

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

**Anchorage, Alaska, October 2 - 4, 2013**

**October 2, 2013**

**Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Milton Cheemuk  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
David Fleurant  
Angelina Fraize  
Dean Gates  
Eric Gebhart  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Alex Gimarc  
Taylor Gregg  
Heidi Haas - telephonic  
Alexis Henning  
Susan Kaplan  
Terese Kashi  
Christine King  
Akis Gialopsos (Rep. Millett)  
Margaret Kossler  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Karli Lopez  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Sean O'Brien  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Justine Sheehan

**Council Staff:**

Teresa Holt, Executive Director  
Patrick Reinhart, Planner III  
Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator II  
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator I  
Michelle Jenkins, Administrative Assistant I  
Amanda Cooper, Health Program Manager I  
Hanna Foreman, Legislative Intern  
Tracy Golly, Peer Power Advisor  
Christine Miller, MASST Intern

CART Provided by Lenny DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting  
Minutes Prepared by Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Wednesday October 2, 2013

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 9:00 a.m.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Council members introduced themselves.

**Teresa Holt** and **Chair Nelson** instructed Council members on the use of the color card system for meeting participation.

### COUNCIL OVERVIEW

#### Developmental Disabilities Act/Council on DD and the Five-Year Plan

**Teresa Holt** led the Council members through a discussion of the responsibilities of the DD Council as follows:

##### Purpose:

- Advocacy
- Systems change
- Capacity building

##### Community Services:

- Consumer and family centered (individualized supports)
- Consumer and family directed (self-determination)

**Teresa Holt** stated that under the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, there are three partners, the DD Council (GCDSE), protection and advocacy (Disability Law Center), and University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Services (UAA Center for Human Development).

The DD Act requires the DD Council to address systems issues under the following categories that comprise the Five-Year State Plan:

- Advocacy and Leadership
- Community Choice and Supports (to include quality assurance and recreation)
- Housing
- Transportation
- Employment
- Early Intervention (to include childcare)
- Education
- Health

**Teresa Holt** stated that Council members must be comprised of individuals with I/DD, family members of individuals with I/DD, self-advocates, and agency representatives.

### **Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)**

**Christie Reinhardt** stated that under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, every state has to have a SEAP. The Governor's Council serves as Alaska's SEAP, and the Education Committee is the work group for the SEAP and is made up of representatives from stakeholder groups. The SEAP represents students from age 3 until they leave school.

The SEAP must be comprised of parents, individuals with disabilities, teachers, representatives of higher education that are training teachers, a representative of the McKinney-Vento Act, an administrator of programs for children with disabilities, a representative from state government, a representative from Vocational Rehabilitation, representative of private and charter schools, a representative from foster care, and a representative from the Division of Juvenile Justice.

The tasks of the SEAP include:

- Advise on unmet needs within the state
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations
- Advise on developing evaluations
- Advise on developing corrective action plans
- Advise on policies on coordination of services
- Review and comment on completed due process hearing findings.

### **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)**

**Christie Reinhardt** stated that under IDEA Part C, every state has to have an ICC, and the Governor's Council serves as Alaska's ICC. The Early Intervention Committee (EIC) is the workgroup of the ICC and is comprised of representatives from stakeholder groups. The ICC represents children from age birth to 5.

The ICC must be comprised of parents of children under the age of 12 with disabilities who have a knowledge of services; parent of a child under the age of 6; representatives from public or private providers; representative from an agency that is responsible for personnel preparation for early intervention; someone from the Department of Education that is responsible for preschool programs; and representatives from Head Start, child care, private health insurance, homeless children, Office of Children's Services, children's mental health, and can also include someone from Indian Health Services.

The tasks of the ICC include:

- Advise on unmet needs
- Review and comment on rules and regulations
- Identification of program supports and services
- Promotion of interagency agreements
- Transition of toddlers to preschool
- Report annually on the status of early intervention programs

- Advise other agencies about the integration of services.

### **Special Education Service Agency (SESA)**

Patrick Pillai stated that SESA has three areas of service required by statute:

- Provision of itinerant services to rural Alaska to special education teachers and their teams working with students with low incidence disabilities (one percent or less of the total population)
- Provision of professional development
- Provision of other services.

SESA programs include:

- Low Incidence Disabilities (LID)
  - Autism
  - Deaf, deaf-blind
  - Cognitive impairment
  - Hearing impairment
  - Blind and visual impairment
  - Orthopedic disability
  - Other health impairments
  - Severe emotional disturbance
  - Multiple disabilities
- Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)
- Educational Transition Support Project (ETSP)
- Alaska Deaf Blind Project (DSI)
- Guiding and Investing in New Special Educators (GAINS)

### **Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**

**Teresa Holt** provided some background information on the formation of the Trust and explained that the Trust does capacity building projects to look at long-term systems change for their beneficiaries who include people with mental health issues, individuals with developmental disabilities, people with chronic substance abuse issues, people with Alzheimer's and related dementia and people with brain injury. The Governor's Council is a partner board of the Trust.

Trust focus areas include:

- Affordable Appropriate Housing
- Disability Justice
- Workforce Development
- Beneficiary Employment
- Alcohol

**Teresa Holt** explained that the Beneficiary Employment focus area is new for the Trust, and they have chosen the Council to be the lead organization. The Trust will be putting \$1,000,000 per year for the next five years towards demonstration projects, training programs, and

examining and improving the system related to the employment of Trust beneficiaries.

### **Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI) Grant – 5-year grant**

**Rich Sanders** began his presentation by showing the employment disparity between Alaskans with and without disabilities in 2011, 47% with disabilities who are employed as compared to 80% without disabilities. He stated that the goal of the AIEI is to double the number of youth and young adults served by the Division of Senior and Disability Services who are employed or self-employed from 139 to 278. They will achieve this goal through:

- Improved policies and regulations
- Training for providers, families, educators, and individuals
- Collaboration with business and industry
- Dissemination of effective systems change approaches.

### **Disability Employment Initiative**

**Rich Sanders** stated that this grant was a collaborative effort between the Workforce Investment Board, the Employment Security Division (Job Centers) and the Governor’s Council. The goal is to ensure the Alaska Job Centers are accessible and have staff that are knowledgeable in effectively serving customers with disabilities. The grant just received a continuation for three years at \$500,000 per year. Activities of this grant include:

- Staff training
- Accessibility reviews, fixes, and upgrades
- Asset building activities
- Customized employment
- Ticket to Work and benefits planning.

### **Project SEARCH**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that Project SEARCH is a transition program for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and it provides on-the-job training and education in their last year of school. This is a collaborative effort of the Council, DVR, Department of Education, service providers, and businesses. Current sites include hospitals in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Kenai/Soldotna. 86% of graduates have secured competitive, integrated employment after completion of their internship through Project SEARCH.

The next area of focus for Project SEARCH is an internship within state government.

