



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Council Report- May 2026

Patrick Reinhart,
Executive Director

Chelsea Burke,
Operations Manager



Leadership Update

The council has voted to approve Chelsea Burke as the next Executive Director, following Patrick's retirement at the end of May.

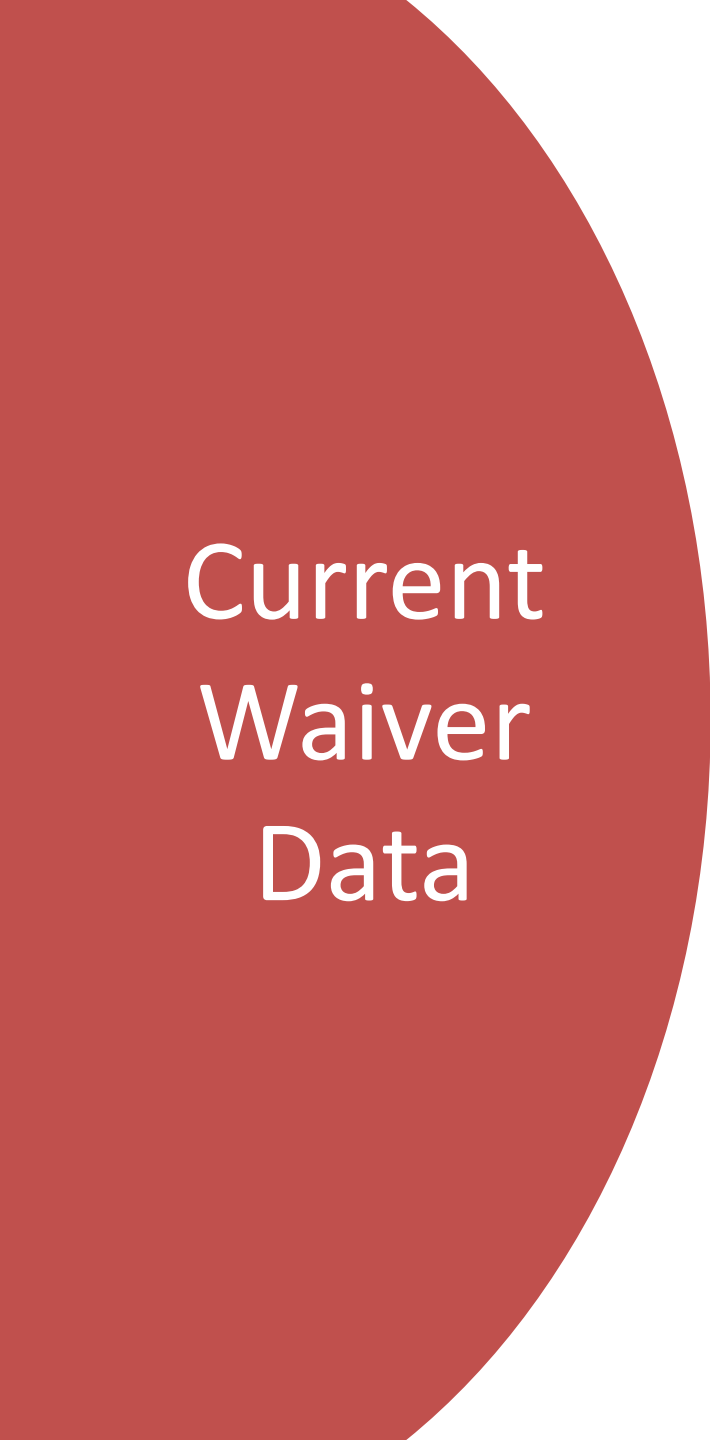
As this is an Exempt level appointment, it is currently awaiting the Governor's Office approval.

IDD Waitlist Update

IDD Registry only:
261 individuals

ISW Registry only:
94 individuals

On both the IDD
and ISW Registries:
325 individuals

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Current Waiver Data

2,145 individuals on, or
currently offered a spot
on the IDD waiver

595 individuals on, or
currently offered a spot
on the ISW waiver

For FY26: 87 people
drawn for the IDD waiver,
84 people for the ISW.

