

Semiannual Report – Alaska Living Well

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Project Title: Living Well on the Last Frontier

Grantee Name/Address: Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education

550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1230, Anchorage Alaska 99501

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Semiannual Report – Alaska Living Well

Living Well on the Last Frontier

April 2022 – October 2022

Progress Report: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Outcomes:

Overarching Goal: *To increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well-being of individuals with DD through realization of our shared DD 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.”*

Despite the many challenges, the Alaska Living Well team and its partners continued to push forward. The team worked hard to complete the plan activities, coordinate in-person events, conferences, trainings, and presentations—many for the first time in over two years; this was a significant accomplishment despite limited staff and resources all around. These include the Full Lives Conference (Appendix A), Peer Power Self-Advocacy Summit (Appendix B), the Statewide and Anchorage Disability Pride Celebration (Appendix C), the Alaska State Fair Embracing Diversity event (Appendix D), Statewide Independent Living (SILC) Living’s Working, and Playing Towards Independence Conference (Appendix E), Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority’s Improving Lives Conference (Appendix F), and the Disability and Aging Summit in early October. The Council co-hosted the Independent Living (IL) Conference in September, with the Council ED providing presentations on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force (WMTF), Priority updates from GCDSE as a State Board, and its final presentation called “The Time is now!” All of which relate to the LW grant.

Another high point was the completion of the Final Report for the Work Force Task Matters. The findings were presented at a statewide disability conference co-hosted by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE), the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, DVR and Workforce Investment Board, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority in September 2022. The Council ED provided presentations on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force (WMTF) as well as two other presentations. Additionally, GCDSE hosted the “I Have Rights” and “I Have Dreams” webinars which were very successful (Appendix G and H).

The DD Collaborative remains an important advisory group for the grant’s efforts as it is comprised of many self-advocates and family members working closely to promote the Alaska DD Shared Vision statewide. The Council promoted the Vision through Disability Pride t-shirts, the GCDSE website (<https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/pages/default.aspx>), social media posts, listservs, and by weaving the vision into webinars, trainings, and other events. The Council worked closely with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust) on the Alaska Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (Comp Plan) <https://health.alaska.gov/Commissioner/Pages/MentalHealth/default.aspx>, a key facet of sustainability planning. The Comp Plan supports the Council 5-Year plan, and some aspects align with the Living Well plan. The Trust Joint Staffing and Beneficiary Employment Engagement (BEE) plans fill the gaps on LW activities that are not within the scope of the LW grant. Staff provided technical and administrative support to the Trust Program Officer for the purpose of planning, development, and implementation of designated activities. The Council co-hosted the Independent Living (IL) Conference in September,



with the Council ED providing presentations on the History of Independent Living in Alaska, the Alaska Work Matters Task Force (WMTF), and Priority updates from GCDSE as a State Board.

Objective 1: *Enhance the health and safety of individuals who experience developmental disabilities by increasing their independence, self-determination, community integration, employment, and participation.*

Southeast Alaska Independent Living Inc. (SAIL), continued to work towards enhancing the current EMOD (environmental modification) process as well as increasing awareness of HomeMAP (Home Modifications for Aging in Place) assessments. SAIL assessed the EMOD system access and delivery process to provide recommendations for improvement. SDS & SAIL continue to meet to discuss strategies to improve consumer access to EMOD funding. SDS has prioritized improving a list of available EMOD contractors and providers, as there are presently only 3 known EMOD contractors; SAIL is assisting with the Southeast Alaska contractor search. An idea for a toolkit was brought forward on how to become an EMOD provider or contractor that could be posted online but is outside the scope of the grant. Other suggestions included ideas for advertising and incentives on becoming a contractor or provider.

The current number of completed HomeMAP assessments for the fiscal year is 5, spanning 5 different communities: Juneau, Haines, Ketchikan, Prince of Wales, and Sitka. The yearly, statewide web-based training has been scheduled to be administered to Independent Living (IL) and DD service providers in December 2022 on HomeMAP related topics and will likely cover Disability Integration and Home Modifications to assist with Emergency Situations. Presenters will include Kara Thrasher-Livingston and Bridget Thompson, SAIL's Accessibility Specialist who has a background in emergency preparedness. SAIL and the Red Cross have met 3 times over this reporting period to find new ways to integrate disability inclusion into emergency preparedness. Regarding the web based, HomeMAP resource toolkit, there are currently 4 resources on the SDS website with more on the way <https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/emod/default.aspx>. SAIL is looking to add at least 2 more resources by the end of the calendar year; one on bathrooms and another on emergency preparedness. SAIL participated in other grant related activities such as presenting at the SILC Statewide Independent Living (IL) Conference which took place in September 2022, which included the history of Independent Living, information about SAIL, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

