

ALASKA DISABILITY &
AGING COALITION



10th Annual

DISABILITY & AGING Summit

OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2024

Special Olympics Alaska
Jim Balamaci Training Center

**Inclusive Aging in Alaska:
Thriving and Growing Together**

Presented by:
The Alaska Disability & Aging Coalition

ALASKA DISABILITY & AGING SUMMIT

OCT. 8 & 9
2024

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 10th Annual Alaska Disability & Aging Summit hosted by The Alaska Disability & Aging Coalition. This year's theme is "Inclusive Aging in Alaska: Thriving and Growing Together".

We're grateful for your participation in this important event. Your insights are crucial as we explore the factors behind improved life expectancy for individuals with IDD and address ongoing care challenges.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate a decade of progress. Together, we'll continue working towards a more inclusive and supportive Alaska for our aging population and those with disabilities.

Over the next few days, we invite you to engage, share, and collaborate. Your experiences and ideas are vital in shaping the future of inclusive aging in our state.

TOPICS

- Aging Adults with IDD
- Advocacy
- Disabilities & Relationships
- Dementia
- Navigating Hospitalization
- Innovation with Senior Housing
- Navigating end of life care
- Action Panel with local representatives and senators

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Light breakfast and refreshments provided both days
- ASL interpreter
- Closed Captioning on Zoom
- Food Trucks on-site for lunch each day



OTHER

- Vendor Fair: Offering networking opportunities and resources for attendees from over 20 organizations from across the state

LOCATION:

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALASKA JIM BALAMACI TRAINING CENTER
3200 MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE, ANCHORAGE AK 99501

Program Schedule

DAY 1

Tuesday, October 8

8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast/Vendors	
8:20 AM	Welcome / Senator Lisa Murkowski Remarks	Emily Vandergon
8:30 AM	Keynote	Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins
9:30 AM	Disabilities & Relationships	Kelly Hartlieb & Caitie Jones
10:30 AM	Networking & Vendor Break	
11:00 AM	Elder Panel	Moderator: Sheila Shinn Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rev. Don Fleming• Liam Salter• Cathy Lee• Gay Wellman• David Thurston• Barbara Thurston
12:15 PM	Food Trucks onsite / Lunch on your own	
1:00 PM	Self-care for Family Providers	Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
2:15 PM	Networking & Vendor Break	
2:30 PM	Session on Dementia	Dr. Steffi Kim
3:45 PM	Closing Remarks	Sarah Arts

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

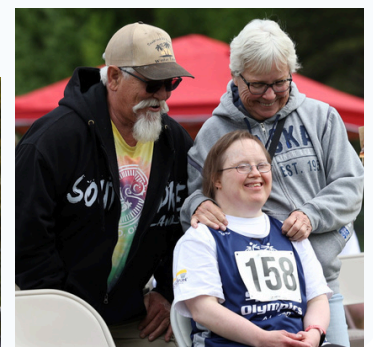


Program Schedule

DAY 2

Wednesday, October 9

8:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast/Coffee	
8:20 AM	Welcome / Sen. Dan Sullivan Remarks	Emily Vandergon
8:30 AM	Innovation with Senior Housing	James and Julie Drayton
9:45 AM	Networking & Vendor Break	
10:15 AM	Action Panel on Aging & Disabilities	Moderator: Michele Girault Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rep. Zack Fields• Senator Cathy Giessel• Allison Biastock• Dr. Robert Lawrence
11:45 AM	Food Trucks onsite / Lunch on your own	
1:00 PM	Navigating Hospitalization	Dr. William Browner & Joann Sullivan RN
2:00 PM	Advocacy Panel	Moderator: Jamie Kokoszka Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucy Odden• Anna Attla• CB Brady
3:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Disability & Aging Coalition



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TRAILBLAZER FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS: JENNIFER KEELAN-CHAFFINS



Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins isn't just an advocate; she's a force of nature in the fight for disability rights. Joining the movement at the tender age of six, Jennifer made history at eight by participating in the legendary "Capitol Crawl" protest, a pivotal moment in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Her early activism earned her the prestigious ADA Award from The Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities in 1990. Jennifer's dedication to education is as impressive as her activism. She earned her GED in 2002 and an Associate of Arts Degree in 2008 from Arapahoe Community College, before obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University in 2017. Today, Jennifer is a powerhouse educator and motivational speaker, owning Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins LLC since May 2020. She educates audiences about the ADA, the Capitol Crawl, and the broader disability rights movement, emphasizing education, advocacy, and empowerment. Residing in Colorado with her Service Dog Mya and live-in aide, Jennifer continues to inspire and lead.

