

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

Anchorage, Alaska April 28 - 30, 2014

April 28, 2014

Council Members Present:

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

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
Kristin Vandagriff, Program Coordinator I
Michelle Jenkins, Administrative Assistant I
Ian Miner, Office Assistant II
Lanny Mommsen, Health Program Manager I
Hanna Foreman, Legislative Intern

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

Monday, April 28, 2014

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Patrick Reinhart introduced **Lanny Mommsen**, the new Council staff person heading up the ASPEN project and the disability grant.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

DISCUSSION REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Eric Gebhart **MOVED** that the Council go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Council members engaged in a discussion regarding convening in executive session and having the personnel in question present for the session. **Dean Gates** stated that according to the Open Meetings Act, when a board is in executive session talking about a person's qualifications or their professional reputation, that person has a right to be present, and that person also has the right to make that part of the executive session public. **Patrick Reinhart** further added that all staff would like to be invited into executive session at some point to present information related to this personnel issue.

Amy Simpson **AMENDED THE MOTION** that the Council go into executive session with **Teresa Holt** present and at some point invite the rest of the staff to speak as well. The motion **PASSED**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council convened in executive session.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PRESENTATION

James Balamaci welcomed the Governor's Council to their new facility, explaining that it is a statewide facility to learn about support, health, and wellness. He stated that in addition to holding health fairs, health screenings, and holding classes, partners of Special Olympics are welcomed to hold their meetings at this facility as well.

James Balamaci highlighted the upcoming events related to Special Olympics as follows:

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility May 8th at 4:00.
- May 17th, Torch Run statewide.

- June 6th – 8th, Special Olympics summer games.
- June 14th – 21st, 21 Alaskans will compete in the national games in New Jersey.
- July 15th, three Seattle Seahawks and two Seahawk cheerleaders coming to Alaska.
- Two weeks with Camp Shriver.

James Balamaci introduced Ayesha Abdul-Jillil and Joe Pichler to talk about the new facility and activities that take place there.

Nicolle Egan stated that the name of the facility is the Special Olympics Alaska Athlete Training Center and Campus. She asked the Council to consider ways Special Olympics can do statewide outreach over the next five years to educate the entire state about health, fitness, and wellness and spread it into rural communities.

Council members toured the Special Olympics facility.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, continued

The Council reconvened in executive session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Justine Sheehan MOVED to approve the minutes from the January 2014 meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts were declared.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Candidates for the seat of vice chair included **Lucy Odden, Karli Lopez, and Amy Simpson**. A vote was taken and **Amy Simpson** was elected to the seat of vice chair.

DISCUSSION ON RESCHEDULING THE WORK SESSIONS

Council members discussed further amendments to the agenda to accommodate presenters and to complete the work sessions they were unable to get to during today's meeting.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 3:48 p.m.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

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Lanny Mommsen, Health Program Manager I
Hanna Foreman, Legislative Intern

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

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

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

WORK SESSION ON COMMUNITY CHOICE AND SUPPORTS PRIORITIES

Legislative Update

- Complex Behavior Collaborative funded at \$525,000 in the base funding.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 2.1 – Advocate for a minimum of three new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.
- Goal 2.2 – Support capacity building activities for at least 300 individuals per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.
- Goal 2.3 – Conduct statutorily mandated responsibilities as a beneficiary board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

DD Committee Report on Accomplishments

- Reviewed DD Registry and Review monthly.
- Reviewed DD Registry and Review quarterly report.
- Office of Rate Review comments on Medicaid payment for personal care attendant and home and community-based services.
- Participated in SDS's Transportation Forum.
- Receive monthly updates from AHFC regarding housing for people with disabilities.
- Formulated questions for SDS on the rising cost of I/DD waivers.
- Reviewed responses from SDS regarding the rising costs of I/DD waivers.
- Inaugural durable medical equipment and technology reuse meeting and tour of Access Alaska's reuse facility.
- I/DD Registration and Review work group meeting.
- Attended webinar on the new Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services guidelines for home and community based services.
- Reviewed the FY'13 DD Registration and Review report.

DD Committee Recommended Priorities for FY'15

Community Inclusion and Supports

- Ensure that direct service professionals receive living wages and benefits.
- I/DD Registration and Review work group.
- Review the CMS guidelines for home and community-based services issued in March of 2014, and comment on SDS's implementation plan.