Regarding the identification and utilization of assistive technology & home accessibility modifications to address current and potential barriers to safety, independence and social interaction, SAIL discovered HomeMAP is not a service that the Division has been willing to pay for under current budget structure because it is not affordable. The Living Well grant allowed SAIL to identify and reveal the many barriers related to EMOD and HomeMAP while attempting to complete the activities. Examples include budgetary constraints, limited number of contractors, DSP staff workload, Covid issues, limited data sets or access to the data, and various other issues. Because of the myriad of issues that are affecting the utilization of E-Mods in Alaska, GCDSE Interim ED Reinhart put forward a research project proposal to the 22-23 Class of LEND Fellows at the Center for Human Development and in September CHD found a LEND fellow to work on this project under the direction and guidance of CHD, GCDSE and SAIL. This student will develop a white paper which outlines the problems and potential solutions to statewide improvement, which will also be included in the final report with findings and recommendations regarding EMOD and HomeMap will provide the necessary documentation and evidence for systems change. The final report with findings and recommendations regarding EMOD and HomeMap will provide the necessary documentation and evidence for systems change.

SAIL Highlight: *SAIL has been working to increase the resources for emergency preparedness and assistive technology within the HomeMAP assessment. One consumer received a HomeMAP through the LW grant that needed assistive technology in his home to live independently had a couple of diagnosed developmental disabilities that impacted his mobility and comfort in the home. Some of his prioritized modifications were to be able to open his front door from anywhere in or around the home, and simplify remote controls for all of his technology. After some research and reaching out to the Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA) for recommendations, SAIL was able to meet his technology needs, and created resources to use in the HomeMAP assessment going forward.*

The newly hired SDS Living Well staff familiarized their selves with the LW grant and its partners during this reporting period. This entailed participating in GCDSE LW small group and project manager meetings, meeting with grant partners, and reviewing paused or stagnant activities to determine their status and the feasibility of resuming and completing them. One example includes activity 1.7.4 regarding the Complex Behavior Committee. The new SDS Living Well staff worked to determine where the project left off and its relationship to the already established Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC) within the Department of Behavioral Health <https://health.alaska.gov/dbh/Pages/ComplexBehavior/Default.aspx>. The Complex Behavior Collaborative was initiated in 2012 to help individuals with complex needs—who exhibit physical aggression and also receive Medicaid services—to remain in the least restrictive, least intrusive setting with natural supports. Target populations include adults and youth (age 6 years and older) who experience a serious mental illness, developmental disability, a traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer’s/Dementia (or related disease), or chronic substance abuse complicated by a cognitive impairment who also demonstrate complex behavior management needs.

SDS LW staff met with the CBC and discussed ways to increase collaboration with SDS leadership. A CBC ad-hoc group meets weekly to discuss current individuals place in out-of-state PRTFs and how to collaborate with the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) to transition these individuals with complex behaviors back into Home and Community Based services in Alaska. SDS intends to meet with stakeholders to discuss what is feasible for this activity within the scope of the LW Grant. SDS recommends including the existing Complex Behavior Collaborative as a partner to this activity, to utilize and advance an existing resource.

SDS continued to work with the Family ECHO project in collaboration with the UAA, CHD. The Family ECHOs theme for this Fiscal Year is Empowering Parents as Professionals, with a focus on children and young adults and how to empower parents to navigate the system. A total of 8 Family ECHO sessions took place during this reporting period, with 554 registrants (FY 22 season). Topics and information are included in Appendix I. Appendix J shows the Series Recap of FY 22 created by CHD. SDS and members of the Family ECHO Hub team explored ways to increase participation from individuals and families that receive DD waiver services. A survey was created by CHD and distributed by the Family ECHO Hub team to elicit feedback from participants on the best time for sessions to be held. Survey results indicated participants preferred the sessions be held from 12pm to 1pm. The Family ECHO hub team made this change to increase participation from individuals and families. SDS created a Family ECHO flyer for the “SDS E-alert” email listserv system to notify providers and encourage them to share the information with families. (Appendix K).