Contact Information

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- Follow: Twitter @JKClegacy | Instagram @JKClegacy



DAY 1 SPEAKER BIOS



Caitie Jones

Caitie Jones is the Health Projects Coordinator at UAA's Center for Human Development, leading the Friendships & Dating Program to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in building healthy relationships and preventing interpersonal violence. With over a decade of experience in disability support services, she is committed to health equity and justice initiatives. She serves on the board of the Key Coalition of Alaska, advocates for home and community-based services, and facilitates Sibshops for siblings of children with special needs. Her work is driven by personal experiences and a passion for creating inclusive environments.



Kelley Hartlieb

Kelley Hartlieb is the Justice Projects Coordinator at the University of Alaska Center for Human Development, holding a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oregon. With over 20 years of experience as a domestic violence advocate and sexuality educator, she focuses on social justice and health equity for people with disabilities. Kelley oversees the Disability Abuse Response Team (DART) project to improve services for survivors and co-leads the Friendships and Dating Program, offering socio-sexual education for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She also raises awareness about brain injury and interpersonal violence.



Dr. Steffi Kim

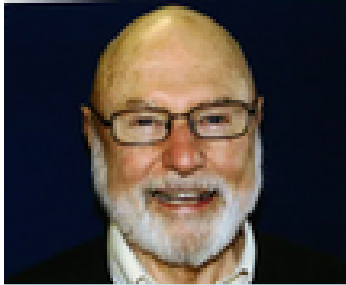
Dr. Steffi Kim is a licensed clinical community psychologist and has worked with Alaska Native communities employing community-based participatory research frameworks for almost a decade. In her work with Alaska Native Elders, she collaborates closely with community stakeholders and Elders to learn and share how Elders age well within rural and urban Alaskan communities. This work has provided valuable insights into a successful aging framework incorporating and highlighting the voices of Alaska Native Elders. Together with community partners, Dr. Kim works to promote dementia awareness, brain health, and reduce the stigma associated with dementia. In addition to her work with Alaska Native Elders, Dr. Kim has worked with adults providing mental health services.



Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

Julie is a Home Funeral Guide, End-of-Life Doula, ordained Reverend, funeral celebrant, and anthropologist. She enjoys assisting people in thinking through their end-of-life planning and options and is honored to guide families through home funerals for their loved ones. Julie's ritual and ceremony work is inspired by the natural world. She lives in Girdwood with her family.

ELDER PANEL



Rev. Don Fleming
Panelist

Don Fleming was born in Colorado in 1947. Don and his wife, Anne, moved to Alaska in 1971 with the Air Force, where they had 3 children. After leaving in 1974, Don worked for GE for over 35 years, retiring in 2007. He later pursued ministry, graduating with a master's in Consciousness Studies in 2014 from Holmes Institute. He currently serves at the Alaska Center for Spiritual Living, planning to retire in March 2025. Don and Anne have three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Liam Salter
Panelist

Originally from London, Ontario, Canada, Liam has worked in the human services field since 1986 and moved to Alaska in 1999. Since 2001, he has been with Southcentral Foundation in various roles, serving as a waiver care coordinator from 2010 to 2015. Since then, he has worked as a Community Resource Specialist in Primary Care. Liam looks forward to his next adventure in life and hopes to continue enjoying Alaska's two seasons: winter and almost winter, for many years to come.



Cathy Lee
Panelist

Cathy Lee brings over 30 years of leadership experience in program management and community service to the Disability and Aging Summit. With a Master's in Business Organizational Management, she currently works with medical students at the University of Alaska. Her career includes roles as Supported Employment Team Leader at The Arc of Anchorage, Program Manager at Hearts and Hands Adult Day Services, and Executive Director of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center.



Gay Wellman
Panelist

I've led a varied life shaped by my upbringing in a Quaker community near Philadelphia. My parents, Robert and Doratheia Willson, instilled in me the values of family and service. After earning a nursing degree, I moved to Anchorage, Alaska, in 1978, where I began my career in substance abuse and mental health. In 1997, I joined the Copper River Native Association, focusing on families at risk and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders until 2007. Now, as a Dementia Care Education Specialist for the Alzheimer's Resource Agency of Alaska, I provide virtual support statewide while volunteering in my Kenny Lake community.