### **Microenterprise Grants**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that the Trust microenterprise fund provides grants to Trust beneficiaries to assist them in starting or expanding their own business. There is \$150,000 of funding available for FY’ 14, and the awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 and requires a dollar for dollar match. They must have proof of beneficiary status. The review committee accepts and

reviews applications three times per year. They would like to see more applications from people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

### **Health Grant**

**Amanda Cooper** stated that the Health and Emergency Preparedness grant is a three-year grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control. The goals of the grant are to:

- Promote and maximize health
- Prevent chronic disease
- Improve emergency preparedness
- Increase quality of life.

As a grant requirement, the Alaska Health and Disability Program Committee was formed. Members of this committee are from various areas of public health. They meet monthly, share resources, and build partnerships.

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** stated that she has been the Council's representative on the Healthy Alaskans 2020 Initiative, and would like to step down from that position and allow another Council member to take over. **Teresa Holt** suggested they can discuss this during the meeting later in the week.

### **Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN)**

**Amanda Cooper** stated that ASPEN is a project invested in helping Alaskan community providers address the needs of individuals with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The goal of ASPEN is a world where survivors with disabilities can feel empowered, where they can tell their stories and be believed without judgment, and where they receive appropriate services that are attitudinally, culturally, and programmatically accessible.

The ASPEN project has a statewide collaborative as well as a focus community collaborative. The statewide collaborative determines a community within Alaska that has a need, and then they work with the agencies that are committed to addressing the needs of survivors with disabilities. They conduct a needs assessment with the community, complete a policy review, create a strategic plan, and then do an evaluation after the strategic plan has been implemented.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Chair Nelson** added to the agenda a report from Michael Bailey with AADD to discuss the impact of the regulations. **Eric Gebhart MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2013 MINUTES**

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 2013 meeting. The motion

**PASSED.**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** asked if her excused absence needed to be recorded in the previous set of minutes. **Chair Nelson** stated that it did not need to be reflected in the minutes.

### **COUNCIL ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE**

**Chair Nelson** led Council members through a presentation of the Council organization and structure. He stated that the Council is a working board with the following committees:

- Executive
- Developmental Disabilities
- Education
- Early Intervention
- Legislative
- Autism Ad Hoc
- Medicaid Ad Hoc
- Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc.

Each committee has a chair, and Council members must choose at least one committee to serve on. Every committee meets once a month, and local members are strongly urged to attend meetings in person at the Council offices unless prior arrangements have been made.

Council members responsibilities include:

- Develop, implement, and monitor the State Plan
- Set annual priorities
- Develop annual work plans
- Evaluate Council activities and outcomes
- Focus resources and activities
- Provide clear policy direction
- Hire, supervise, and evaluate the executive director
- Safeguard staff employment.

Committee chair responsibilities include:

- Call meetings
- Set agendas
- Preside at meetings
- Operate and conduct operations and business according to Council priorities and resolutions
- Develop annual work plans
- Establish work groups to meet annual work plan goals and objectives.

In an answer to a question posed by **Karli Lopez**, **Chair Nelson** and **Eric Gebhart** stated that Council members not appearing for committee meetings may be contacted by the committee chair to determine why they are not appearing for scheduled meetings. It can also be helpful to

work with the committee's staff person to see if they can work out what the problem is. The Council chair can also provide support to the committee chair.

**Chair Nelson** continued in his presentation by outlining Council staff responsibilities as follows:

- Assist Council/committee members in effectively carrying out their responsibilities
- Provide management assistance
- Provide planning and research assistance
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings
- Maintain ongoing relationships with State agencies, providers, and consumer groups
- Represent the Council's views and priorities
- Ensure compliance with state and federal law.

Duties of Council members include:

- Advocates are responsible for planning, monitoring, building capacity, making systems change, and advocating for services and supports for infants and toddlers with disabilities, people with developmental or other substantial disabilities, and students receiving special education services.

Priorities of the Council members include:

- Continually educating themselves about the Council as a whole and not just one specific area
- Meeting attendance
- Educating themselves about the Council's priorities so they can relay the messages to their communities
- Participating in healthy debate.

**Chair Nelson** educated the Council members about people first language as follows:

- A disability is not the person
- People first before the disability
- Do not talk about the disability without the person's permission/consent
- Do not use the word handicapped. The politically correct term is disabled or person with a disability.

### **BYLAWS SUMMARY**

**Chair Nelson** stated that he would like all Council members to review the bylaws and come to either him or the staff if there are any concerns or questions.

### **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

**Chair Nelson** reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Robert's Rules of Order for how the Council conducts their meetings.

### **TRAVEL PROCEDURES**

**Michelle Jenkins** reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with Council members regarding travel. She highlighted that Council members must submit paper airline boarding passes, hotel invoice, and transportation receipts to the Council office within five days of completion of the trip. Tips are not reimbursable. Be certain to check your hotel receipt to ensure the Council's credit card was used, not your own personal credit card.

### **WAIVER/RATE REGULATION UPDATE**

Michael Bailey from the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities stated that his presentation will focus on some updates in terms of the impacts of the waiver regulations that came out on July 1. He stated that there are also proposed rate regulations that are out for comment that the AADD is examining.

Michael Bailey stated that some of the main changes they saw in the new waiver regulations impacted supported living environments. There was a limitation placed that all staffing had to be on a one-on-one basis. Over the years, apartment clusters have been developed that allowed people to live in their own apartments with on-site staff 24/7. Also defined with that were opportunities for socialization such as cooking classes and skill building. The regulations limit the ability to do some of the socialization aspects, and along with that there was an 18-hour cap per day on the amount of billable time that could be billed in supported living.

He stated that historically there has been a gap in services for people who need 24/7 monitoring but also want to choose to have an independent lifestyle. Now they have the option to be in a supported living environment but with only 18 hours a day of staffing, or they can reside in a licensed group or assisted living home setting where they have staffing 24/7 and can lose independence. AADD is also now seeing an increase in the number of denials of plans of care that have been submitted with people wanting independent living situations but with 24/7 care.

Michael Bailey stated that AADD is suggesting that SDS might examine a daily service rate similar to the group home rate that is a lesser cost to the State. They are currently working with SDS, and SDS has been very receptive and has been listening to the concerns.

He stated that another area of the regulations that has received a lot of attention is day habilitation. For people living in group home environments, day habilitation is now capped at 15 hours per week. They will need to watch for the consequences of this reduced level of day habilitation and the unwanted consequences. He noted that Duane Mayes testified before the HSS Finance Committee that the 15 hours a week is a soft cap and that there is an opportunity to apply for an additional amount of hours.

Another area of the regulations that is of concern to AADD is that SDS created different rates for group services. If day habilitation is happening in a group setting, there will be one rate reimbursed for that. If it is taking place on a one-on-one basis, there is a different rate for that. There are a few agencies that only provide group day habilitation, and they are facing the prospect of not being able to continue doing business.

Michael Bailey then addressed the rate regulations by stating that every provider had their own rate per service category for the last few years. The State is moving toward every provider in a region receiving the same rate. They collected all the cost data from providers for 2012, and the results were a bit confusing. The providers were reporting that doing business costs them ten percent more than they receive, and yet the Office of Rate Review has determined to reimburse them at a lesser rate than they were receiving. AADD is in discussions with ORR right now to review the discrepancy.