Housing

- Define the use of assistive home technology that increases independence of individuals with disabilities.

Health

- Review procedures for Medicare/Medicaid prior authorizations for prescriptions. Propose recommendations for improvements as necessary.
- Review policies to examine the feasibility of durable medical equipment and technology reuse.

Ongoing and Monitoring

- Advocacy and Leadership: Assist Peer Power to meet regularly, gather new members, and locate ongoing funding.
- Community Inclusion and Supports: Receive and review quarterly reports from ASPEN.
- Monitor implementation of the new rate methodology for community disability programs.
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with Key Coalition and AADD.
- Review proposed regulations that may affect the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provide comments as necessary.
- Data review of SDS waiver services, I/DD RR, grants.

Senior and Disability Services FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Duane Mayes stated that the Division has not encountered any cuts to their budget specific to service delivery and their grant components. He noted that this year \$550,000 was added to the senior grants. They have also made increases over the years to their senior in-home grants. Duane also commented that Alaska is one of the fastest growing senior population states in the nation.

Duane Mayes reported that there has been some increased funding for case management services for traumatic brain injury.

Duane stated that Adult Protective Services added additional PCNs to investigate neglect, self-neglect, and abuse of the senior population and people with disabilities. He also noted that the bill that the Governor sponsored to address the issue of financial exploitation of the senior population is an exciting resource for the Division.

Duane also reported that the Division has added positions to their quality insurance component to address the issue of fraud. They have a very strong partnership with the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

The material review improvement process has been a large task for the Division. He stated that individuals have to be reassessed every year to determine whether or not they still meet level of care, and the Division now has a process in place. He noted that about two percent of people that are reassessed every year no longer meet level of care.

Duane Mayes shared the focus for the Division going forward:

- Continue to work on fraud efforts.
- Continue to get resources to the quality assurance unit.

- Continue to work on protecting the programs such as PCA, waivers, and home and community-based services.
- Make fixes to the PCA program and implement the Electronic Visit Verification system.
- Continue to expand the use of telehealth to get reassessments completed on time.
- Continue to move forward on the automated service plan project. The contract was awarded to Harmony. The projected date for this system to come online is February 2015.
- Continue to move forward with using Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) for prescreening to determine whether or not a comprehensive initial assessment is warranted for waiver services.

Duane Mayes stated that the priorities for the Division that the Council could partner with them on include telehealth, continuing to send **Kristin Vandagriff** to participate in the automated service plan meetings, support the ADRC prescreening project, and support the Electronic Visit Verification system.

In terms of the new home and community-based services guidelines from CMS, Duane Mayes stated that one of the big changes is providing CMS assurances about the person's setting being the least restrictive environment and doing person-centered planning. He feels like it shouldn't be an issue for them to provide those assurances to CMS. But he did note that one of the other guidelines addresses the conflict of interest for agency-based care coordinators, and he noted that there will be some work to do in that respect. Duane stated that they will have hearings relating to this issue, and a plan will need to be submitted to CMS by March of 2015.

Duane Mayes stated that in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, SDS has participated strongly in the provisional hire program, and as a result they have hired six or seven people for permanent positions. **Sean O'Brien** added that in addition to the wonderful support they have received from SDS and Duane Mayes, the provisional hire program has expanded to other departments within the State and they have seen more provisional hires this last year than in the last five years.

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Teresa Holt stated that AADD's priorities are as follows:

- Executive Committees of AADD and the Council meet together to brainstorm projects.
- I/DD Registration and Review.
- Increased waiver costs.
- Address the issue of independent care coordination under the new CMS regulations.
- MMIS fixes and how it has affected DD providers.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Amanda Lofgren stated that the focus areas for FY'15 for the Trust include:

- Addition of an Employment Focus Area.
- Addition of a Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Focus Area.
- Affordable and Appropriate Housing Focus Area added a focus of long-term support

services.

- Telehealth and I-T.

Amanda Lofgren provided the Council with an update and overview on the mini-grant program. She stated that in FY' 13, 316 beneficiaries were awarded mini-grants for a total of approximately \$227,500.

Center for Human Development (CHD) FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Christine King stated that CHD's priorities mirror those of the Council and the Disability Law Center. Other activities of importance include education through the TAPESTRY and LEND programs, health and safety issues, and employment. Workforce development is also a priority of CHD.

Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN) Update

Christine King stated that the ASPEN grant is a partnership with various state entities to do needs assessments and implementation training and technical assistance with their chosen community to offer strategies for serving domestic violence and sexual assault victims with disabilities in their communities. It's been a wonderful way to bring the community together on coordinated efforts. The current community they are working with will be provided technical assistance until June 30th when the grant funding ends. The ASPEN statewide coalition will then look to identifying the next target community.

Disability Law Center (DLC) FY'14 Priorities and Recommendations

David Fleurant also noted that DLC's priorities are in line with the Council's and the CHD's priorities. He noted that DLC's priorities have not been set yet because their priorities are based on a federal fiscal year of October 1. They will gather public and staff input, and their board of directors will develop priorities based on the input.

David Fleurant stated that a high priority for DLC is investigation of abuse and neglect. He noted that they have several ongoing investigations regarding restraint and seclusion at schools, and they also investigate abuse and neglect/mental health treatment within the Department of Corrections.

Other priority areas of DLC include:

- Government benefits.
- Special education, with a focus on rural areas.
- Employment.
- Community integration and supports.
- Housing.

Aging and Disability Resource Center's FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Teresa Holt stated that the Council has representation on the committee for the ADRCs. That

committee is re-energizing, and they do not have any priorities or recommendations at this time.

Patrick Reinhart added that an additional ADRC has opened up in the Mat-Su region.

FASD Work Group Report

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus shared the following priorities for the FASD work group as follows:

- FASD informed care: Intervention, advocacy, and prevention.
 1. Provide services: DD eligibility with birth through life supports.
 2. Self-advocacy and advocacy: Self-Advocates with FASD in Action (SAFA) and substance abuse treatment for individuals with FASD.
 3. Prevention of secondary characteristics: Training, information, and awareness.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus also noted that there is a group called FASD Communities, which is for housing for individuals with FASD. She directed Council members to the brochures she provided.

Discussion and Selection of FY'15 Priorities

Carrie Predeger led the Council through a discussion of the proposed priorities as follows:

- Ensure that direct service professionals receive living wages and benefits.
- I/DD Registration and Review work group.
- New HCBS guideline implementation plan.
- Monitoring fair hearing process regarding care coordinator involvement.
- Telehealth for rural communities.

Terese Kashi suggested an issue regarding behavioral health staff working in the school setting with students not having gone through background checks. **Teresa Holt** stated that this is an issue she can forward to Kate Burkhart with the Alaska Mental Health Board for them to follow up on and provide the Council with feedback.

Teresa Holt, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus and **Art Delaune** discussed adding the FASD eligibility priority as an activity under the I/DD Registration and Review work group.

Council members voted for the priorities in the following order:

1. Ensure that direct service professionals receive living wages and benefits.
2. Telehealth for rural communities.
3. I/DD Registration and Review work group.
4. New HCBS guideline implementation plan.

WORK SESSION ON EARLY INTERVENTION PRIORITIES

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 6.1 – Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improve quality early intervention services.

EIC Report on Accomplishments

- Reviewed and commented on proposed and new Alaska Infant Learning Program regulations and materials.
- Reviewed policies and procedures regarding the screening and early intervention of children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Reviewed the Guiding and Investing in Special Educators (GAINS) initiative at SESA.
- Review and development of early intervention providers needs survey.
- Reviewed and provided input on Part C State Performance Plan indicators.
- Reviewed and provided input on State Part C Annual Performance Report.
- Participated in ILP Coordinators conference and in joint meeting with the SPED directors.
- Attended national Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Conference.
- Participated in the formation of Council's FASD work group.

EIC Recommended Priorities

- Eligibility – Advocate and assist in the development of efficient and comprehensive financial systems that supports ILP services across the state.
- Workforce – Advocate for and facilitate increased partnerships, communication, and collaboration between parents, partners, and stakeholder entities responsible for workforce development.
- ICC Requirements – Review and advocate for improved understanding by parents and providers of parent rights and procedural safeguards under IDEA.
- Telepractice – Explore the use of technology and telepractice as a way to increase services in rural communities, in particular access to specialists.
- Advocate for more inclusive childcare opportunities statewide.
- Other ICC duties – ongoing.

