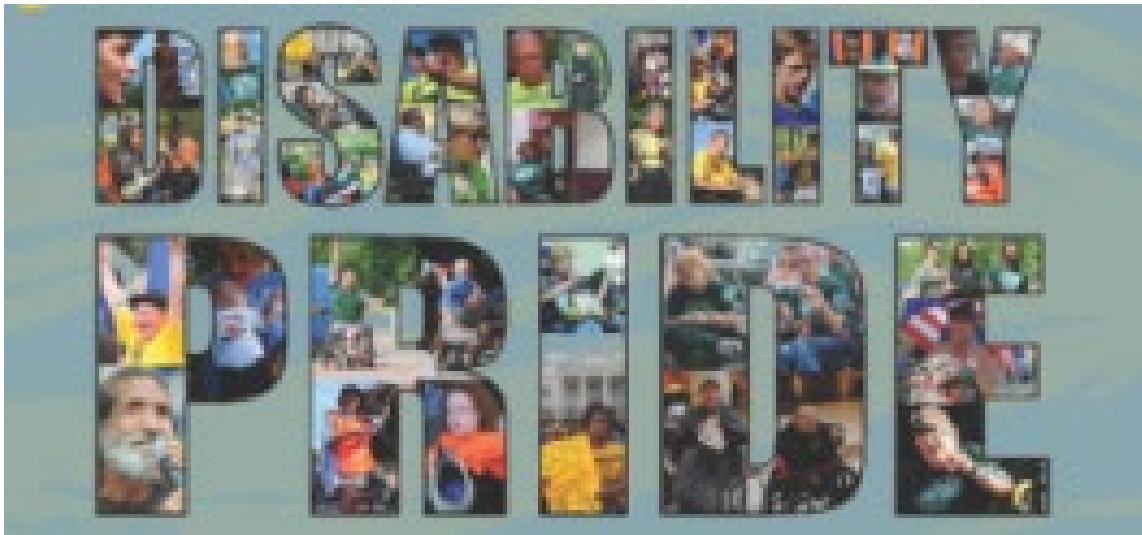
Council resources, developed with partners to support, for Alaskans with disabilities and their families amidst the current pandemic:

- **Alaska Specific Plain Language COVID-19 Toolkit:**  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/covid-19/Alaska-COVID-19-Toolkit.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.
- **Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19 Stimulus Payments and ABLÉ Accounts:**  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/news/2020-Stimulus-FAQs--Accesible.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with Disability Law Center and the Department of Revenue.
- **Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services FAQs:**  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Extended-School-Year%20FAQs--Accessible.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- **Your Child's Rights to Special Education During COVID-19:**  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Rights-to-special-ed-COVID19--Fact%20sheet.pdf> This was a collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- **Empowerment Through Employment Guide:**  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/EmpowermentThroughEmployment.pdf> This was a collaborative efforts with the Trust and many other partners.

# Disability Pride Celebration

**July 26-30 2021**  
**Noon-1pm each day**

- Disability Pride means accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing disability as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.
- Disability Pride awareness events promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.



# Message from Corey...



- Experiences from the Alaska Leadership Institute
- If there was one thing you could change the system what would it be?
- Open Meetings Act reminder (discussions occur in meetings, not via email)
- You can always attend Executive Committee meeting
  - Usually occurs the first Friday of the month 12-1:45pm

# Message from Corey...

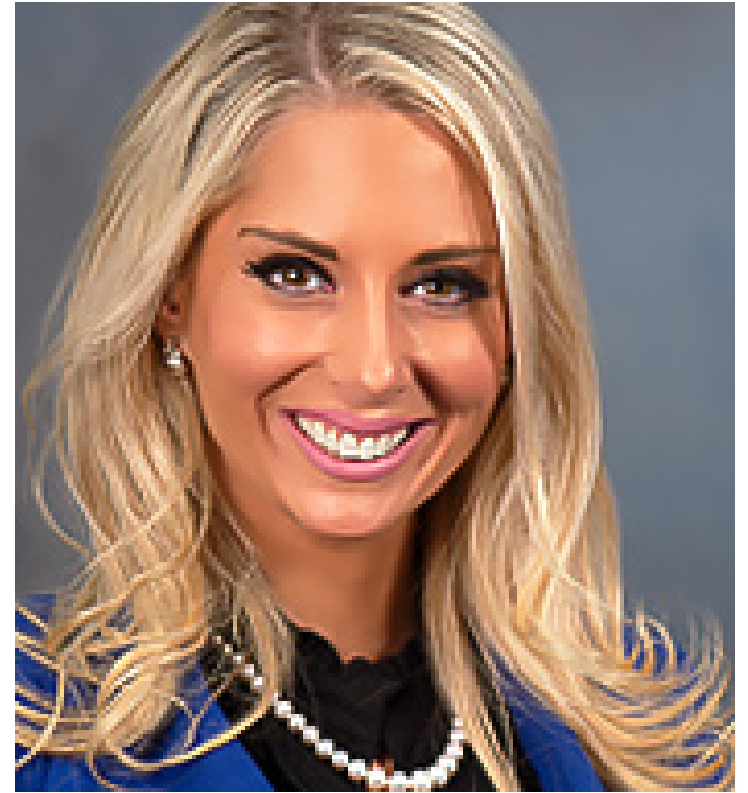


## Code of Conduct – Boards and Commissions

- “As a member of a board or commission, you are considered a public officer (Alaska Constitution Article III, Section 26). When attending your meetings, you are acting in your official capacity on behalf of the State of Alaska. As required by the Open Meetings Act (AS 44.62.310-.312), all meetings are public. Minutes are recorded, certified, and available for public access in perpetuity. It is imperative that the board and its individual members maintain the public’s trust. This Code of Conduct is intended to ensure that the highest level of integrity and ethical standards are upheld. Your signature confirms your commitment to following this Code.
  - Demonstrate professional civility for fellow board members, staff, and the public in all matters.
  - Avoid emotional outbursts or anything that could be considered threatening or intimidating.
  - Respect and adhere to rules, policies, and guidelines of the board or commission.
  - Ensure each matter is dealt with in a fair, equitable, and impartial manner.
  - Courteously accept decisions made by the majority of the board, regardless of a possible conflicting opinion.
  - Ensure the ability for full participation by all members.
  - Strive beyond the norm to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest that may compromise the integrity of the board.”

# The Known Horizon for 2021:

- Monitoring local, state, and federal mandates/guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (Ongoing)
- Monitoring legislative/budget developments on a local, state, and federal level
- ACL Living Well Semiannual Reporting (October 2021)
- Some Council member terms expire June 30, 2021
- Completion of next State 5-Year Plan (Due August 2021)
- Fall Council Meeting (Late Sept. 2021)
- Program Performance Reporting as DD Council and State Plan Update (December 2021)



Questions?

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