**Barbara & David
Thurston**

David and Barbara were born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, where they both attended Anchorage schools. David worked at IICC Inflight Catering at the airport, while Barbara taught in the Anchorage School District. For twenty years, David and his brother Paul lived in Kentucky at a home/school for intellectually challenged adults. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they returned to Alaska to live with their mother in an assisted living home. Now, Barbara serves as David's guardian and power of attorney. Together, they enjoy rides, lunches, walks, and visits with friends, while David participates in Special Olympics swimming and Barbara plays golf and pickleball.

DAY 2 SPEAKERS



James Drayton

James began his leadership career while in the United States Army. After his military career, James was the Operations Director of a 99-bed mental health rehabilitation center. In 2009 he moved to Alaska and began work with Southcentral Foundation as an Administrator for their behavioral health residential services program. In 2012 James joined State of Alaska, Department of Senior and Health Services as a Compliance Investigator with Program Integrity. Currently James is the CEO of Heritage Health, LLC which operates 6 Assisted Living Homes (serving seniors, those with mental disabilities and mental illnesses) and an adult day program.



Julie Drayton

Julie began her career in Residential Services when she was in college. Prior to moving to Alaska in 2009, Julie was the Program Director of a 99-bed mental health rehabilitation center. Upon moving to Alaska, Julie continued her career in residential care. From 2012 until 2023 she worked as a licensing specialist with the State of Alaska's Residential Licensing Program. Currently she is the Program Director of Emerald Adult Day and Emerald Assisted Living.



Joann Sullivan, RN

Joanne has been a nurse in Alaska for decades, working at Hope Community Resources for over 33 years. She leads a team of community health nurses supporting individuals with disabilities statewide. Alongside Dr. William Browner, Hope's Medical Director, Joanne guides executive leadership and medical teams to ensure quality care for Alaskans with disabilities. She has successfully transitioned children with complex medical needs from hospitals to community settings. A sought-after expert, Joanne taught classes at UAA and other community partners, advocating fiercely for disability healthcare and helping staff navigate complex healthcare scenarios with grace and tenacity.



Dr. William Browner

Dr. Browner, a pediatrician who joined the USAF in 1978, established a private practice in Anchorage, Alaska, after leaving the Air Force as a Major in 1980. He became Medical Director at Hope Community Resources the same year. His education includes the University of North Carolina, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and the University of California at Davis. Awarded the Pediatric Merit Award from both Wake Forest and David Grant USAF Hospital, he specializes in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. Dr. Browner has been a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities at local, national, and international levels.

ACTION PANEL ON AGING & DISABILITIES



Rep. Zack Fields

Zack Fields is a member of the Alaska House of Representatives, representing District 17. Prior to working in the legislature, Zack was Workforce Development Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, an outdoors writer, a labor organizer, and a legislative staffer. Fields earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Virginia. His professional experience includes working as an outdoors writer and as a legislative/policy staffer at the local, state, and federal levels. Zack Fields and his wife Khalial live in South Addition with their daughter, Zara. Zack and his family enjoy skiing, hiking, and gardening.



Senator Cathy Giessel

Cathy Giessel is the Majority Leader of the Alaska State Senate, representing District E. Born in Fairbanks, she has worked as an advanced nurse practitioner in various clinics in Anchorage and the North Slope Borough, while also providing healthcare consulting. Cathy earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2000. She has served on the Alaska Board of Nursing, including five years as chairperson, and on the Alaska Healthcare Strategy Planning Council. Actively involved in her community, Cathy enjoys cross-country skiing, biking, hiking, running, shooting, textile crafts, and spending time with her grandchildren.



Allison Biastock

Allison Biastock is the Chief Communications Officer at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and is also currently serving as the Trust's Acting CEO. Allison has been with the Trust and a part of its leadership team since 2018. She has close to twenty years of experience in both the public and private sectors in areas that impact the Trust and its beneficiaries including substance misuse prevention, workforce development, grantmaking, and resource development. She is a lifelong Alaskan and is honored to represent the Trust at the 2024 Aging and Disability Summit.