HOPE Community Resources led the Community Engagement project through Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD), as funded by the ACL Grant. AADD reports that the initial pilot of this curriculum was very successful; the training resulted in a lasting impact on the quality of life for people receiving services. The training went out in 2 sessions at the April 2022 Full Lives Conference as planned.

AADD and HOPE anticipate moving forward with administering training for the 10 provider organizations during the next reporting period. Hope Community Resources has been a willing partner in strategizing how to make this curriculum widely available, to include making the training available in a virtual learning environment. AADD and HOPE are also excited to move forward with embedding the Community Relationship-Building Training into a statewide training resource. Based on the success of this project, AADD plans to develop a tool that will expand the number of direct support professionals statewide that will receive this training. This Living Well activity will have a lasting impact on the DSP workforce, and recipients of their services with developmental disabilities will be available for years to come.

Peer Power’s 5th Annual statewide Self-Advocacy Summit took place in person from April 29th – May 1st in Anchorage. The Council created, disseminated, and analyzed the Peer Power Summit surveys and advertisement through listserv publications and social media posts. 65 Alaskans with developmental disabilities and / or their supporters from across the state attended the Summit. Topics included: Identifying needs and wants, Systems Advocacy, Advocacy Skill Building, and Voting. Participants narrowed their focus to three areas: transportation, housing, and access to person-directed services. One participant shared that his dream job was to become a movie director and created a mini- “movie” with his networking group which led to being approached by Peer Power to create advocacy videos.



Peer Power Highlights: On the first night of the Summit, one of the networking activities asked participants to share with each other what their dream job is. One of the participants shared that his dream job was to become a movie director. The next day, attendees broke into small groups to create presentations on a variety of topics. The aspiring movie director, with the support of his group, create a mini “movie” about the challenge of transportation for people with disabilities. The movie was presented to the larger group and received a standing ovation. At the end of the Summit, the participant who put the movie together shared that this was the most meaningful weekend of his life and he had never felt so valued. In addition, he was approached about making additional advocacy videos for Peer Power; a step forward in his career. Not only is this individual better off, Peer Power has identified a resource that will benefit their advocacy movement. This movie is available at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tpI4-tEZPGUleNx0tjfU6kCpB46cNZV-/view?usp=sharing>

Council staff continued to facilitate high-level leadership meetings with the State Exchange on Employment and Disability (SEED), the Council on State Governments (CSG), and other Alaskan leaders, to discuss the implementation of the Employment First law. Council staff provided behind the scenes support with scheduling, surveying, document development and sharing, meeting notes and minutes, and technical assistance for Zoom. A small, high-level team met regularly with report writer Bobby Silverstein to develop the Work Matters Final Report, providing recommendations that should be adopted by the Governor. The WMTF report was completed during this reporting period. It has been published, submitted to the Governor and his cabinet, applicable departments, agencies, and commissions of the executive branch, and policy options for consideration by the legislative branch to expand and improve employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Twenty-two recommendations and sixty-eight action steps were identified by the Task Force and are described in detail in the full report. Hard copies of the report were disseminated to the public at conferences, electronic copies over social media, listserv publications, and has been posted to the GCDSE website at: <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/AKWorkMattersReport.pdf>. The findings were presented at a statewide disability conference co-hosted by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE), the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, DVR and Workforce Investment Board, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority in September 2022. The Council co-hosted the Independent Living (IL) Conference in September, with the Council ED providing presentations on the History of Independent Living in Alaska, the Alaska Work Matters Task Force (WMTF), and Priority updates from GCDSE as a State Board. All presentations relate to the LW grant. GCDSE created and disseminated a survey for the conference, but analysis will not be available until next reporting period.