He stated that public testimony was heard regarding \$40 per day that was going to be passed along to recipients for room and board, and the Office of Rate Review has proposed a change in regulation that ties it to the person's income from Social Security and leaves the \$100 allowance untouched.

Michael Bailey stated that AADD is proposing to keep the rates the same as they are until June 30, 2014 until more examination can be done. Through the Trust they are looking at a research project that will look at other states and examine historical costs in Alaska and the cost of living in Alaska as well as the trends over the last five years to make sure that those costs are built in to the rates.

### **REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S FY'14 BUDGET**

**Teresa Holt** reviewed the charts and cost breakdown of the Council's FY' 14 budget with Council members.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Chair Nelson** began his report by introducing the members of the Executive Committee and new Council members. He stated that a new product he introduced is the card system being used at this meeting.

The Executive Committee is currently working on the executive director's evaluation.

**Chair Nelson** stated that he attended ITACC and NACDD Conference as well as the Home and Community-Based Services Conference.

He asked **Karli Lopez** to discuss an issue relating to a bylaws change. **Karli Lopez** stated that she has been attempting to fill the vacant seats on the Early Intervention Committee, and she noticed that the bylaws state that any public, non-Council member that needs to be added to the committee needs to be appointed by the Council chair. She is suggesting a change to the bylaws that instead of Council chair, it be through the committee chair. She referred Council members to page 15 under Article 7 of the bylaws. She feels that it is adding unnecessary steps to appointing public members by having to go through the Council chair.

**Karli Lopez MOVED** that the bylaws be amended under Article 7 to change it from the Council chair appointing people to committees to the committee chair appointing members to a committee.

Further discussion ensued.

**Eric Gebhardt** stated that based on a discussion with **David Fleurant**, they felt that there may be a way to do this without making a major bylaws revision. He felt they could come up with a plan by Friday of this week.

**Eric Gebhardt MOVED** to table the vote on the motion until Friday. The motion **PASSED**.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Teresa Holt** began her presentation by stating that it is the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the DD Act, and she shared some highlights of the reauthorization of the Act through the years.

She announced that Sheryl Cobb retired, and Michelle Jenkins has been hired as her replacement. Other new staff to the Council include Amanda Cooper, Tracy Golly, Hannah Foreman, Christine Miller, and Kristin Vandagriff. She stated that Michelle Jenkins' position has been left vacant, and they are looking to hire a DVR client through the provisional hire process.

### **Office/Council Update Since May**

- Staff retreat
- Five-Year Plan amendments
- Executive Committee SFY' 14 budget planning meeting
- July retirement party for Kathy Fitzgerald
- Closeout of SFY' 13
- Creation of new budget and tracking system
- AIEI Advisory Board meeting
- Staff assistance before Council meeting.

### **State-Level Activities**

- National Governor's Association meeting in Seattle; meeting with Mike Lesmann with Governor Parnell's office
- Signing of HB 87 in Fairbanks
- Signing of HB 88 in Anchorage
- DHSS Big Picture meeting
- Appointment of new Council members
- Trust Planning Committee meeting, August 7 – 8
- State Board of Education meeting in Nome, September 24 – 25
- Autism Insurance Task Force meeting, August 27
- Trust Board meeting, September 4 – 6.

### **Federal-Level Activities**

- ITACC meeting
- NACDD Annual Conference and met with Congressional delegation
- AIEI grant meeting

- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference
- CDC Health grant meeting
- Home and Community-Based Services Conference
- Program Performance Report (PPR) data review
- Workforce Investment Act recommendations.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

**Hannah Foreman** reviewed the legislative process with Council members as follows:

### **House of Representatives:**

- 40 members
- 2-year terms
- Districts 1 – 40.

### **Senate:**

- 20 members
- 4-year terms
- Districts A – T.

### **Timeline for Making a Law:**

- Idea becomes a bill
- First reads: Committee discussion
- Second reads: Floor discussion
- Third reads: Vote
- Sent to other body (House or Senate) for consideration.

**Governor's Approval:** The Governor has 15 days to:

- Sign the bill
- Veto the bill
- Allow the bill to become law without signature.

### **Legislative Advocacy:**

- Easier than one might think
- Good timing is important
- Being an expert is not required
- Building friendships goes a long way.

## **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 4:45 to set up for public testimony.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

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Christine Miller, MASST Intern

**Thursday October 3, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 9:00 a.m.**

**COMPLEX BEHAVIOR COLLABORATIVE (CBC) STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Teresa Holt** led Council members through a Midwest Academy planning session for the Complex Behavior Collaborative. She provided the history of the Collaborative by stating that based on a report from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), it was found that the state of Alaska has gaps in services, particularly for people with complex behaviors. They recommended starting to fill some of these gaps by providing a technical assistance center to help families, agencies, and communities to provide assistance that the general provider and family are not able to provide.

The Complex Behavior Collaborative was created as a group of behavior experts that can work with Trust beneficiaries and their families, providers, and communities to decrease the challenging behaviors and keep people in their communities.

The Council and their partners have been advocating to the legislature for the last three years for funding for this Collaborative. Last year was the first full year of funding for the Collaborative, which has been run out of the Division of Behavioral Health, and they have collected and reported on the data. Reta Sullivan has been the lead on this through the DBH.

**Teresa Holt** reviewed the data that shows the effectiveness of the CBC with Council members.

**Dean Gates** asked about the progress of the other two components that were addressed in the WICHE report besides the Collaborative, the brief stabilization and the intensive intermediate intervention services. Maureen Harwood explained that there is a project going on with Maureen McGlone and Reta Sullivan as well as multiple partners within the state to create an acute Residential Psychiatric Treatment Center (RPTC) in Alaska based on a model from Maine where the focus is on people with developmental disabilities who experience mental health issues.

She then led Council members through the planning session as follows:

**Outcomes:**

- Both family and providers have someone they can contact to help problem solve.
- Families and providers have training.
- Collaboration between agencies.
- Training the workforce and families to be able to support others in the future.
- Retention of staff, including school staff.
- Starting to see progress and the CBC working in rural communities.
- Be able to identify unmet needs in communities.
- People with Alzheimer's and related dementia are served in their home communities.
- Demonstrated self-management techniques so individuals can go to work or maintain

their employment.

- Reduction in recidivism with the Department of Corrections.

**Allies:**

- The Trust
- Providers: DD, mental health, senior.
- Schools
- Families
- Direct care providers
- Center for Human Development
- Insurance Companies
- Senior and Disability Services
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Department of Corrections
- Division of Juvenile Justice
- API
- Legislature
- Tribal health system
- Office of Children's Services
- Rural human services
- Donny Olson
- Consumers
- Family support agencies or non-profits, Autism Society of Alaska
- AYFM
- Police

**Opponents:**

- Legislature
- Governor
- Finance Committee
- The public

**Targets:**

- Governor
- The public
- Commissioner Streur
- Legislature
- Finance Committee
- Providers – having them do business differently and become part of the CBC.

