

Leadership Report

Chair & Executive Director

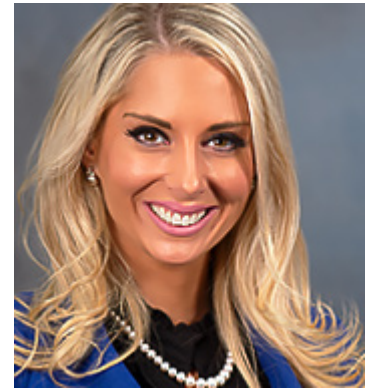
Fall Council Meeting – September 29-30, 2021



Heidi Lieb-Williams
Chair



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



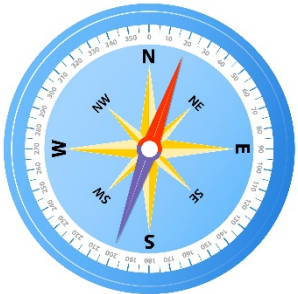
Kristin Vandagriff
Executive Director

GCDSE Mission, Vision, & Roles:

25 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:

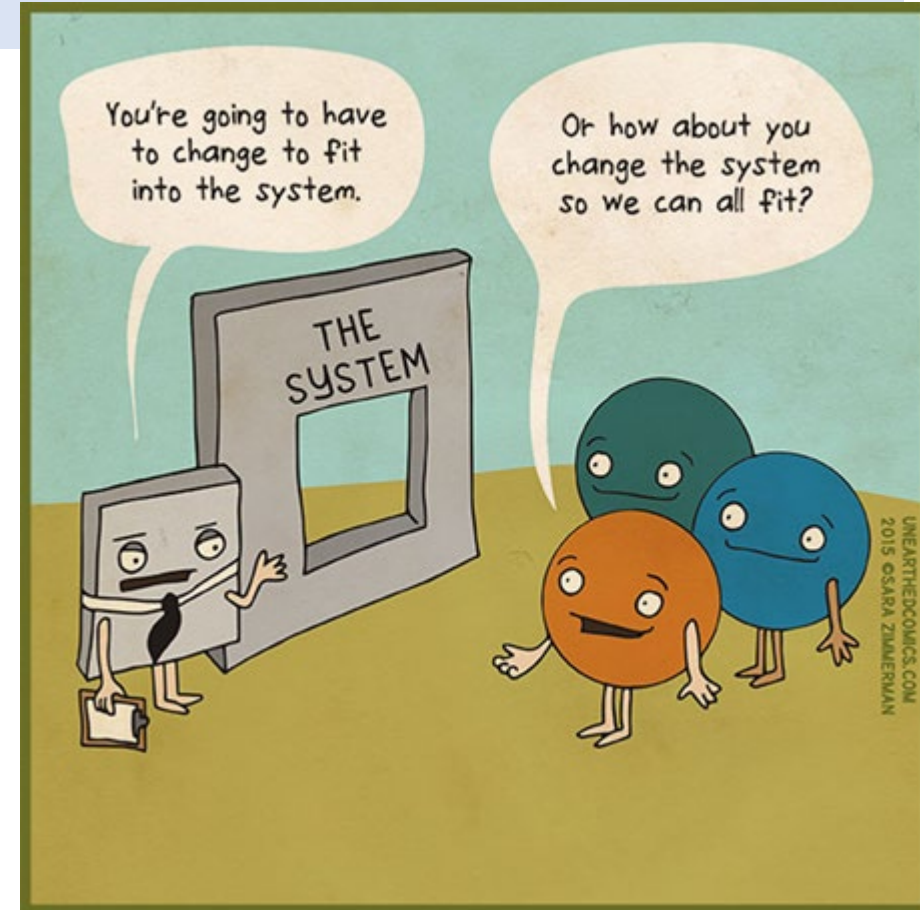
Advocacy: To change what is to what should be



