

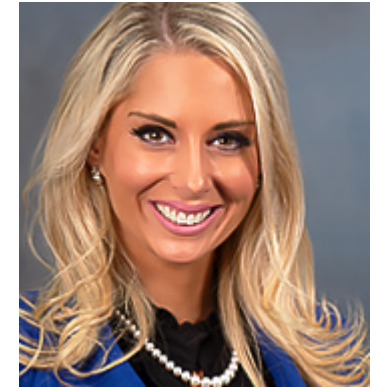
Leadership Report

Chair & Executive Director

Winter Council Meeting – February 1, 2021



Corey Gilmore
Chair



Kristin Vandagriff
Executive Director

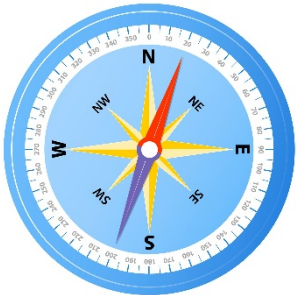


GCDSE Mission, Vision, & Roles:

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:

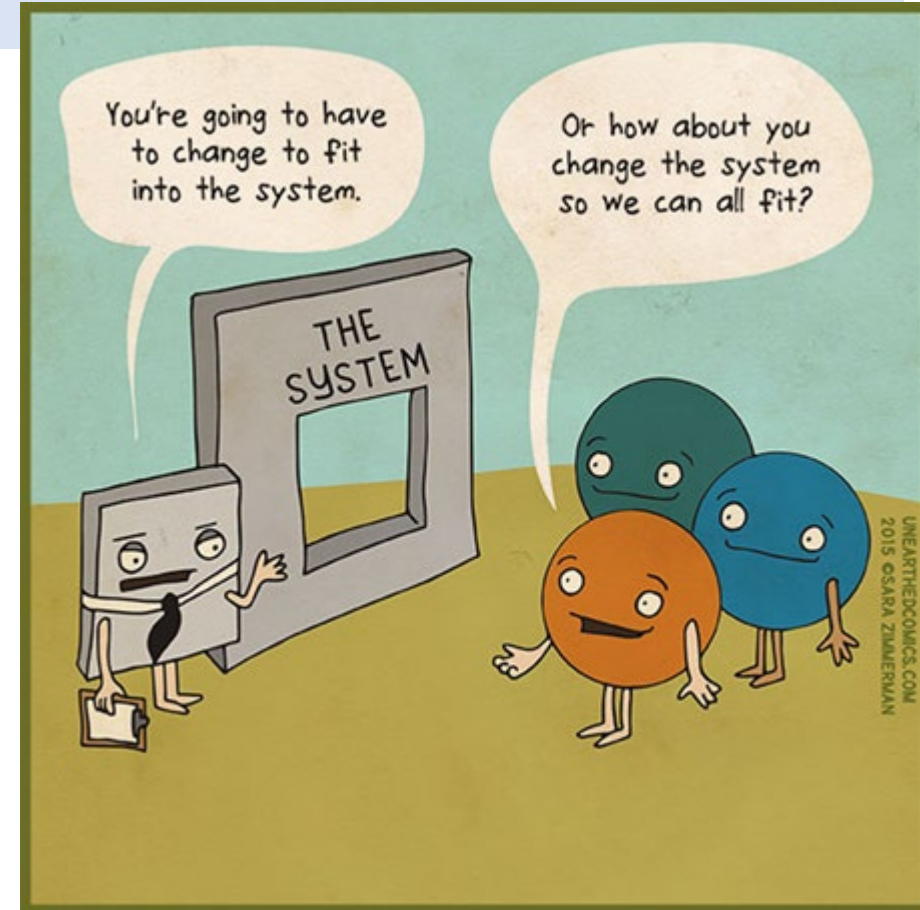
Advocacy: To change what is to what should be