**Action Steps:**

- Collect stories from families and providers. Identify people who would be willing to testify and tell their story.
- Legislative Committee connect with some of the other Trust beneficiaries certified by the

CBC.

- Media campaign that talks about the cost savings.
- Align all the partners in the CBC with the same message.
- Look for a way to tie the CBC to Governor's domestic violence/sexual assault initiative.
- Look at each legislator to see if they somehow could have a personal tie to the CBC.
- Reframe the message as not one of funding, but one of investing. Be able to walk through the budget concerns in a coherent manner to be able to educate people who both understand accounting and the general public who may not be aware of the issue.
- Show how the CBC works in rural Alaska.
- Creation of a short video to convey the CBC message to the legislature in 30 seconds or less. Expand that to TV spots and YouTube.
- Identify regional impacts/benefits.

### **EMPLOYMENT FIRST INITIATIVE**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that the Employment First Initiative is that employment in the general workforce is the first and preferred outcome in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age citizens with disabilities, regardless of level of disability.

- The employment rate of citizens with disabilities in the workforce is unacceptable.
- Access to real jobs with real wages helps avoid lives of poverty, dependence, and isolation.
- It is presumed that all working age adults and youth with disabilities can work in jobs fully integrated within the community side-by-side with co-workers without disabilities earning minimum wage or higher.
- As with all other individuals, employees with disabilities require assistance and support to ensure job success and should have access to those supports necessary to succeed in the workplace.
- All citizens regardless of disability have the right to pursue the full range of available employment opportunities and earn a living wage in a job of their choosing that is based on their talents, skills, and interests.

#### Characteristics of Employment First include:

- Increase the number of individuals with disabilities in the workforce in the community who are earning minimum wage or higher with benefits.
- Increase opportunities to pursue self-employment.
- Employment is the first and preferred option when exploring goals and a life path for citizens with disabilities.
- The expectation is that everyone will have the opportunity to work regardless of the severity of disability and assistance required.
- Young people with disabilities have work experiences that are typical of other teenagers and young adults.
- Employers value individuals with disabilities as an integral part of their workforce.
- Individuals with disabilities have increased income, financial assets, and economic wealth.

- Increase opportunities for employees with disabilities to advance in their careers.
- Funding is sufficient to ensure quality services and supports are available as needed for long-term employment success.
- A decision not to consider employment in the community for an individual is re-evaluated and documented on a regular basis.

#### How do we get there?

- Create an Employment First bill.
  - Ask a legislator to draft a bill. Representative Millett and staff are working on this.
  - Ask the Governor to support the bill and other systems changes.
  - Pre-file the bill this fall.
  - The Council's job is to advocate for this bill.

#### What are the other factors that will help us?

- National Governor's Association Blue Print: "A Better Bottom Line: Employing Persons with Disabilities."
- Governor Parnell sent a team from Alaska to Seattle workshop.
- The report talks about Alaska and the State as a Model Employer Initiative.
  - Council, DVR, Personnel and Labor Relations, ADA Coordinator's office are all partners.
  - 2011 survey of State employees conducted.
  - Provisional Hire Program
  - Other ideas include training on the ADA for hiring managers and a centralized disability accommodation fund.
- Project SEARCH in Juneau state offices.
  - Students age 18-21 in their last year of high school have on-the-job work experience for nine months.
  - Collaboration between the Council, DVR, local school districts, DEED, local businesses.
- Trust Beneficiaries Employment Focus Area
  - FY'14 funding.
  - FY'15 funding ongoing for up to five years.
- Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative
  - Increase the number of youth and young adults with I/DD who are employed or self-employed in the community.
  - Increase the percent of youth and young adults with I/DD served by DVR from 20% to 25%.
  - Increase the hours worked by DVR participants with I/DD from 13 to 20 hours per week.
  - Double the number of youth and young adults with I/DD served by SDS who are employed or self-employed from 139 to 278.

**Patrick Reinhart** added that the Peer Power organization has decided that their emphasis will be on disability awareness and outreach to employers about hiring people with disabilities.

**Art Delaune** commented that about 20 percent of people with disabilities want to work, another 20 percent don't want to work, but the other 60% are afraid to go to work. He stated that they need to educate that 60% in addition to educating employers.

**David Fleurant** added that it's difficult to educate people and families given the current state of the Social Security Administration and the message that gets out to people about the ramifications of overpayments. **Rich Sanders** agreed that there needs to be some more collaboration with the Social Security Administration.

**Terese Kashi** stated that she would like the message to be conveyed that people with disabilities can become very dependable employees who have provided excellent customer service to people. That message from consumers needs to get out.

**Teresa Holt** stated that the Trust funds an ad campaign every year, and this year they have chosen to do an ad about employment. They already have a gentleman from Mat-Su who has gone through Project SEARCH that may be interested in being a part of the campaign.

**Angelina Fraize** commented that it would be good to target parents in the early intervention phase when their children are young because although they may be looking ahead to planning their education outcomes, most are not thinking in terms of employment.

**Erin Atwood** commented that it is also important to get the message across to newly employed individuals that although they have accepted a job, they don't have to keep this job forever, and they can continue to try out different job situations until they find one they like.

### **CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT**

**Rich Sanders** introduced Roger Shelley, who has long-time experience in the area of customized employment.

**Rich Sanders** stated that customized employment is a flexible process designed to personalize the employment relationship between a job candidate and an employer in a way that meets the needs of both.

**Rich Sanders** and Roger Shelley led the Council through a presentation on customized employment as follows:

#### **Who benefits?**

- Employers
- Individuals with disabilities
- Service providers
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Families
- Society as a whole.

### The basics of customized employment include:

- Discovery
- Job search planning
- Job development and negotiation
- Post-employment support.

### The Discovery Process: Discovering Personal Genius

- Home and neighborhood observation – Daily routines, chores, activities, history of the family and individual, get names of others to interview. Tour the neighborhood for observation of the surroundings, safety concerns, businesses, culture, transportation, services.
- Interviewing others – Parents, siblings, teachers, neighbors, providers.
- Skills and ecological fit – Interest levels, performance, demonstrated skills, connections, relationships, supports.
- Review – Files, memorabilia, records, Discovering Personal Genius notes.
- Vocational themes – Go for a minimum of three that are broad in scope.
- Descriptive narrative – The vocational profile that outlines the ideal conditions of employment based on the information gathered above.
- Career development – Approach specific employers and have conversations about their business, tour their business, and thank them for their time.
- Job Search/Planning – Align skills and interests with employer needs, allow the person to represent themselves, create a list of skills the job seeker can exhibit for the employer, and always expect competitive employment.

