



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

Self- Advocacy & Leadership

**Garrett Dominick
Committee Chair**

Committee Members

- Garrett Dominick – Chair
 - Christine Bohan
 - Jena Crafton
 - Anna Attla
 - Art Delaune
 - Margaret Evans
 - Corey Gilmore
 - Elizabeth Joseph
 - Nona Safra
 - Marlene Wenger
 - Shelley Vendetti-Vuckovich
- GCDSE Staff:**
Jamie Kokoszka
Lanny Mommsen


I Have Rights – Self Advocate Panel Presentation

- Disability and Aging Summit
 - I Have Rights – Self Advocate Panel Presentation
 - Anna Attla
 - CB Brady
 - Lucy Odden



Request for
Developmental
Disability
Awareness
Month
Proclamation:

- WHEREAS, developmental disabilities affect more than an estimated 11,600 Alaskan children, adults, and families; and
- WHEREAS, a developmental disability is a lifelong, chronic mental or physical impairment that manifests itself before a person reaches the age of 22 and often results in substantial functional limitations in a person's key life activities, such as self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning mobility, self-direction, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and
- WHEREAS, public knowledge and understanding are among the most effective strategies for addressing the serious challenges associated with developmental disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, the developmental disabilities community in Alaska shares a vision for a future in which each person directs his or her own supports, based on individual strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in his or her home, job, and community; and
- WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, developmental disability advocates, and providers around the State are working to support families and make services available now and in the future; and
- WHEREAS, we appreciate the contributions of individuals and organizations that help make a lasting impact in addressing the challenges of Alaskans with developmental disabilities.
- NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as:
 - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
 - in Alaska and encourage all Alaskans to celebrate and support the diversity and abilities of all our citizens, particularly those who experience developmental disabilities.

A photograph of a conference room with a long table covered in a white cloth and several white chairs with metal frames. The room is brightly lit, and the background is slightly blurred.

Upcoming Activities / Events (cont.)

- Next SA & L meeting:
 - o March – 27th 11am-12:30pm
 - o April – 17th 11am-12:30pm
- New Self-Advocacy Panel Presentation: Advancing Advocacy – to start in summer/fall 2025!

Full Lives Conference

April 2025

- Sponsoring Council members and Staff registration
 - **Let staff know if council members would like to attend!**
- Garrett reached out and confirmed Zack Gottsagen as a Key Note!
- Staff on planning committee
- Booth
- Presentations: TBD



Questions?