Objective 2: *Strengthen the knowledge and skills of direct support professionals to use evidenced-based and/or promising practices related to culturally and linguistically person-centered thinking and supported decision-making which may improve workforce stability, retention, and advancement.*

Regarding Activity 2.3.1, distributing, adopting, and realizing the Common Code of Ethics for DSPs over the course of the grant, AADD has supported AADSP (Alaska Alliance of DSPs) in adopting the National Alliance of DSPs, their Code of Ethics. Training took place at least two times: one Full Lives Conference and at AADD Face-to-Face meetings but not annually because the activity is already deeply embedded in the Alaska Alliance for DSPs and is referred to frequently as it is used as a base for all DSP related work and trainings. There are ongoing trainings at the national level. Multiple providers across the state have adopted this code of ethics and embedded it in their training for DSPs. Activity 2.3.3 regarding the DSP video, AADD reports has not been doable due to the high cost of \$30,000 at the minimum. Current AADD Director is still interested in the project. It was noted that NADSP may have a video or other resources that could take its place. Activity 2.3.5 regarding the statewide survey to assess knowledge of the Code of Ethics, former AADD Director reported that doing the survey at this point would not capture whether DSPs gained any further knowledge that is already embedded in the system on the code of ethics.

Objective 3: *Strengthen and elevate the leadership roles that self-advocacy organization, Centers for Independent Living and other peer support networks, working together with families and others, play in improving and assuring the quality of home and community-based services.*



sessions and AADD meetings. The shared vision continues to be the organizational “north star”, with advocacy targeted toward how policy and practice should enhance flexibility, support self-determination, enhance trained workforce and supported families and individuals across the state and is incorporated into the advocacy presentation by Key / AADD (Appendix L) at the April 2022 Full Lives Conference.

Regarding community conversations in Activity 3.2.2., Empower Hour was added to the Council 5-year plan as a Key Activity. GCDSE worked with Peer Power to update their contract to address matters related to this project. After a year hiatus, Empower Hour resumed on October 20th, 2022. Details will be provided in the next reporting period. For Activity 3.1.6., Peer Power planned to present 2 advocacy trainings at the Statewide Independent Living (IL) conference which was scheduled to take place in person on April 19th and 20th 2022, the event was cancelled and rescheduled for the fall. Peer Power did not present as planned due to changes in the conference agenda.

Self-advocates continued to be actively engaged in all areas of grant work, to include co-presenting in GCDSE LW Zoom virtual presentations and discussion panels. GCDSE council member and staff member were on the panel for the "Disability Pride Activities in Alaska" June session of the IDD Family ECHO. This ECHO covered the history of Disability Pride

Senior and Disabilities Services and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education present:

The **Living Well: I Have Rights** Webinar

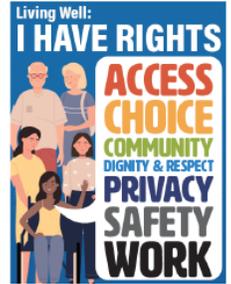
Tuesday, August 30, 2022 | 11:00am-12:30pm

Register for the Zoom here:

<https://gcdse2021.ticketbud.com/2022-i-have-rights-webinar>

For more information or to request an accommodation, please contact **Lanny Mommsen**.

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Regarding Activity 3.1.3. holding mini partners in policymaking self-advocacy leadership webinars, record webinar for Key self-advocacy to prepare people for Key Campaign about sharing their story. Key is working to train family members as well. Key Coalition, one of the grant’s statewide advocacy organization partners, continued to have work sessions weekly to maintain the momentum from the Key Campaign legislative advocacy effort where all advocates were welcome to attend. Board members from partner organization such as Peer Power, Infant Learning etc. and attendees representing AADD, Governors Council and Alaska Association of Direct Support Professionals also participated. Regular updates were provided by Key at work

Activities in Alaska, the upcoming activities for 2022, how to get involved in statewide and local Disability Pride Activities and allowed time for questions and answers.

The Council, SDS LW staff, and self-advocates produced another virtual “I Have Rights” toolkit guide presentation and audience discussion panel in August 2022. The webinar included guided discussion and small group breakout rooms (Appendix G). The toolkit details rights in access, choice, community, dignity & respect, privacy, safety, and work for Alaskans with developmental disabilities (Appendix M). The stories brought forth by advocates were alarming for some participants, as they had been unaware of the violation of rights of individuals with disabilities in this capacity. The “Living Well: I Have Rights” guide has been posted to the Council’s website <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/Publications/default.aspx> and is expected to be a lasting, sustainable product of the Living Well grant. GCDSE Staff collaborated DSDS and self-advocate panelists to produce the follow up virtual presentation and discussion panel called “I Have Dreams” in September 2022 where panelists and individuals with DD discussed their dreams and accomplishments, covering education, dream jobs, hobbies & activities, housing, relationships, self-advocacy, and overcoming barriers. 27 individuals attended the event. 86% of respondents were satisfied with the event. 79% of respondents reported they could apply skills learned from the event.