Building Alaska's 2027–2031 State Plan

Our Process Included:

- Statewide survey and public input collection
- Community forums and listening conversations
- Review of demographic and systems data
- Analysis of unmet and under-met needs
- Council and committee review and prioritization
- Draft development and public comment period

Community Input & Data Collection

Statewide surveys

Public forums and listening sessions

Partner organization feedback

Self-advocate and family input

System and demographic data review

Key Themes Raised:



Workforce
shortages



Housing and
transportation
barriers



Rural access
challenges



Employment
opportunities



Navigation of
systems



Community
inclusion and self-
determination

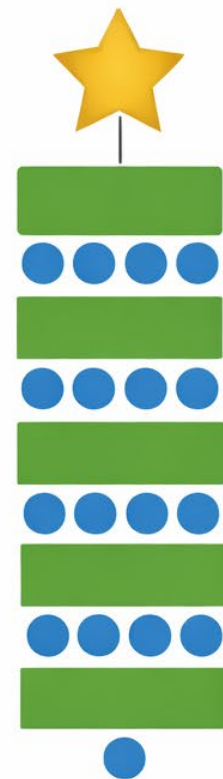
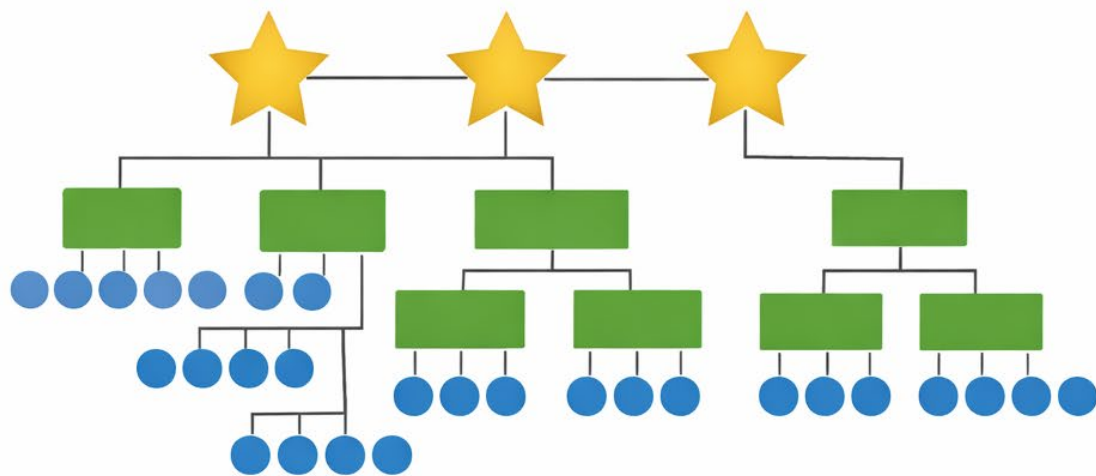
From Planning to Final Approval

Key Planning Decisions:

- Shifted from 3 goals to 1 unified systems-change goal
- Organized work into 6 objective areas
- Streamlined activities for flexibility and reporting
- Aligned work with Alaska's Shared Vision

Current Status:

- Council approved the final goal and objective framework
- Public comment reviewed and addressed
- Activities refined through committee and Council review
- Preparing final plan components for submission



ALASKA 2027-2031:

Systems Change and Shared Vision

By 2031, Alaska will have stronger, more coordinated, and more inclusive public systems that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the lifespan, including self-advocacy, education, independent living, employment, health, and community inclusion, so individuals and families can make informed choices, exercise self-determination, and fully participate in their communities.