### What is happening now with Customized Employment?

- Training on a smaller scale has taken place via seminars over the past 10 years.
- DVR has a certification process for providers that want to bill for discovery and Customized Employment services.
- The DEI and the AIEI are providing two-day “foundations” seminar in Customized Employment.
- 12-week course in Customized Employment through the AIEI grant follows the foundations seminars.
- The foundation seminar and 12-week course will count toward DVR certification and can be taken via teleconference.
- Working with the Division of Senior and Disability Services to clarify service definitions of discovery and Customized Employment.
- AIEI staff are collaborating with other state and non-profit agencies on a comprehensive employment services system.

### **BENEFITS COUNSELING AND ASSET BUILDING**

**Rich Sanders** stated that the fear of losing benefits is one of the biggest obstacles to people going down the path of employment.

### Biggest questions and concerns:

- Will I lose my benefits, cash payments and health care?
- How do I get the skills and experience I need?
- What if I have to stop working and go back on benefits?

Ticket to Work:

- Employment counselors answer questions about returning to work.
- Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) answer questions about how work will impact Social Security disability benefits.

Social Security disability benefit programs:

- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Both SSDI and SSI – concurrent benefits.

Larissa Cummings from the Center for Human Development Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program stated that the program has been refunded, and they are once again able to provide free benefits counseling or work incentive counseling for people that are working or who are actively pursuing work. They can give this advisement through tier one, general advisement; or tier 2, through the CWICs for more detailed analysis.

Larissa Cummings and **Rich Sanders** discussed Social Security work incentives that help keep people afloat as they make their way toward self-sufficiency. For SSI there are work incentives, and for SSDI, there is also the blind work expense and the PASS plan, which they hope to use more in Alaska.

**Rich Sanders** stated that asset building allows individuals to build assets and in turn escape the cycle of poverty. Asset building is:

- Financial literacy
- Banking the “unbanked”
- Acquiring assets
  - Individual Development Accounts
    - Education
    - Home ownership
    - Economic development – small businesses
    - Equipment needed for education and small businesses
- Earned Income Tax Credit.

Anchorage Financial Partnerships Network:

- Free tax preparation
- Financial fitness
- Individual Development Accounts.

**EMPLOYMENT FIRST STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Teresa Holt** led the Council through a strategic planning session regarding Employment First legislation as follows:

**Outcomes:**

- More people who receive services from the State would be employed.
- More students would be working.
- State entities would change their initial interview processes and plan for employment.
- Increase the expectations of parents and support people who guide Trust beneficiaries.
- More employers would become educated.
- Track the increase in people getting jobs.
- Shift the perception of people with disabilities that they can be employed.
- More providers would provide supported employment services.
- Decrease in state and federal benefits paid to people.
- More students engaged and completing school.
- Less billable hours for day habilitation as supported employment hours increase.
- Deeper evolved level of disability awareness among the general public.
- Less job turnover for employers.
- Less recidivism in the criminal justice system
- Increase people's health and well being.

**Allies:**

- Trust
- Providers
- Schools
- Families
- SDS
- DVR
- TVR/Tribal Health
- Trust partner boards
- Social Security/federal government
- AARP
- Anchorage Equal Rights Commission/Alaska Human Rights Commission
- Medicaid
- Chamber of Commerce
- Rotary Club and other animal clubs
- Companies involved in resource development
- Governor
- Economic development, small business development centers
- Unions
- Homeless coalitions
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Small business owners
- Universities

- Public transportation.

**Opponents:**

- Parents and individuals – for fear of losing benefits
- People who are unemployed, particularly in rural areas where jobs are scarce
- Parent support groups
- Legislators
- Supporters of minimum wage.
- Operators of sheltered workshops or enclaves.
- Providers who may be resistant to changing the way they do business
- Direct service professionals
- Employers in high-risk occupations
- Business in general – changing the attitude of not everyone going to work
- Employers who had a negative experience hiring someone with a disability
- Veterans who are competing for the same jobs
- Assisted living homes because people may be able to house themselves
- Bureaucratic turf wars between organizations.

**Targets:**

- Legislators
- Chamber of Commerce
- Small Business Administration
- State Human Resource Society
- Employment associations, both public and private
- Unions
- Governor
- Society for Public Relations Professionals
- Care providers
- Commonwealth North
- Schools
- Commissioners of HSS, DEED
- SDS
- Media to disseminate correct information about employment of people with disabilities, the ADA, and public benefits.
- Alaska Municipal League. Tremendous asset to have them supporting the legislation.
- Communities, cities
- Department of Corrections.

**Action Steps:**

- Position papers – talking points
- Educate Council members
- Educate the public and allies
- Create a list of targeted resources for the legislators that aides can use to do more research

- Collect stories
- Make a commercial
- Media outreach
- Get people to contact their legislators
- Create a paper about the Council's plan or the Trust's plan to implement Employment First
- Get direct service providers trained – create capacity within DVR, behavioral health, AADD
- Educate Trustees and partner boards
- Educate State agencies
- Meetings with commissioners
- Start working with the Department of Education and school districts to develop a more comprehensive, robust transition process and start the discovery model early on
- DHSS and DOL need to be in better communication with each other at a higher level regarding employment
- Work with Representative Millett's office to stay ahead of the fiscal developments that may be attached to the bill.

### **BYLAWS CHANGE**

**Eric Gebhart** reopened the discussion about the bylaws change that was tabled during yesterday's meeting. He stated that he and **David Fleurant** have been discussing that the language may be considered an ambiguity in the bylaws, and the way it was written is not the way it has been interpreted. The original intent was for the chair to be given an opportunity to recognize and thank the public members for their service. He stated that the Council can decide to leave the bylaws as they were written with the understanding that it is the committee chairs who make the determination of public members to each of their committees, and it is the chair's responsibility to recognize their service.

**David Fleurant** further clarified that over the course of the next couple of meetings, the Council can work to reword the bylaws so that the intent in Article 7 is clear. **Eric Gebhart** further noted that they should also look at adding a way to make minor amendments to the bylaws, because the way the bylaws are currently written does not address being able to do so.

**Karli Lopez RECINDED** her original motion to amend the bylaws.

**Eric Gebhart MOVED** that the Council accept the interpretation of the current bylaws that he gave orally. The motion **PASSED**.

### **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 4:28 p.m.

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

**Anchorage, Alaska, October 2 - 4, 2013**

**October 4, 2013**

**Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Milton Cheemuk  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
David Fleurant  
Angelina Fraize  
Dean Gates  
Eric Gebhart  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Alex Gimarc  
Taylor Gregg  
Heidi Haas - telephonic  
Alexis Henning  
Susan Kaplan  
Christine King  
Akis Gialopsos (Rep. Millett)  
Margaret Kossler  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Karli Lopez  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Sean O'Brien  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Justine Sheehan

**Council Staff:**

Teresa Holt, Executive Director  
Patrick Reinhart, Planner III  
Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator II  
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator I  
Michelle Jenkins, Administrative Assistant I  
Amanda Cooper, Health Program Manager I  
Hanna Foreman, Legislative Intern  
Tracy Golly, Peer Power Advisor  
Christine Miller, MASST Intern

CART Provided by Lenny DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting  
Minutes Prepared by Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Friday, October 4, 2013

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - 9:00 a.m.

**REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES (SDS)**

Duane Mayes, director of SDS, reported that he participated in a House Finance hearing in September to explain the programs housed under SDS. He shared a slide he used during that Finance hearing with Council members to show the continuum of care for I/DD services from basic DD grants all the way to ICF-I/DD level of care. He noted that without that continuum of care, people will end up needing the highest level of care. Overall he felt the meeting went well.

In terms of sequestration, Duane Mayes stated that they received a cut of \$360,000 during the first round of sequestration. They were able to absorb that as a division without affecting providers. They are expecting another round of cuts at approximately the same amount later this fall, but no one is sure when that's going to happen or what percentage of a cut it will actually be.

Duane stated that they have 18 employees that work in the I/DD unit, and this last year through June they served 1,620 recipients. They implemented their regulations on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that they have improved their material improvement review process so that when people get better and no longer meet level of care, they can get them into the right kinds of services.

Duane Mayes stated that the fastest growing Medicaid component within the Department is the DD waiver. He stated that in the last six years it has gone from \$70 million to \$154 million, primarily because the number of individuals served has increased during that time. He stated that they put the soft cap on day habilitation because it has doubled from \$20 million to \$40 million in the last couple of years, and they need to ensure that the money is accounted for. He stated that the cost of supported living has also increased dramatically and needs to be closely monitored. With the soft cap of 18 hours a day of supported living, they need to be able to see that those hours are directly tied to supported living. He stated that SDS has a responsibility to be fiscally prudent when it comes to the I/DD unit.

Duane stated that they have put a lot of resources into the quality assurance unit, and he has gone out and participated in approximately 50 to 60 site reviews and plans to increase that number in the future.

Duane Mayes discussed staffing changes within the Division and fielded questions from the Council.

**PEER POWER REPORT**

**Lucy Odden** gave the report for Peer Power as follows:

Accomplishments in the Past Three Months:

- Hired an advisor – Tracy Golly
- Developed a work plan
- Transferred funds from People First to Peer Power
- Finalized paperwork to be a non-profit organization
- Established a plan to participate in the job fair on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Egan Center.

Future Plans:

- Participate in two more job fairs
- Planning three presentations for youth on employment topics
- Host three career fairs for youth with disabilities
- Co-sponsor five job clubs
- Support five Peer Power members to be certified as peer support members
- Participate in Disability Mentoring Day
- Training for employers on ADA accommodations.

**Lucy Odden** then described the work plan and specific activities associated with the future plans.

**DD COMMITTEE/MEDICAID REFORM AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Art Delaune** gave the Developmental Disabilities Committee report as follows:

Activities of Importance Since May:

- Developmental Disabilities Registry – 671 people as of 9/11/13
- Reviewed new HCBS waiver regulations released in June 2013
- Reviewed Alaska’s Long-Term Services and Supports: Recommendations for a Strategic Plan
- Streamlined the DD Mini Grant process
- Developed the FY’ 14 work plan
- Participated in the FASD training, May 22 – 24.

Ongoing and Monitoring for FY’ 14

- Review quarterly data from SDS on the DD Registry, HCBS waiver regulations, and individuals receiving services out of state
- Support the Family Waiver Training
- Monitor the implementation of the new rate methodology for community disability programs
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with Key Coalition
- Review proposed regulations and provide comment as necessary.

**Chair Nelson** gave the report for the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

- Letter to Commissioner Streur was submitted in March, May, and August.

- Plan to make a site visit to Access Alaska to see their durable medical equipment sanitizer.
- They would like to have a meeting with Commissioner Streur on the proposal they sent to him.

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that while on a recent trip to Wisconsin, he was able to be present for the grand opening of a store called the Ability Store, which is a reuse/recycle center for durable medical equipment, mainly manual and power wheelchairs. He received a disk demonstrating how they set up the model. **Patrick** noted that they use prisoners to take apart every one of the donated wheelchairs they receive, sanitize them, and put them back together. Everything looked brand new. He stated that they plan to meet with Jim Beck to see if they can start a program like that here in Alaska on a much smaller scale.

**Art Delaune** then reviewed the DD Committee's work plan as follows:

#### Advocacy and Leadership

1. Assist the self-advocacy organization to meet regularly, gather new members, and locate ongoing funding.
2. Assist the self-advocacy organization to create and implement a strategic plan and website.

#### Community Inclusion and Supports

1. Direct Service Professional living wage.
2. Equipment and technology reuse, including changing Medicaid policies to allow for reuse.
3. Complex Behavior Collaborative base funding.
4. Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network.

#### Housing

1. Promote the use of assistive home technology that increases the independence of individuals with disabilities.
2. Develop a public awareness campaign about local housing options and resources, as well as resources for home modifications.
3. Advocate for housing for unserved and underserved groups.

#### Transportation

1. Continue to work with SDS to implement changes to the home and community-based services regulations to include transportation as part of supported employment services.

#### Employment

1. Advocate for Employment First legislation.
2. Advocate for the State of Alaska to be a model employer for people with disabilities.
3. Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to become self-employed (microenterprise).
4. Increase the employment of youth with disabilities transitioning to adult life (Project SEARCH).

5. Advocate for changes to home and community-based services that will increase employment supports for people with disabilities with priority given to employed youth transitioning from school to adult life.

### Health

1. Provide training to individuals with disabilities, direct care professionals and emergency responders regarding preventative health care and emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities.
2. Develop recommendations for state and federal Medicaid reform.

**Eric Gebhart MOVED** to approve the work plan for the Developmental Disabilities Committee.

Discussion ensued. Additional suggestions made include:

- The Trust has done a workforce wage comparison study, and **Teresa Holt** will ensure the DD Committee gets connected to that group.
- Although the work plans are approved today, they are fluid documents that will change over time.
- DD Committee would like direction from the Council regarding being the lead on advocating for housing for unserved and underserved groups. They are unclear what the focus is. It was suggested that the Trust can be the lead, and the DD Committee can assist by identifying gaps for people with developmental disabilities. Amanda Lofgren, program officer for the Trust, suggested that the DD Committee could be the lead to bring ideas, best practices, and gaps in services to the Trust Housing focus area. Council staff and a member of the DD Committee can participate in the Trust Housing focus area teleconferences.

A vote was taken and the motion **PASSED**.

### **AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Teresa Holt** explained that the Autism Ad Hoc Committee hasn't met since early June. She noted that she is waiting and deferring to the Autism Insurance Task Force, which is looking at the entire system of services for individuals with autism. They are going to prepare a report to present to the legislature in January. She is hoping to share a draft of that report with the Autism Ad Hoc Committee in December as well as the whole Council for feedback and recommendations.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Karli Lopez** began her report by stating that the EIC is in need of additional committee members. She shared the highlights of the report as follows:

#### **Activities Since May:**

- Reviewed Alaska Social Skills Kit, part of the GAINS initiative at SESA.
- Reviewed Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program.