Objective 4: *Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of efforts by the state, the DD Act network and others to implement the HCBS settings rule and address rights violations in the HCBS service delivery system for people with DDs.*

The Council co-hosted the SILC Independent Living Conference in September 2022, which included an SDMA presentation by former GCDSE staff and attorney, Anne Applegate. Unfortunately, the presenter cancelled the day of the presentation. The DHSS website came back online at the end of October of 2021 after the cyberattack, but some of the information that had been on the GCDSE page regarding SDMA was lost. The Council has been gradually rebuilding the Council’s SDMA page <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/projects/SDMA/default.aspx>. Unique website hits will be reported during the next reporting period. The Council continues to share information on SDMA presentations via listserv bulletins and social media posts when applicable (upcoming training, etc.).

A SDMA video guide for legal service providers is up on DLC’s YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoRx7TgGLFTAQmVVeVXw-7g>. DLC’s lead attorney on this project relocated during the pandemic. The two remaining attorneys in the Anchorage office have been trained to assist with SDMAs,

Activity 4.2.5 regarding obtaining baseline and yearly measurement data from Adult Protective Services (APS) Reports of Harm (ROH) to complete a holistic picture of abuse and neglect in the community, DLC reports that aligning the information from both APS and Residential Licensing (Assisted Living) data sets has been challenging. The data points for abuse and neglect from APS differs significantly from Residential Licensing, making the statistics between APS and Licensing difficult to establish even a semi-accurate baseline. Developing a cogent baseline from which to evaluate may not be possible. This activity would need to change from establishing a baseline to aligning reporting parameters so that an accurate picture reducing abuse and neglect is possible. There are approximately 5 years’ worth of numbers that could probably define a “baseline” but DLC will need to seek assistance from Residential Licensing to interpret the data. No data is available for a lot of the years that were pulled.

The Council met in June 2022 and provided a report on the Living Well grant. Community members and participants of the DD Systems Collaborative met through various meetings and received monthly updates from one another. Staff gathered stakeholder feedback from individuals with DD and their families represented within the work of the grant. The Council continues to host a web page presence for the DD Shared Vision and is working with collaborators to increase available content <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/ddsharedvision/default.aspx>.

SDS Highlight: *For Activity 4.2.2., SDS LW staff collaborated with the GCDSE Research Analyst to collect statistical data on abuse and neglect for Alaskans with disabilities and is partnering with GCDSE, DLC (and their videographer) to develop Public Service Announcement (PSA)s based on the “I Have Rights” toolkit. The project will bring awareness to the rights of individuals with DD, as well as provide information on how to identify abuse and safety concerns, how to respond to the concerns, and provide resources on how to report abuse and neglect. The participants in the PSA video include a range of individuals with developmental disabilities, including an advocate who requires DSP assistance and owns their own business, to an individual*

that requires reasonable accommodations in high level job in an office setting. Developmental disability ranges from cerebral palsy, IDD, vision impairment, hearing aid users, ADHD, FASD, and others. Filming has been completed and the is in the final editing process. The PSA will be distributed during the next reporting period. The draft script is included as Appendix E.

In the search for data to include in the PSA, we found that Alaska has a limited amount of data surrounding reports of abuse and neglect against individuals with DD. The team decided to use some national data in addition to the limited Alaska data available, such as the Alaska Victimization Survey conducted by the Alaska Justice Information Center and the University of Alaska, Anchorage (Appendix N). The team has decided to use national data related to abuse and neglect in addition to the Alaska data; references for national data used are included in Appendix E. The measurable outcome for producing the PSA is “a 3% decrease in the number of individuals who have multiple Reports of Harm per year”. It is hoped that the PSA encourages individuals to make reports, which would increase the number of Reports of Harm. A draft script was written and distributed to the members working on this project for approval and feedback.