Karli Lopez added that the priorities were determined in collaboration with EIC's partner agencies.

Discussion and Selection of FY'15 Priorities

1. Exploring the barriers to the use of technology and telepractice in the state.
2. Advocate for improved understanding by parents and providers of parent rights and procedural safeguards under IDEA.
3. Advocate for and facilitate increased partnerships, communication and collaboration between parents, partners, and stakeholder entities responsible for workforce development.
4. Advocate for more inclusive childcare opportunities statewide.
5. Ongoing ICC duties.

WORK SESSION ON HEALTH PRIORITIES

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 8.1 – Advocate for a minimum of three new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices each year that improve health and well being.

Report on Grant Accomplishments

- Emergency Preparedness for All video.
- Get Ready! Toolkit.
- Municipality of Anchorage adoption of Get Ready! Toolkit.
- Needs assessment phase II.
- Strategic plan draft.

Health and Disability Committee Recommendations for Priorities

- Disseminate SKIP kids and Get Ready! Toolkits to every Alaskan with a disability.
- Provide emergency preparedness training for all Alaskan communities.
- Disability-related trainings for health care providers.
- Expand adaptive physical activity trainings.

Partnership on Reuse and Recycling FY'15 Priorities and Recommendations

Patrick Reinhart reported that they continue to work with Access Alaska regarding durable medical equipment (DME) recycling to determine if Medicaid can purchase the recycled or repurposed equipment.

Autism Insurance Update

Teresa Holt reported that the Autism Insurance Task Force has been meeting, and the result of the task force's efforts resulted in the passage of House Bill 361.

Discussion and Selection of FY'15 Priorities

Council members discussed and clarified health related priority issues as follows:

- Disseminate SKIP kits and Get Ready! Toolkits to every Alaskan with a disability.
- Provide emergency preparedness training for all Alaskan communities.
- Disability-related trainings for health care providers.
- Address health care access issues – chiropractic care for people over 21 years of age.
- Continue to advocate for autism insurance.
- DME and technology reuse.
- Procedures for Medicare/Medicaid prior authorization.

A vote was taken with the priorities chosen in the following order:

1. Disability-related trainings for health care providers.
2. Address health care access issues – chiropractic care for people over 21 years of age.
3. DME and technology reuse.
4. Procedures for Medicare/Medicaid prior authorization.

Health and Disability Strategic Plan

Amanda Cooper directed Council members to the handout of the draft strategic plan, which is a requirement of their health and disability grant. In year one of the grant they conducted a statewide needs assessment, and based on the results of the needs assessment, developed topic areas for the strategic plan.

Marcy Rein led Council members through the handout and explained the categories. Marcy Rein and Amanda Cooper asked for feedback from the Council regarding the strategic plan topic areas to determine if there are other unmet needs. Council members will review the packet and provide feedback before May 10th.

Council members brainstormed suggestions related to various topic areas, and Lanny Mommsen took notes.

WORK SESSION ON EDUCATION PRIORITIES

Education Legislative Update

- The Safe Student Act passed both houses unanimously.
- The High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) was repealed.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 7.1 – Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices that improve the quality of education for students with disabilities.

Education Committee Report on Accomplishments

- Safe Students Act – Held Midwest Academy, advised, assisted, reviewed, drafted, revised, recruited, commented, advocated, and testified.
- HSGQE – Formed a subcommittee, researched reviewed, commented, reported, and advocated.
- Transition Services – Information gathering on customized employment and DVR discovery as a for-credit class in middle and high school. Also researched into lowering the age for IEP transition services from 16 to the end of 9th grade or age 14, whichever comes first.
- FASD and Education – Presentation, review, discussion, and brainstorming on FASD and the challenges in understanding, supports, and programs in schools.
- Annual Performance Report – Reviewed and commented.
- Inclusive Practice Award 2014 – Presented award at ASSEC conference where the Council also did a presentation on restraint and seclusion.
- State Board of Education – Attended meetings and commented on school accountability, HSGQE, and the Safe Students Act.

Other Boards and Councils Participated In:

- LEND Family Advisory Board – Helped create and also presented statewide IEP training to LEND families.
- Deaf Education Board.