Dr. Robert Lawrence

Dr. Robert Lawrence is the Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska. Dr. Lawrence earned his medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 2003, a master's degree in Bioethics from Trinity International University, and a master's degree in Social Science Education from Harding University. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Following residency, he worked as a family physician in rural Alaska before moving to Anchorage in 2013 to serve as the Chief Medical officer for Alaska Department of Corrections.

ADVOCACY PANEL



Lucy Odden
Panelist

Lucy Odden has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for over 40 years. She served on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education for 12 years, participating in various committees including Developmental Disabilities and Employment/Transportation. Lucy has been involved with multiple boards, including the ARC of Anchorage and Alaska Special Olympics. She is also active in the Statewide Independent Living Council and served on the Transportation Commission for three years. Her advocacy work includes the Quality Work Life Council and the Peer to Peer Movement, focusing on enhancing engagement for people with disabilities.



Anna Attla
Panelist

Anna Attla was born and raised in Alaska. She was born in Tanana, Alaska and currently lives in Anchorage. Anna is a self-advocate who has been involved in advocacy for close to 30 years. She has been on the council for 17 years off and on. She is heavily involved in employment for people with disabilities and has been on the employment committee at the council since it began. She also chaired this committee for a number of years. She has worked at the Center for Human for Development for 23 years!



CB Brady
Panelist

I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. I am the father of two amazing sons, Caiden 21 and Deven 18. I grew up in the construction industry and started and ran my own company for 15 years before vision loss help guide me to a new life passion. I am driven to help others with blindness and low vision succeed in life. I also bake fantastic bagels!

PANEL MODERATORS

Moderator for the Elder Panel



Sheila Shinn

Sheila Shinn is the former Director of Geriatrics & Gerontology Initiatives with the Center for Human Development at UAA. After many years teaching and training the future workforce in Alaska in a variety of topics in geriatrics, she decided to leave UAA and put her training into practice as a Court Visitor with the State of Alaska Office of Public Advocacy and the Alaska Court System. Ms. Shinn holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Moderator for the Action Panel on Disability & Aging



Michele Girault

Michele began her career as a Direct Support Professional, not by “plan”, but as a result of a friend who thought she might enjoy the work. The deep connection with the people she worked with resulted in a “temporary job” after college transitioning to a career spanning decades Michele has worked at Hope Community Resources for 40 years in varying positions, and currently serves as CEO. She is also a long term member of the Key Coalition of Alaska serving as President of the Board of Directors. Her undergraduate degree is in Human Development and Masters in Organizational Management.

Moderator for the Advocacy Panel



Jamie Kokoszka

Program Coordinator 2, BA, State of Alaska: Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Self-Advocate. Jamie Kokoszka joined the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education as an in January 2021. Jamie was born and raised in Alaska, growing up Palmer, Alaska. She earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Manchester Community College, Connecticut in 1999, and her bachelor's degree in Criminology with a minor in Sociology, from Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut in 2001. Her prior work experience includes working in a Domestic Violence crisis shelter, a residential treatment center for at risk youth, working with disabled and homeless veterans, and over 10 years with the Office of Children's Services. Jamie is also a self-advocate, as someone who experiences developmental disabilities.

COALITION MEMBERS

EMILY VANDERGON

Special Olympics Alaska - Inclusive Health Manager

RIKI CHAPMAN

AK Training Cooperative Center for Human Development
Aging & Dementia/Long Term Care Disabilities Training Coordinator

BRENDA OVERCAST

AK Training Cooperative Center for Human Development
CHD Information Systems Coordinator

MICHELE GIRAULT

Hope Community Resources - CEO

IAN CASEY

The Arc of Anchorage - CEO

YASMIN RADBOD

Alaska Commission on Aging - Rural Outreach Coordinator

LISA L. CAUBLE, MSW

Training Director, UAA Center for Human Development; Director, AK
Training Cooperative

STEPHANIE WHEELER

State of Alaska - Long Term Care Ombudsman

LANNY MOMMSEN

State of Alaska Council on Disabilities & Special Education
Research Analyst III

RICHARD SAVILLE

State of Alaska Council on Disabilities & Special Education
Program Coordinator 2

CARYN BRUNELLO

Care N Coordination
Care Coordinator and Owner/Administrator

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VENDORS



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Notes