Other grant related activities: SDS was awarded a 2-year technical assistance grant from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) to assist the state in creating supports for older adults and people with disabilities to be more person centered. This grant will complement and enhance the Living Well activities, as it is being completed with the DD Shared Vision in mind. The AK NCAPPS team is comprised of SDS staff and stakeholders from Disability Law Center, Stone Soup Group, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and The Alaska Center for Human Development. During this reporting period, The AK NCAPPS team has been meeting monthly to define terms that are used within the state DD service system to make sure we all have a similar foundation of definitions of what “meaningful life”, “communication”, and “self-direction” is among other terms in the DD vision. SDS met with Peer Power to share the definitions the group came up with that are key to the DD Shared Vision. Content shared with Peer Power is attached as Appendix O. SDS staff has shared the feedback received with the rest of the team to further the development of the definitions. SDS also gained additional feedback from Peer Power regarding the state DD service and will use that in the process to advance person-centered principles within the state in year 2 of the TA.

Partnership Collaborations

The Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council or GCDSE), the administer of this grant, partners with organizations within the DD Systems Collaborative which includes: Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)--a statewide DD trade association, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust)--a State corporation, the Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLC)--a nonprofit state protection and advocacy organization, Peer Power, Inc.--a nonprofit peer advocacy organization, Key Coalition of Alaska--a nonprofit advocacy organization, State of Alaska Senior & Disability Services (SDS)--State agency, Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)--nonprofit independent living center, Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)--nonprofit public organization, and the Center for Human Development (CHD) of the University of Alaska (UAA)--University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/news/20170209.aspx>. The Living Well Semiannual report was written in collaboration with its Alaska Living Well grant partners. Partners include: SDS, AADD, Key Coalition, Peer Power, CHD, DLC, and SAIL.

The Council continued to work closely with the Alaska DD Systems Collaborative to make the Alaska DD Shared Vision a reality—which is the overarching goal of the Alaska Living Well grant (Appendix P). All of the projects facilitated by the Collaborative are co-led by self-advocates and is overseen by an advocate advisory team. The Collaborative, along with the Council, has served as the advisory board component for this grant; both are comprised of members with developmental disabilities and/or who are family members of individuals with developmental disabilities from a diverse set of socio-economic backgrounds, coming from various regions of the state. This has been a tremendous asset to obtaining input and feedback for all grant activities as they are the reason and purpose for the grant. The Council continues to partner with the Trust to integrate its work across the system, such as through the Alaska’s Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan for the Department of Health and Social Services Comp Plan.

Products Created and Disseminated: See appendices. The Council utilizes its website which is heavily trafficked and plans to continue updating the website with accessible recordings of webinars and related materials. The Council also maintains a robust statewide email listserv and social media pages for resource dissemination, as well as works with its grant partners and larger partner network to share resources statewide. Other products include the DD vision Disability Pride t-shirts, flyers, conference agendas, presentations (see appendices).

Evaluation Highlights: Data collection and analysis continue within the objectives. See specific objectives and Appendix for more details.

Objective 1: Peer Power Summit evaluation survey has been completed, disseminated, and analyzed. Of those that responded: 70% strongly agreed, and 26.7% agreed that they were overall satisfied with the Summit, over 96% agreed they their knowledge of advocacy and advocacy topics increased, 95% agreed that their knowledge of voting increased (voting was a big issue this year as Alaska is implementing ranked choice for the first time on our ballots), and 96% reported After participating in the Summit, they were better able to say what they want, which services and supports they want, or what is important to them. The main theme from the survey: Connecting and Networking where the most valuable information for participants from of the Summit. Some great quotes to sum this up: “I feel like I matter, and now I believe I matter to someone” “Making friends and creating leaders. Connecting with others.” “Believing in myself more. Helping advocate others for a better life.” (Appendix Q).

GCDSE created and disseminated surveys for the Independent Living conference, but analysis will not be available until next reporting period.

Objective 3: The “I have Rights” webinar took place in August 2022 with approximately 25 attendees. Unfortunately, only a small subset (7) of those that attended took the survey at the end of the webinar and some skipped questions as well. Still the majority of those that responded reported they were able to use the skills from this webinar in their life/ work, and well as the majority of people increased knowledge of their rights in the different areas of safety, community involvement, voting, and privacy. The “I Have Dreams” webinar in September 2022 had 27 individuals attended the event. 86% of respondents were satisfied with the event. 79% of respondents reported they could apply skills learned from the event.

Objective 4: Data on SDMA website hits as well as SDMA numbers from Disability Law Center will be reported next semi-annual. The DD Shared Vision Survey Year data collection plan has been finalized. GCDSE contracted with CHD to complete a mass mailout for the individuals with disabilities for the DD Vision survey to DSD’s waiver recipients and waitlist.