

# REACHing Out

INCORPORATED

REACH, Inc. Monthly Newsletter  
March 2024

## From the Desk of Dan:

Greetings from REACH, Inc.!

The 36th annual Key Campaign wrapped up last month with virtual and in-person visits with Legislators, held the week of February 19, a rally on the Capitol steps, and a work session in Juneau on February 27-29 with members from the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, statewide agency providers, Key Coalition board members, Peer Power, and the Alaska Alliance of Direct Support Professionals. I am sincerely grateful to everyone who made time to participate in this important advocacy effort to increase awareness on the issues faced by Alaskans who experience an intellectual or developmental disability. I'm looking forward to working with all the various groups and agencies around the state to expand this advocacy effort in the future as we all navigate upcoming system changes and continue to grapple with workforce shortages, inflation, and other threats to the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) system.

Sincerely,

Dan Elstad  
Executive Director



Photos  
from 2024  
Key  
Campaign  
Rally

P.S. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a celebration of increasing public awareness and recognizing the contributions of people who experience disabilities!

## Staff Updates:

We're excited to announce a new addition to the REACH team! Please help us welcome Mariana Sausedo who joins us as a Staff Manager in our Supported Employment program. Mariana comes to us with a wealth of experience in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability field, having worked with individuals in the past. Welcome Mariana!



## Infant Learning Program Update:

Meet the team! REACH's Infant Learning Program (ILP) has nine dedicated team members with a variety of disciplines and unique strengths that together help us serve Southeast Alaska families. From occupational therapists to music therapists to speech language therapists, and so many more, the ILP team is dedicated to providing families with resources to navigate early childhood development.



## Employee Anniversaries:

We're so proud of the people who work at REACH, and their hard work does not go unnoticed! Please join us in celebrating the following employee anniversaries for the month of March:

*Happy Anniversary*

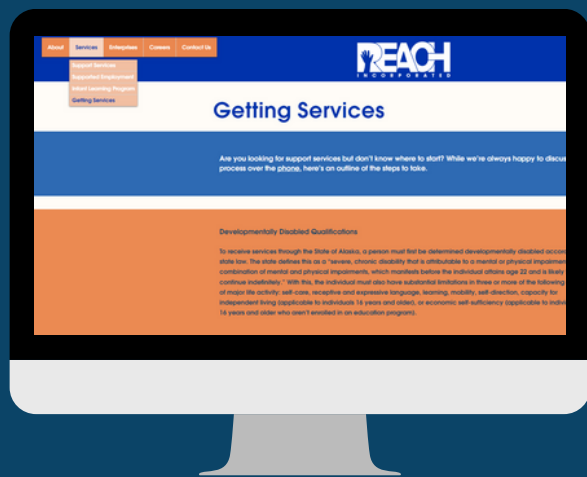
Erin Meade - 1 year  
Martin Reid - 2 years  
Renee Sullivan - 2 years  
Rodrigo Guzman Caceres - 2 years  
Tammra Birch - 3 years  
Michael Livingston 4 years  
Ralph Bullman - 4 years  
Naomi Vakauta - 7 years  
Joshua Berg - 7 years

Charles Mattingly - 8 years  
Hannah Ashenfelter - 12 years  
Josefina Quirino Rosas - 13 years  
Xiao Lu - 13 years  
Kaelen Del Castillo - 15 years  
Ruth Legg - 17 years  
Donald Jackowick - 17 years  
Colleen James - 33 years

## Check out our new webpages:

Our website is expanding! We've added two new webpages to the website in order to help people better understand all the services we offer at REACH for Alaskans experiencing an intellectual or developmental disability. The first page, "Getting Services" is a step-by-step guide on how an individual goes about obtaining services. If you ever get asked by someone what the process is to get services through a provider agency like REACH, please direct them to [www.reachak.org/getting-services](http://www.reachak.org/getting-services).

The second page called "News & Updates", contains our monthly newsletters and a signup form for people to obtain a mailed or emailed copy of it. We encourage you to check it out at [www.reachak.org/news-updates](http://www.reachak.org/news-updates) to catch up on what REACH has been up to lately!



## REACH is Getting Social:

If you're a fan of REACH, then please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!



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linkedin.com/company/reachincak

Follow  
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# Peer Power

PEER POWER HOSTS

# Annual Self Advocacy Summit 2024

Topic :

What is Power?



## FRIDAY - SUNDAY

April 26, 2024 to April 28th, 2024

**REGISTER DEADLINE  
EXTENDED! DEADLINE IS NOW  
MARCH 22ND**

<https://peerpower907.ticketbud.com/2024-peer-pwer-self-advocacy-summ>

For more information, call Ric Nelson at (907) 250-3742 or email him at [ric@peerpower907.com](mailto:ric@peerpower907.com)

We want to thank our current sponsors!



[www.peerpower907.com](http://www.peerpower907.com)

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