Capacity Building: Making something stronger

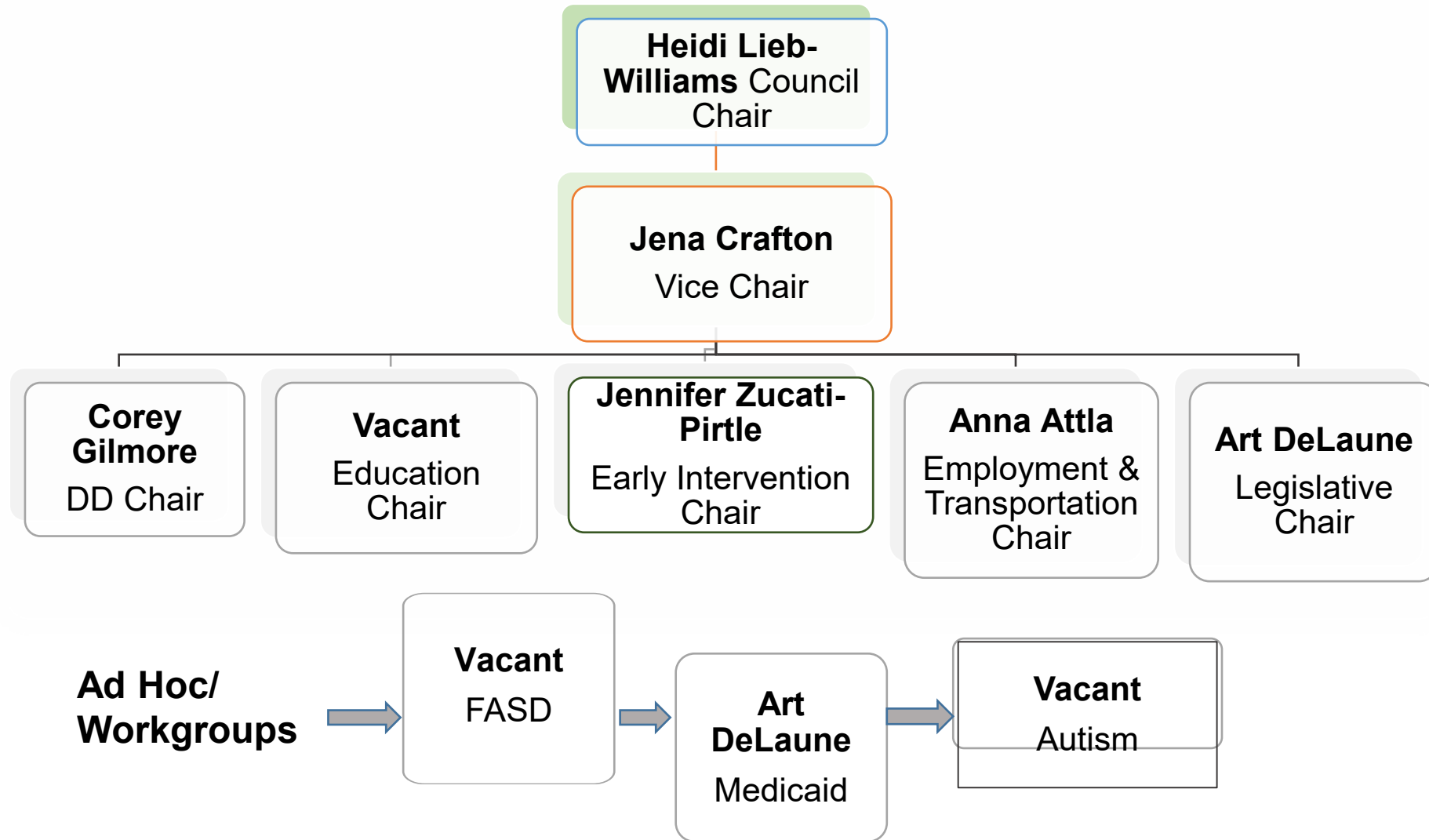


Systems Change: Making a system better so people can fit

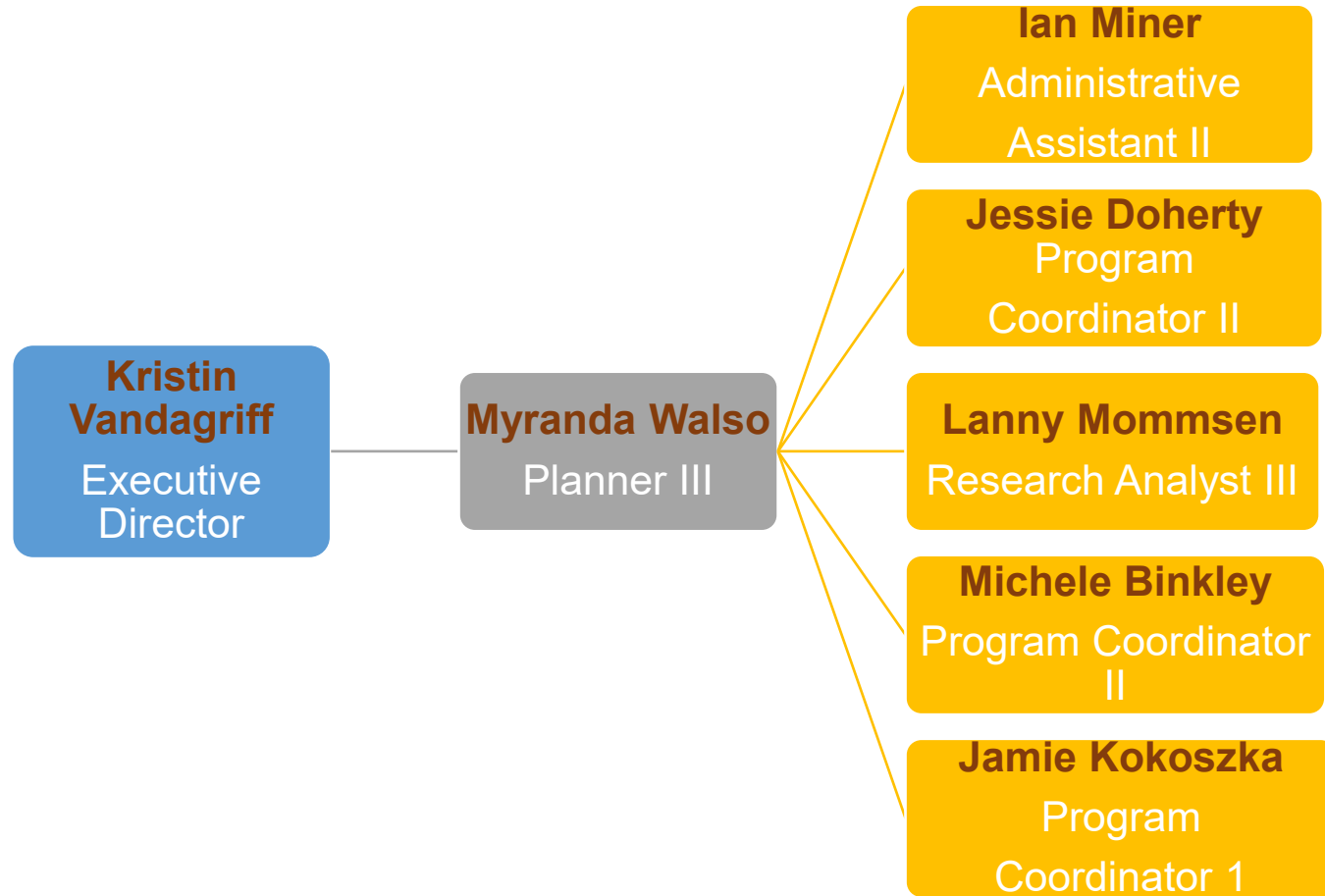


Reference: Kellie McCain, Kentucky DD

Council Member Leadership



Council Staff





Executive Director Transition

- Thank you for the distinct honor and privilege in serving as your Executive Director for the past 2 years and being part of Council staff for the past 8 years.
- Thank you, Corey and Heidi, and now also Jena, for guiding me in the day-to-day work of the Council.
- Thank you to our Council staff for always bringing passion and innovation to the important work of the Council.
- Thank you, Executive Committee, for your tireless work to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with developmental disabilities.
- Thank you to the entire Council for championing meaningful person-directed lives.
- I will miss you all greatly! The Council will always be family to me.