- Reviewed Part C State Performance indicators.
- OSEP Leadership Conference and SICC meeting.
- State Part C Coordinators meeting.

**Work Plan Priorities:**

**Long-Term Goal:** Advocate for an expansion in eligibility for Infant Learning Program services.

**Short-Term Goal #1:** Advocate for and assist with developing a Medicaid/insurance guideline manual.

**Short-Term Goal #2:** Continue to advise the State regarding early intervention for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Long-Term Goal:** Support capacity building activities that improve early intervention services.

**Short-Term Goal #1:** Advocate and support the State EI/ILP and other provider training programs.

**Short-Term Goal #2:** Recruit, mentor, and train parents of infants and toddlers in advocacy and their rights.

**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Duties:**

- Provide comment on regulations and policies
- Annual report
- Best practice information and training.

Discussion ensued. Additional suggestions are as follows:

- Workforce vacancy study listed under the UAA AHEC website.
- **Margaret Kossler** helped develop materials for EI/ILP, and she suggested the EIC revisit those documents and see if they can be of any use for families.

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus MOVED** to approve the work plan for the EIC. The motion **PASSED**.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Taylor Gregg** presented the report for the Education Committee as follows:

**Activities Since May:**

- HSGQE Subcommittee recommendations to drop the age of transition IEP goals to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the IEP team to decide graduation requirements.
- Draft legislation on restraint and seclusion to include prohibition of prone restraints and chemical or mechanical restraints.
- Participated in OSEP Conference.
- Participated in FASD Conference.
- Participated in SPED Directors meeting.
- Participated in LEND Family Advisory Board.
- Participated in State Board of Education.

- Participated in Anchorage Special Education Advisory Committee.

**Work Plan Priorities**

**Long-Term Goal:** Advocate for programs, policies or practices that improve education for students with disabilities.

**Short-Term Goal #1:** Alternatives for students with disabilities to pass the high school graduation qualifying examination.

**Short-Term Goal #2:** Promote legislation regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.

**Short-Term Goal #3:** Advocate for improved secondary transition in rural areas.

**Ongoing Activities:** Special Education Advisory Panel Duties.

**Chair Nelson** brought to **Christie Reinhardt’s** attention that the Legislative Committee has revised the language for the short-term goal 1. They have worded it: “Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to obtain a high school diploma.”

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the goal should be about passing the test or about students receiving a diploma. Council members shared their perspectives.

A vote was taken, and the unanimous consensus of the Council was that the goal should be for students with disabilities to obtain a high school diploma.

**Christie Reinhardt** reviewed the details of the Education Committee’s work plan and stated that it was discussed at the last committee meeting to potentially add a fifth goal, which would involve a pilot project that would introduce discovery as an academic course for students with IEPs. **Sean O’Brien** commented that there is a national model in Mississippi where a school district adopted the discovery approach across the district for general and special education both. They have had incredible success with it. **Sean** felt this would be very achievable in Alaska.

**Justine Sheehan MOVED** to approve the amended work plan for the Education Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Lucy Odden** gave the report for the Employment and Transportation Committee as follows:

**Employment Policies, Regulations, and Legislation:**

- Employment First legislation.
- Supporting individuals to participate in public comment.
- Advocating for improvements to the I/DD HCBS waiver and Medicaid State Plan services.
- Advocating for improvements to State of Alaska recruitment, hiring, and retention of workers with disabilities.

**Asset Building and Employment Practices:**

- Anchorage Financial Partnership Network.
- Free self-assisted tax preparation through Alaska’s Job Centers.

- State as a Model Employer Task Force.
- Project SEARCH continuation and expansion
- Trust microenterprise grant program.

### Capacity Building for Employment

- Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative.
- Disability Employment Initiative.
- Trust focus area on employment.
- Social Security Ticket to Work program.
- Work incentives counseling.
- Employment Services Integration Committee.
- Peer Power employment initiative.
- UAA TAPESTRY program.
- Customized employment and customized self-employment.

### Transportation Policies, Regulations, and Legislation

- Advocating for increased funding for developing a public transportation infrastructure.
- Providing assistance and comments to the new Public Transportation Board.
- Advocating to SDS for changes to the waiver policy on transportation.
- Support public comment on proposed transportation regulations through outreach.

### Innovative Transportation Projects:

- Advocate for accessible travel options for individuals with disabilities – public comment on access to taxis in Anchorage.
- Assist the Transportation Safety Administration with developing an option for travelers with disabilities to practice screening in advance of travel days.

### Capacity Building for Transportation:

- Collaboration/coordination with and support of the Alaska Mobility Coalition.
- Provide disability awareness training to TSA, taxi companies, and public transportation providers.

**Teresa Holt** commented on the TSA goals of disability training and practice opportunities for people with disabilities. She stated that the practice opportunities were already put in place two years ago with TSA, so if someone is interested in practicing before they travel, TSA has a system in place for that. She stated that there has been no response from the community to take advantage of that system. **Rich Sanders** stated that they will mark that activity as completed.

**Teresa Holt** further commented that TSA has a program called “I Can Fly,” which involves training TSA direct line workers. She will provide interested Council members the name of the individual who is responsible for the I Can Fly program in Alaska.

**Lucy Odden** also noted that the Employment and Transportation Committee is eager for additional members to join their group.

**Eric Gebhart MOVED** to approve the work plan for the Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

### **HEALTH AND DISABILITY COMMITTEE**

**Amanda Cooper** reviewed the activities of the Health and Disability Committee as follows:

#### **Activities Since May:**

- Emergency preparedness training.
- Statewide needs assessment.
- Get Ready! Toolkit.
- State grantee training.

#### **Work Plan – Year 2**

- Emergency preparedness videos.
- Healthy Lifestyles.
- Quit Line training.
- Adapted physical education.
- Breast and cervical health.

**Lucy Odden** volunteered to participate in making the emergency preparedness videos.

**Teresa Holt** and **Chair Nelson** inquired as to the ability to have an additional item added to their work plan around people who have Down's syndrome and dementia. There seem to be no physicians who are familiar with people with both Down's syndrome and dementia. **Amanda Cooper** stated that because they are funded by the CDC, they have specific areas they are required to address, and unfortunately Alzheimer's and dementia related disorders is not on that list. She stated that this could perhaps be an area of exploration should the Council decide to form their own health committee.

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to approve the work plan for the Health and Disabilities Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

### **ALASKA SAFETY PLANNING EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (ASPEN)**

**Amanda Cooper** shared the activities of ASPEN as follows:

#### **Focus Community Committee:**

- Developmental disabilities agency.
- Domestic violence/sexual assault shelter.
- Independent Living Center.
- Tribal organization.
- Mental/behavioral health agency.

#### **Activities Since May:**

- Hired project director.

- ASPEN retreat.
- Revised charter.
- Selected focus community.
- Obtained focus community commitment.

