



## **Developmental Disabilities Committee Report**

January 2007

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Committee meets on the first Monday of the month from 12 – 2 p.m.

Goals for the DD Committee are to:

- Accurately define unmet service needs among people with developmental disabilities to establish a basis for advocacy and planning.
- Promote the establishment of a comprehensive, outcome-based fiscal and programmatic quality assurance system.
- Support, monitor and track Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Focus Areas
- Track and monitor the Medicaid/Medicare system

The DD Committee reviewed and made minor revisions to the work plan (attached). Items added include monitoring the number and expenditures of waivers, monitoring the state's care coordination pilot program, and advocating for increased reimbursement for Medicare as it affects access to physicians.

The DD Committee has regular dialogue with Division of Senior and Disabilities Services staff at its meetings. Top issues discussed include the Division's pilot project to hire care coordinators at the state to work with individuals in Anchorage who are coming off the wait list, quality assurance efforts, status of the wait list and work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Wait List, and number of waivers offered over time. Other topics discussed regularly at the DD Committee meetings are the Criminal Justice Initiative, the Key Coalition, and the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities.

DSDS reported that they have had some requests for ICF/MR services recently. About 22 people a year need services beyond those typically provided by DSDS and end up at API or in psychiatric units out of state. Out-of-state providers have approached the Division with proposals. This topic will be discussed in depth at a future meeting.

Carol Downey from DSDS spoke to the Committee about the status of the QA grant. Two initiatives are underway: an integrated data base system is under development that will combine the multiple databases now used by the Division, and plans for using the Participant Experience Survey to assess quality. Most of the QA efforts have focused on compliance. A DSDS Policy work group is meeting as part of the QA grant. Millie represents the Council on this task force.