Capacity Building: Making something stronger

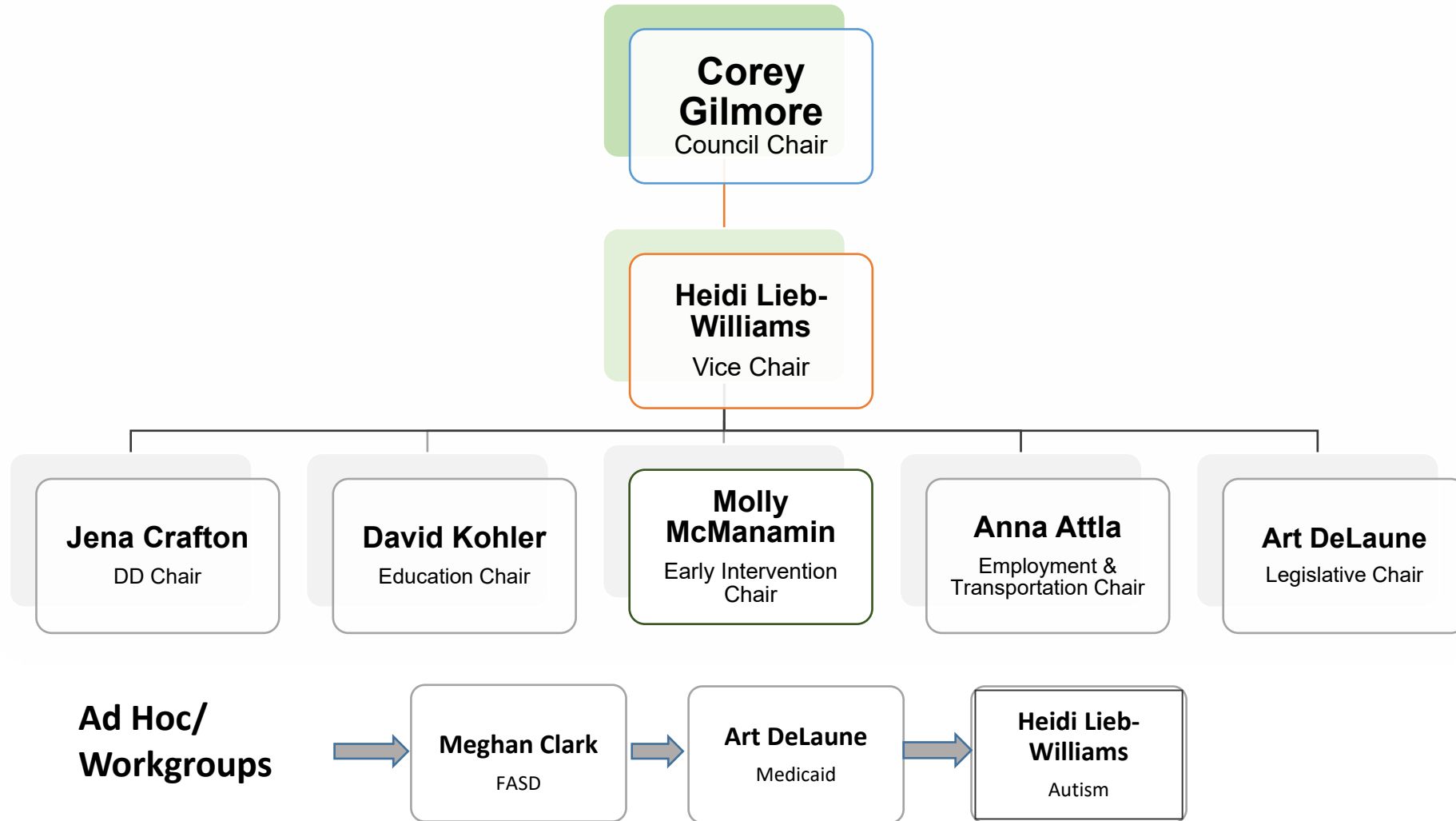


Systems Change: Making a system better so people can fit

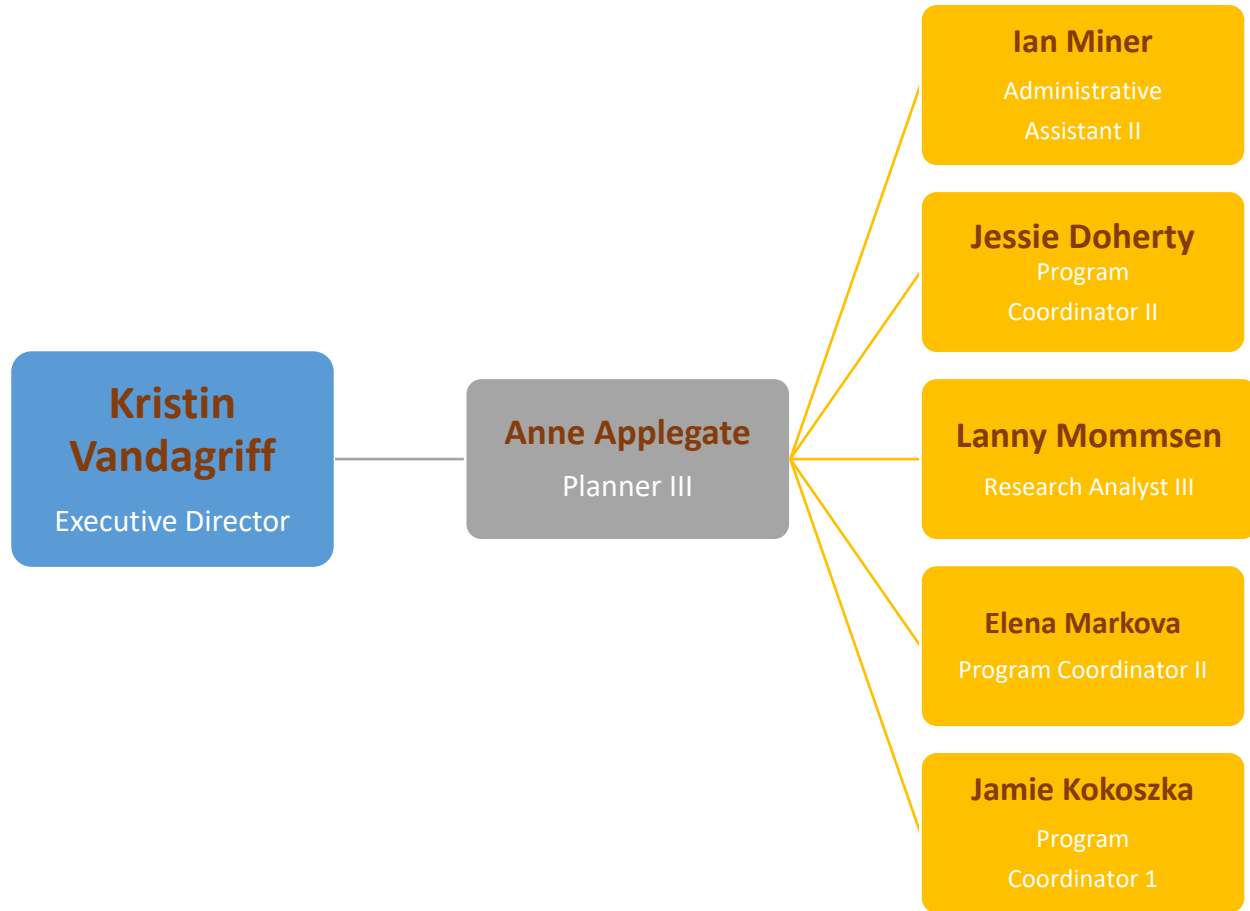


Reference: Kellie McCain, Kentucky DD Council

Council Member Leadership



Council Staff



Executive Director Highlights:

- Met regularly with DHSS Commissioner's Office staff, DVR Director, Trust Program Officer, and with DSDS Director
- Panelist for the Trust's *Growing Plants, Community and Inclusion* virtual event (Disability Employment Awareness)
- Presented twice to the Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (November & January)
- Participated in several NACDD national calls, including as a member of the Public Policy committee
- NACDD Executive Director Leadership Summit (virtual)
- Participated in Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) federal engagement call with DD Councils



Executive Director Highlights:

- Monitored SFY 21 budget and processed FY21 contracts
- SFY22 budget review
- ACL Living Well grant (semiannual reporting submitted; renewal contracts completed)
- Coordinated joint advocacy efforts with the Trust and Advisory Boards (every other week calls)
- Overseeing Trust reporting (submitted Oct. 2020)
- Supporting State 5-Year Plan Development Efforts
 - Held Assurances Meeting with Direct Services Agency
- Leading virtual meeting with Governor's Office and Department of Health and Social Services
- Overseeing DD Council Program Performance Reporting



Executive Director Highlights:

- Home and Community Based Services National Conference Presentation (Living Well Federal Grant Efforts)
- Disability and Aging Legislative Panelist
- Serve as the Alaska Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator
- Emergency Declaration and Vaccine Distribution Letter
- Employment Policy Panelist Regarding Pay Disparities (Institute on Educational Leadership)
- Staff Legislative and Executive Committees
- Western Governor's Association Presentation – National Disability Employment Awareness Month



