

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

August 27, 2014
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Dean Gates
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Christie Reinhardt
Patrick Reinhart
Rich Sanders
Lanny Mommsen
Brittney Howell

Guests:

Duane Mayes

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:05 p.m.

Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Ric Nelson welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Ric Nelson reported the good news that he will have his Master's degree in one more year.

Lucy Odden reported that her birthday is September 7th.

Teresa Holt reported the good news that Kristin Vandagriff gave birth to a baby girl, and both mother and baby are doing well.

Christie Reinhardt announced the good news that school has started.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from July 23rd, 2014 as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt reported that the Council received several requests for letters of support from tribal VR programs. She noted that all the tribal VR agencies are up for renewal in a competitive grant process. The Council provided letters of support for Bristol Bay Native Association, Maniilaq Native Association, and Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association.

Teresa Holt reported that the Council received a response from the Trust to a request for a face-to-face meeting with the Board of Trustees, which she read aloud. Essentially, Mike Barton, the chair of the Trust, expressed that the Trust has committed, at a minimum, to have one Trustee attend one regularly scheduled beneficiary advisory board meeting per year, and

additionally, Trust staff will continue to attend meetings as appropriate and report back to the Trustees. Mr. Barton assured the Council that they receive regular notices of upcoming advisory board and committee meetings and may attend other meetings if their schedules allow.

REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson directed the committee's attention to the removal of committee reports from the agenda. He explained that written reports will be submitted by the various committees, and that will allow the Executive Committee the time to address the agenda items.

Ric Nelson took a moment to clarify a discussion from the last meeting related to the MMIS and the commissioner's comment about combining agencies to make a bigger agency. After meeting with the commissioner, Ric explained that the commissioner's comment was not directed towards the DD community and the agencies that serve it, but it related to Behavioral Health grant dollars supporting many agencies that have an executive director, a secretary, and one counselor/therapist who is the only one actually seeing people, and since there are several of these very small agencies in Southeast, for example, they could merge into agency, in which the counselor/therapist would stay in the community and provide services, and they would be under the umbrella of one larger agency with one executive director.

Ric Nelson attended the community forum on the new regulations that have come out from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding home and community-based services specific to person-centered planning and settings. He encouraged the Council to follow these new regulations as SDS moves forward on them and provide input when needed, and encouraged the Council to seek out self-advocacy groups, such as Peer Power, to have them partner with the Council and SDS to help educate families and self-advocates about the new regulations that are going into effect.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt announced the good news that there were three people

appointed to the Council, and Lucy Odden was reappointed. The Governor appointed Anthony Cravalho from Kotzebue, who represents a parent of a child with a disability, Mallory Hamilton from Anchorage, who was appointed to a consumer seat, and Jill Burkert from Juneau, who is a special education director for UAS appointed to the non-governmental organization seat. Teresa noted that she has been updating the orientation packet. She has met with Anthony Cravalho, and is scheduled to meet with Jill Burkert and Mallory Hamilton later in the week.

Teresa Holt attended the Trust Planning Committee meeting last week and highlighted that there is \$100,000 of MHTAAR funds that the three boards are able to use jointly. The criteria for the use of those funds are to fill a particular niche described as: Critical contingent problems affecting beneficiaries. It is a one-time increment for FY15. She also reported that the planning committee, in looking at FY16 budgets, added \$50,000 to the already budgeted \$250,000 for DD mini-grants.

Teresa Holt reported that she has been working on solidifying all the Council's reimbursable service agreements for the Department of Education, The Department of Labor, the Office of Children's Services, and the statements of intent with the Trust. The negotiations are done, and they are awaiting the final copies of the agreements.

Teresa Holt reported that she has been working on the budget closeout, and she is in the final stages of review. She reported that a Trust meeting is scheduled for September 3rd and 4th. This is the meeting when the Trust will vote on the final budget for FY16.

Teresa Holt noted that Kristin Vandagriff brought to her attention what she called a word exchange regarding the word "disability" and exchanging it for "diverse ability", which is a trend that seems to be working its way across the nation. She encouraged the committee members to think about it.

Teresa Holt reported that she will be out of the office from September 5th to September 19th.

OLD BUSINESS

COUNCIL BUDGET – FY14 CLOSE OUT/FY15 PROPOSED

Teresa Holt led the Executive Committee members through a review of the FY14 budget closeout summary as follows:

- Personnel 92%
- Services 98%
- Travel 109%
- Commodities 91%
- **Overall 97%**

Teresa Holt led the Executive Committee through a review of the FY15 proposed budget, and explained each of the categories where funds are received by the Council and the specific set of requirements set forth for expenditures. Teresa noted that essentially for FY15 there is going to be budget cuts of approximately \$50,000 in order to meet the projections for FY15. She also noted that there may be some leeway with carryover funds from the AIEI grant for the intern position and some other budgetary items if their carryover budget is approved. Teresa made the following recommendations:

- Reduction in travel by eliminating the Disability Policy Summit travel.
- Keep all committee meetings to a one-and-a-half-hour limit.
- May and October Council meetings reduced to two days each.

Duane Mayes commented that regarding the cost of accommodations, SDS could help offset those costs.

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

The Executive Committee members had a discussion related to the new member orientation and brainstormed ideas on how to most efficiently complete the orientation. Teresa Holt also mentioned that their reporting now requires that they report ethnicity data related to the Council members. Kari Lopez suggested talking with Boards & Commission for that information because Council members reported it on their appointment applications.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda for the October Council meeting. During discussion, Dean Gates requested an **AMENDMENT** the

motion to move the leadership report to 1:00 p.m., change lunch to one hour, move the budget review to 2:30 p.m., and dinner break at 5:00 p.m. Amy Simpson **ACCEPTED** the amendment. Hearing no objections, the amended motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT FIRST POLICY FOR THE COUNCIL

Teresa Holt read the draft statement forwarded to the Council by the Institute on Community Inclusion that came out of the Employment Summit to create a policy that essentially says that for anyone the Council works or has a contract with, the Council is going to ask if they employ an Employment First philosophy. Ric Nelson asked committee members to send their comments to Teresa or Rich.

TRUST MEETING SEPTEMBER 3-4, 2014

Teresa Holt reported that she and Rich Sanders will be making a presentation at the Trust specifically regarding the issues around the MMIS.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **8/28** from 12-1:30 p.m. - Legislative Committee
- **9/10** from 1:00-2:30 p.m. - Developmental Disabilities Committee
- **9/10** from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. - Peer Power
- **9/10** from 10:00-11:30 a.m. - Early Intervention Committee
- **9/10** from 2:00-3:00 p.m. - Health and Disability Committee
- **9/16** from 1:00-2:30 p.m. - Employment & Transportation Committee
- **9/18** from 1:30-3:00 p.m. - Education Committee

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences:

- **9/3-9/4** - Trust Board meeting in Anchorage
- **9/12** - SESA board meeting in Anchorage
- **10/1-10/2** - Fall Council meeting in Anchorage

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 24th, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.