### **Work Plan – Year 2**

- Implement ASPEN in focus community.
- Select FY’15 focus community.
- Apply for Office on Violence Against Women grant.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Dean Gates** gave the report for the Legislative Committee as follows:

#### **Activities of Importance Since May:**

- Provided input and follow up to Senator Murkowski on drafts of WIA/Rehab Act reauthorization.
- Input and testimony on Anchorage taxicab ordinance (**Dean Gates** reported a conflict of interest for any discussions regarding the Anchorage taxicab ordinance and excused himself from all discussions and related activities).
- CBC – Gathering data to make the case.
- Working with Akis Gialopsos, Representative Millett’s staff, on restraint and seclusion and Employment First draft legislation.
- Helped plan Trust mini advocacy summits.

#### **Work Plan Priorities for FY’14:**

- Base funding for the CBC.
- Employment First legislation.
- State legislation regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.
- Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to get a high school diploma.
- Advocate for a State match for public and community transportation.
- Advocate for accessible taxis in Anchorage.

#### **Ongoing and Monitoring for FY’14:**

- Trust mini advocacy summits.
- Weekly Trust advocacy check-ins during legislative session.
- Federal legislation/issues such as WIA/Rehab Act.
- State budget issues such as House HSS hearings.
- Key Campaign planning and participation.
- Alaska Mobility Coalition partnership.

**Patrick Reinhart** noted that they changed their accessible taxi advocacy goal to not just Anchorage, but statewide.

**Teresa Holt** stated that the activities on the work plan don’t include a position paper or Midwest

Academy plan. She suggested they add those activities to the CBC, Employment First, and restraint and seclusion goals.

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to accept the Legislative Committee's work plan with the above mentioned amendments. The motion **PASSED**.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING ADDING AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Chair Nelson** opened up a discussion regarding the addition of an FASD ad hoc committee and a health ad hoc committee.

#### **FASD Ad Hoc Committee**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** stated that in the education system there is no particular disability category for people who have been impacted by FASD. She stated that in the DD system, people can qualify through developmental disabilities, but it is very challenging to get them through the eligibility process because it's a very functional disability and most people with FASD are at or above average intelligence. She also noted that the adults in the prison population are thought to be impacted by FASD at a rate above 50% of the population.

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** is recommending to the Council the addition of an FASD ad hoc committee that will include people with other neurofunctional differences so they can have access to services that allow them to be as independent as possible.

**Art Delaune** added that he would like to see the Council support this FASD ad hoc committee as well as a group that is being formed by Teri Tibbett regarding people with neurological disabilities, which is inclusive of any kind of individual that has a cognitive or neurological disability. **Art** noted that he has been asked to participate in Teri Tibbett's work group and is suggesting that reports could be provided to the Council as he would act as a liaison between both groups, and the Council could also receive reports from the FASD Partnership.

**Chair Nelson** asked what about this ad hoc committee would be different than the FASD Partnership. **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** stated that she and **Art Delaune** and **Sean O'Brien** and others served on the FASD Partnership, and she stated that she resigned from the group. She feels that the Council is the body that needs to undertake this issue, because they make things happen and effect change. **Art Delaune** noted that Teri Tibbett was excited to hear that the Council may be looking to get behind the FASD issue.

**Karli Lopez** commented that the Council has many committees and she is afraid of stretching the Council members and the staff too thin. **Teresa Holt** stated that two committees per staff person is a full-time job, but **Christie Reinhardt** has an interest in staffing an FASD committee.

**Amanda Cooper** suggested that because FASD is a medical issue, they could combine the two, health and FASD committee. **Art Delaune** noted that FASD is functional, not medical.

**Art Delaune** stated that after discussion with **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus**, they are withdrawing

recommendation for an ad hoc committee and are instead asking to make it a work group under the DD Committee. They can then reexamine the issue when they reconvene during the January Council meeting, and the work group can demonstrate concrete ideas on the formation of an ad hoc committee.

**Anna Attla** stated that she will be committed to participating in the FASD issue. **Eric Gebhart** stated that he will also participate. He also suggested that it might be worthwhile for the Executive Committee to form a work group about committees and the work of the Council to examine unmet and undermet needs of their constituents.

**Karli Lopez** suggested that they could look at the FASD issue from the early intervention perspective through the Early Intervention Committee.

**Teresa Holt** stated that it might be worthwhile to find a college student to intern at the Council who is planning on doing their dissertation or master's thesis in FASD.

### **Health Ad Hoc Committee**

**Amanda Cooper** stated that there are two Council members that serve on the Alaska Health and Disability Program Committee that is funded by the CDC. As was mentioned earlier, this Health Committee is unable to address topics that are not the focus of the CDC grant. **Amanda** stated that she would be willing to staff a health ad hoc committee if it is the will of the Council.

**David Fleurant** appreciated her willingness to staff such a committee, but reiterated the previous concern about stretching staff and Council members to thin. He would like to see what the working group of the Executive Committee is able to determine in terms of the Council structure and their current obligations.

**Chair Nelson** stated that the Executive Committee will report on its findings in January.

### **COMMITTEE SELECTION**

Council members volunteered for committee assignments as follows:

#### **Executive Committee**

Karli Lopez  
Dean Gates  
Anna Attla  
Chair Nelson  
Lucy Odden  
Taylor Gregg  
Art Delaune

#### **DD Committee**

Sharon Miranda  
David Fleurant

#### **FASD Work Group**

David Fleurant  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

#### **Health Work Group**

Christine King  
Margaret Kossler

Alexis Henning  
Christine King  
Chair Nelson  
Sean O'Brien  
Kaleene Lamb  
Alex Gimarc (and other committee as assigned)  
Art Delaune  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Susan Kaplan  
Tara Horton

Anna Attla

**Education Committee**

David Fleurant (by representative)  
Heidi Haas  
Angelina Fraize  
Taylor Gregg  
Margaret Kossler  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Justine Sheehan  
Terese Kashi  
Don Enoch

**Early Intervention Committee**

Karli Lopez  
Dean Gates  
David Fleurant (by representative)  
Heidi Haas  
Angelina Fraize  
Susan Kaplan  
Don Enoch (by representative)

**Legislative Committee**

Dean Gates  
Banarsi Lal  
Alexis Henning  
Christine King  
Chair Nelson  
Heidi Haas  
Art Delaune  
Terese Kashi  
Representative Millett (by representative)

**Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee**

Lucy Odden  
Sharon Miranda  
David Fleurant

Alexis Henning  
Sean O'Brien  
Milton Cheemuk

**Medicaid Ad Hoc**

Chair Nelson  
Heidi Haas

**Autism Ad Hoc**

Heidi Haas  
Margaret Kossler

**SESA Board**

Eric Gebhart (and other committees as assigned)  
Taylor Gregg  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Milton Cheemuk  
Terese Kashi  
Don Enoch

**Peer Power**

Lucy Odden  
Chair Nelson  
Taylor Gregg  
Kaleene Lamb  
Justine Sheehan

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** stated that she is no longer able to be a Council representative on the Healthy Alaskans 2020. **Amanda Cooper** volunteered to participate in Healthy Alaskans 2020 as a representative of the Council.

**ADJOURN**

**Justine Sheehan MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.