5 Year Plan Objective Areas

Self-Advocacy and
Leadership
(DD Act Required Objective)

Systems
Coordination and
Policy Change

Education,
Transition, and
Lifespan Supports

Community
Inclusion and
Access

Employment and
Economic
Participation

Emergency
Preparedness,
Response, and
System Resilience

Data Needs for the Future

Next Steps in DD Systems Evaluation



IDD prevalence Study

Count IDD and ADRD for
Alaska- connected service
systems

DD Council funding formula



Home and Community Based Services System Assessment

Assess statewide system
capacity & sustainability

Identify workforce, access, and
infrastructure gaps

Other Data for the Future

Special Education Study--Identify gaps and recommend system improvements.

Neurodivergence, Disordered Eating, & Mortality Rates Study-- Establish baseline data on neurodivergence, disordered eating as a mental health condition, and its associated mortality rates

Legislative Priority Wins

SB 178/HB 376— Expand Early Intervention Services

HB 246—SESA Funding

InterRAI Funding and
Guidehouse Recommendations

HB26- Statewide Public & Community Transit Plan

HB272- Insurance for Prosthetics & Orthotics
< SB185- Insurance, Rebates, Advertising

HJR 45- Support Special Education Funding

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Other Legislative Items

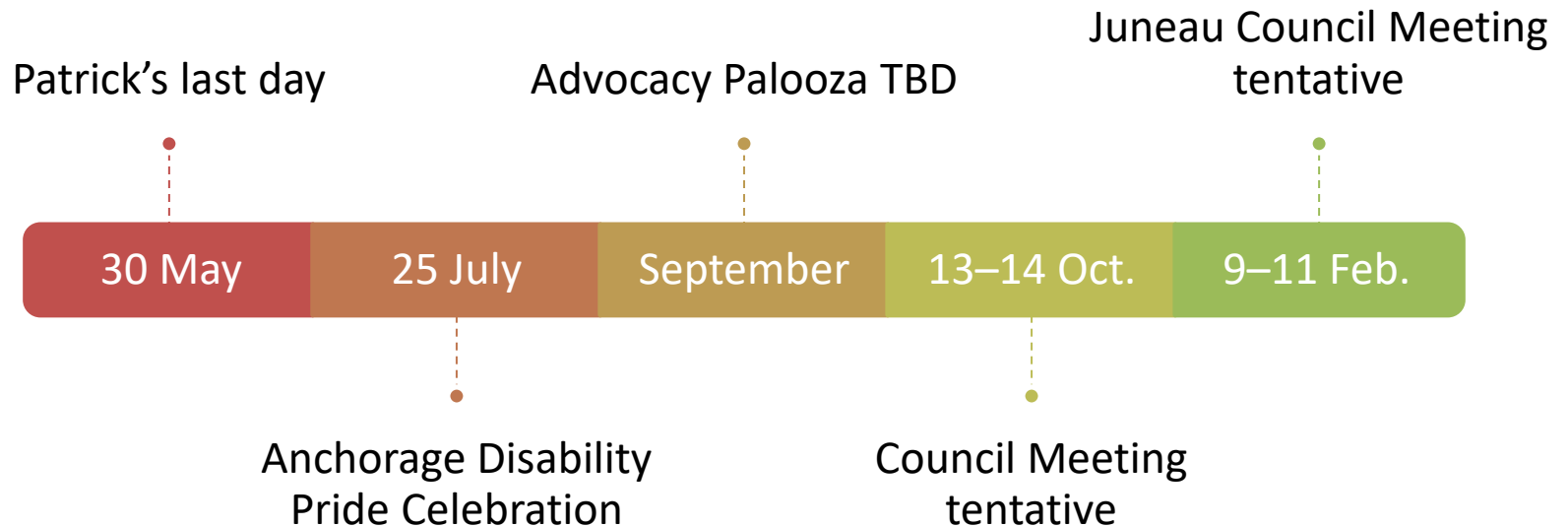
HB73: Complex Care
Medical Homes

HB48: Civil Legal
Services Fund

HB39: Education for
Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Changing Table Installed
at AK State Capitol

Upcoming Events





Questions?

Chelsea Burke- Operations Manager

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