Executive Director Highlights:

- Met regularly with DVR Director, Trust Program Officer, as well as DSDS Director and Deputy Director
- Participated weekly several NACDD national calls, including as a member of the Public Policy committee
- Hired two new staff; training/onboarding
- Provided weekly individual staff touch base meetings and leading staff meeting
- Participated in NACDD conference and staff technical assistance institute
- Was part of Trustee interview panel

Executive Director Highlights:

- Monitored SFY 21 budget close out, starting SFY22 and processing SFY22 contracts
- SFY23 Trust budget review and monitoring of process
- ACL Living Well grant (semiannual reporting; carryover amendment process)
- Attended coordinated calls and joint advocacy meetings with the Trust and Advisory Boards
- Oversaw Trust reporting (due Oct. 1, 2021)
- Supporting State 5-Year Plan Development Efforts

Executive Director Highlights:

- Served as the Alaska Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator
- Staff Legislative, Medicaid Ad Hoc, and Executive Committees
- Facilitated DDRR recommendation efforts
- Facilitated Council ARPA letters on: HCBS, early intervention, and special education
- Co-facilitated (with DVR) the second and third meetings of the Alaska Work Matters Task Force
- Presented before Trustees at their Program and Planning meeting (July 2021)
- Presented before the National Governor's Association on Alaska Work Matters Task Force efforts



Jena Crafton

Congratulations Jena!

April Dunn Start Your Journey Award

Winner 2021

Lifelong Advocate

*Governor's Council on Disabilities and
Special Education Vice Chair*



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

Congratulations Anna!

Anna was inducted
into the NACDD Self-
Advocate Leadership
Circle



COVID-19 Resources:

- **Alaska COVID-19 Website:** covid19.alaska.gov
- **Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19 Website:** 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

Council COVID-19 Resources:

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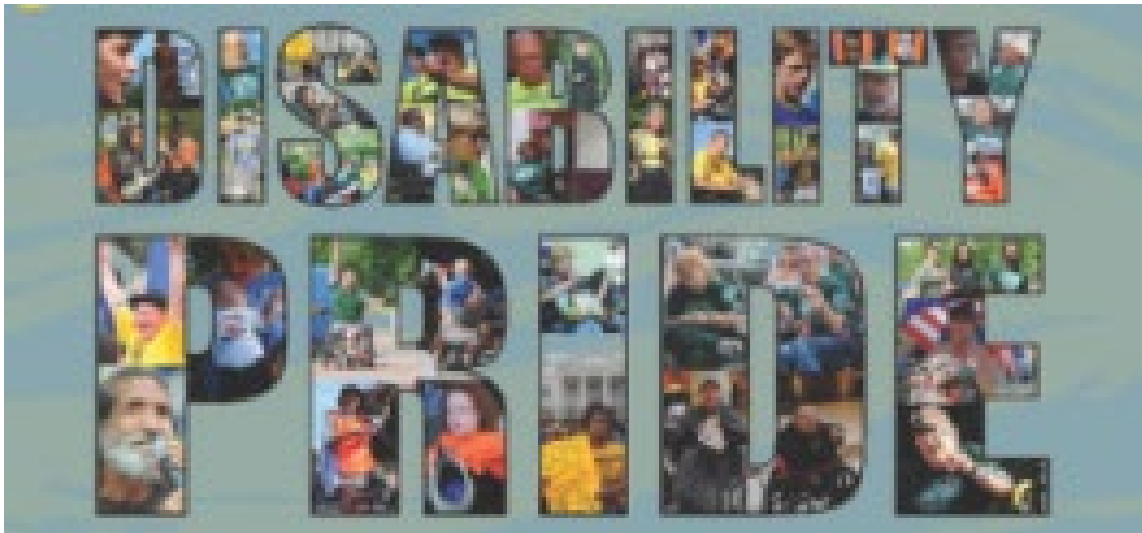
Council resources, developed with partners to support, for Alaskans with disabilities and their families amidst the current pandemic:

- **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
Heidi...

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
- Completion of next State 5-Year Plan (Due end of September 2021)
- Trust Reporting (October 2021)
- ACL Living Well Semiannual Reporting (October 2021)
- New 5-Year Plan begins (October 1, 2021)
- ACL Living Well Carryover (December 2021)
- Program Performance Reporting as DD Council and State Plan Update (usually December 2021, now January 21, 2022)
- Next Full Council Meeting and Legislative Advocacy Meetings (February 2022)



Questions?
