

FRONTIER COMMUNITY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

SUBMIT NEXT MONTHS HIGHLIGHTS TO: AFAULKNER1@FCSONLINE.ORG



What No Executive Director Is Allowed To Say

Amanda Elder and Kim Champney get real about the side of leadership we don't always hear about; the moments when the numbers don't add up, the challenges feel bigger than the solutions, and leaders don't have all the answers. It's an honest conversation about carrying the weight of leadership while remembering that you don't have to have it all figured out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* FASD Awareness Day

September 9, 2026

Celebrate FASD Awareness Day with a free 30-minute film and discussion with someone sharing their lived experience. Soldotna Library 6:30-7:30 PM

* Root Beer Fun Run

September 19, 2026

Support Hospice of the Central Peninsula during this fun run and get a free mug of root beer! Registration fees apply. Soldotna Creek Park, 10:00 AM

* Harvest Moon Festival

September 26, 2026

Come enjoy fresh grown food, vendors, live music, cooking demos, and other family fun! Soldotna Creek Park, 11:00AM



FASD Awareness Month

September is FASD Awareness Month, a time to build understanding, reduce stigma, and recognize the strengths of people living with FASD. Here in Alaska, FASD touches many individuals, families, and communities. Frontier is proud to be home to Alaska's only clinic that provides FASD diagnostic services for both children and adults, along with education, advocacy, and ongoing support. This month, we celebrate the people behind the diagnosis and continue working toward a more informed, understanding, and supportive Alaska.

FASD: THE FACTS



1 IN 20

Research estimates about 1 in 20 U.S. children may have an FASD.



1 IN 600

An Alaska FASD Strategic Plan resource reports an estimate that only 1 in every 600 people impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure receives an FASD diagnosis.



ALASKA

Alaska continues to report high rates of FASD compared with other states.

Learn more at fasdcenter.org



Dr. McIntosh Celebrates 25 years with Frontier!!!

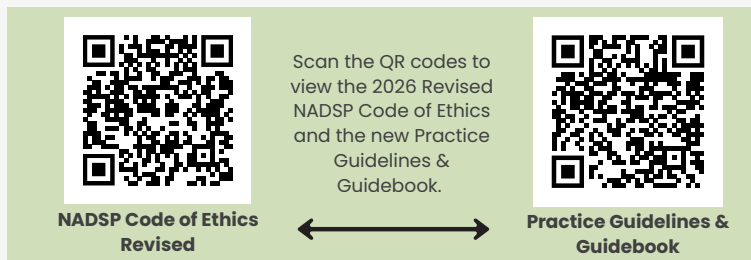
Dr. Marguerite McIntosh has been at the heart of the FCS Diagnostic Clinic since 2001. This month, we are honored to celebrate her dedication, compassion, and the many years she has devoted to supporting our Agency.



Teacher Feature

A New NADSP Code of Ethics

Yes. NADSP released a fully revised Code of Ethics on June 9, 2026—the first full revision in more than 25 years. It was developed with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration and included input from DSPs, frontline supervisors, subject-matter experts, and people with lived disability experience



FCS is headed to the 2026 Improving Lives Conference

When: September 17–18, 2026

Where: Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage

Nikki Marciano, Bexx Geleide, Michael Washington, Alicia Clements, and Brenda Elizalde will represent Frontier Community Services as featured speakers at the 2026 Improving Lives Conference! They will present “Nothing About Us Without Us: Lived Experience and Employment in Action,” sharing the importance of giving people with lived experience the opportunity to speak for themselves and help shape the services and systems that impact their lives. We are incredibly proud to have this crew representing Frontier and sharing their voices with communities across Alaska!



Nikki Marciano Bexx Geleide Michael Washington Alicia Clements Brenda Elizalde



Leadership in Action!

Michelle and Kyle recently traveled to Savannah, Georgia, to present at the NAQ Conference and share how powerful it can be when people are given a real voice in leadership. Both have experienced what it feels like to have decisions made around them without feeling like they had the power to speak up when something didn't feel right. Their journeys show what can happen when an organization listens, recognizes what someone has to offer, and creates opportunities around their strengths. Their message to other agencies was simple: listen to people, value what they bring to the table, and be willing to rethink what leadership can look like.

SOMETIMES BEING INVITED TO THE TABLE CHANGES YOU, SOMETIMES IT CHANGES THE TABLE... AND SOMETIMES, IT CHANGES BOTH.





SHAME NO MORE

WORKSHOP

Healing, forgiveness, freedom, empowerment, and hope.
You are invited to the path of grace.

FRI. OCT. 16 & SAT. OCT. 17, 2026



FRIDAY, OCT. 16
6:00 – 8:30 PM



SATURDAY, OCT. 17
10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
* LUNCH PROVIDED SATURDAY



WHAT IS IT?
A Christ-centered workshop that helps you understand shame and experience the hope found in God's grace.



PRESENTED BY
Video Series by **Dr. Richard Shaw**
(Author of *Shame No More*)
with group discussion led by **Noah Shields, LMFT-S, LPC-S, RPT™**



SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS
Presented with a spiritual emphasis and a biblical worldview.
NO CHILDCARE PROVIDED



LOCATION
Peninsula Grace Brethren Church
46135 Kalifornsky Beach Rd.
Soldotna, AK 99669



HOW TO REGISTER
ONLINE
southcentralparenting.org
BY PHONE
(907) 202-2010



EARLY BIRD \$40
GENERAL \$50

Early Bird Registration Open 8/15–9/22

Upcoming Workshop

Advocacy Spotlight

Right now, Alaska's disability community is turning advocacy into action. AADD is working with providers, advocates, families, and people with disabilities to bring concerns directly to state leaders. Their focus includes sustainable Medicaid rates, protecting home- and community-based services, and strengthening Alaska's Direct Support Professional workforce. AADD and its partners are also pushing for fair DSP wages, better career opportunities, and greater recognition of the important work DSPs do. Through public comments, testimony, meetings with policymakers, and statewide partnerships, they are working to remove barriers that make it harder for Alaskans with disabilities to get the services and supports they need. These decisions are happening now, and your voice can help shape what comes next.



Learn how to get involved and share your experience at AADDAlaska.org.



Direct Support Professional Recognition Week!

September 13–19, we are celebrating the incredible Direct Support Professionals who are at the heart of Frontier Community Services. Our DSPs don't simply provide a service. They support people in building relationships, developing skills, working, participating in their communities, trying new things, making choices, and living lives that are truly their own. At FCS, we believe "Nothing About Me Without Me." Our DSPs put those words into action every single day. To every FCS DSP: We see you. We appreciate you. And we know our mission would not be possible without you.



"YOU ARE THE QUIET CHAMPIONS WHO MAKE INDEPENDENCE POSSIBLE, DIGNITY VISIBLE, AND COMPASSION TANGIBLE."



Recent photos



DAN'S CATCH ON THE KENAI



RENIE & COEN



MORE PHOTOS FROM SAVANNAH GEORGIA



MR. MCINTOSH'S INTRODUCTION TO KARATE



TRYSTIN'S DANCE MOVES



ACTIVITIES CLUB AND TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING



SUNNY DAYS AT THE SOLDOTNA CREEK PARK



LARS & TRACY AT THE WEDNESDAY MARKET