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

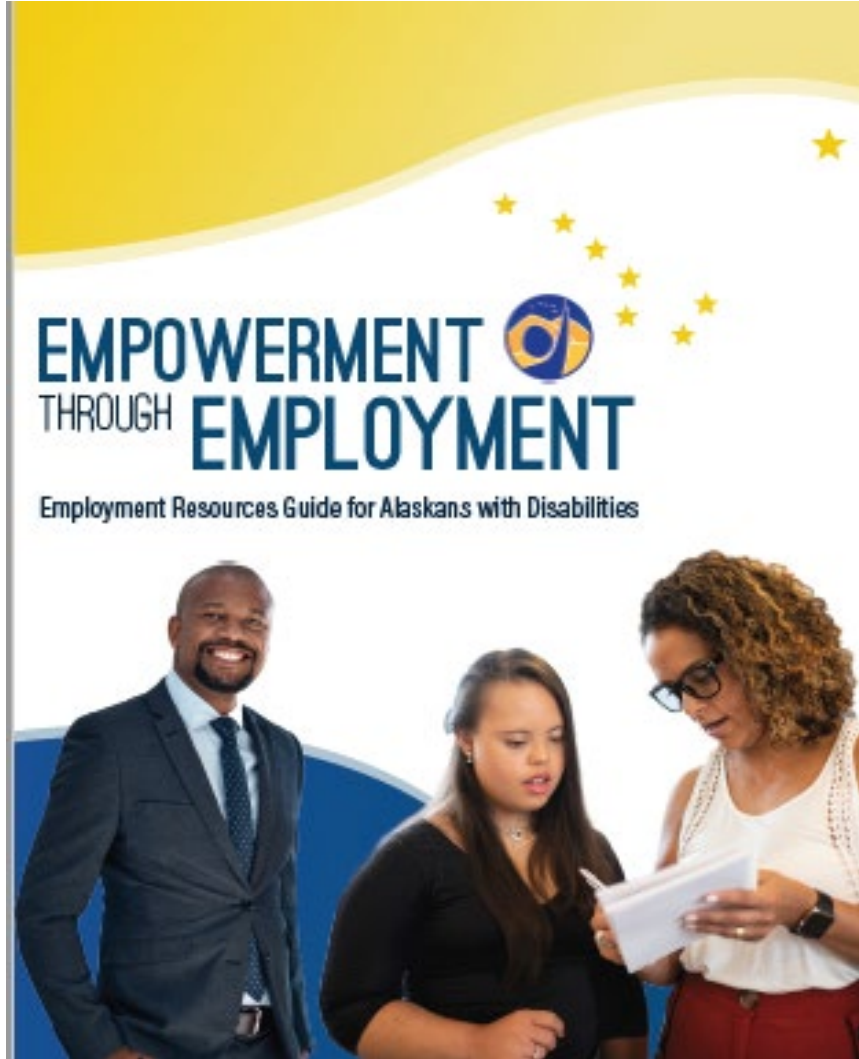
Council COVID-19 Resources:

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 ABLE 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.

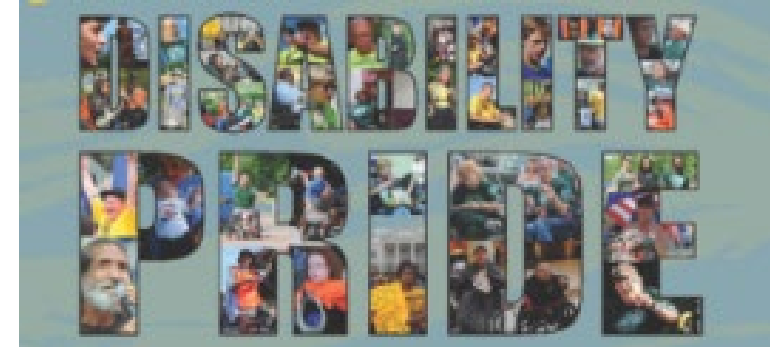
Empowerment Through Employment Guide

Final Version Launched!



<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/EmpowermentThroughEmployment.pdf>

Alaska Disability Pride Mid-Winter Celebration



- 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...



- Committee participation – ensuring we have quorum
- Important reminder going into the next session
 - Council positions and vetting process
- What's next for the DD Shared Vision
- Possible Council committee structure changes
- A Council of Big Ideas!



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
- Virtual Legislative Visits (February 8-12, 2021)
- Key Campaign – Winter 2021 (Virtual)
- ACL Living Well Semiannual Reporting (April 2021)
- Spring Council Meeting (Mid-May 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?