- Anchorage Special Education Advisory Council.
- Annual Performance Report stakeholders group.
- Alaska FASD Partnership, Anchorage FASD Council, and the Council's FASD work group.
- Presented "snapshot" session at the Alaska Association of School Boards conference.
- Participated in Special Education Directors meeting.
- Participated in Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conference.

Education Committee Recommendations for Priorities

The recommendations were based on input from the Education Committee and this meeting's discussion about recommended priorities.

- Graduation/dropout rates.
- Research and advocate for changing the transition age in the IEP to 9th grade or age 14.
- Improvement of transition services and systems – pre-transition training, Employment First.
- Investigation of suspension and expulsion rates for students with disabilities.
- Ongoing SEAP duties.
- Charter schools – investigate special education access.
- Due process – investigate special education and due process hearings, procedural safeguards and parental rights.
- Development of teletherapy standards.
- Change the Council's regulations regarding the inclusion of gifted students. (Would require legislative action.)

Ric Nelson suggested having the issue of telepractice be an ongoing agenda item for each of the committees, and have members from each committee commit themselves to participating in telepractice work group meetings to go into more detail.

Voting took place with the priorities determined in the following order:

1. Improvement of transition services and systems.
2. Improve graduation/dropout rates for students with disabilities.
3. Investigation of suspension and expulsion rates for students with disabilities.
4. Due process – investigate special education and due process hearings, procedural safeguards and parental rights.
5. Ongoing SEAP duties.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

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

WORK SESSION ON EMPLOYMENT PRIORITIES

Legislative Update

- Passage of Employment First bill, which is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Review of Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 5.1 – Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improve employment opportunities.

Employment and Transportation Committee Accomplishments

- Through Alaska's State as a Model Employer (SAME) task force, they were successful in getting the DVR provisional hire option listed on the hiring manager's pre-posting checklist.
- Customized employment and/or self-employment training has been completed in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai/Soldotna, and those trainings are being put in a webinar format to get easier training access for remote Alaskan regions.
- Four policy recommendations for changes currently under consideration by SDS with respect to I/DD home and community-based waiver and Medicaid State Plan services.
- Advocated for Employment First legislation, and it passed the House and Senate unanimously and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- Provided support to Peer Power having participated and/or co-sponsored six job fairs across the state disseminating disability employment resources and self-advocacy information.
- Continued to be a part of the microenterprise grant fund process. By the close of FY' 14, all the allotted funds will have been fully awarded.

Employment & Transportation Committee Recommended Priorities for FY'15

- Advocate for changes in the I/DD home and community-based waiver and Medicaid State Plan services to increase employment supports.
- Increase the employment of youth with disabilities in transition from school to adult life.
- Work with the Center for Human Development and other stakeholders to increase provider capacity to provide employment services and supports.
- Work with partners to develop and implement a plan to double the number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are employed by 2016.

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI) Priorities

- Increase the number of youth and young adults utilizing supported employment services with SDS.
- Increase the hours worked by youth and young adults with I/DD served by DVR to 20 hours or more per week.
- Increase the percentage of youth and young adults with I/DD served by DVR.

Trust Beneficiary Employment Initiative Priorities

- Create a five-year strategic plan.
- Goal is long-term systems change and capacity building collaborating with beneficiary stakeholder groups and existing employment programs to best enhance the current system.

Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Priorities

- The Job Centers have been working on collaboration with DVR by meeting with almost every office manager. This collaboration is to increase referrals of ticket holders when DVR is assisting them with their job search prior to DVR case closure.
- The State lead disability resource coordinator has also met with the DVR business services team, Anchorage business connection lead, Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training coordinator, U.S. Department of Labor's Veteran's Employment and Training director.
- Piloting Workforce Investment Act co-enrollment with DVR in Juneau with plans to expand into the future.
- Currently the Job Centers have 28 tickets assigned for the Social Security Ticket to Work program.

Project SEARCH Priorities

- Project SEARCH has sites in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and Kenai. The first priority is to maintain these four sites.
- Several trips and quite a bit of time has been spent trying to begin a fifth Project SEARCH site in Juneau; however, this is currently on hold due to school district funding constraints. The second priority is to continue to work towards a fifth site in Juneau.

State As a Model Employer Priorities

- Central accommodation fund within state government for reasonable accommodations.
- The potential of a Project SEARCH site in State government. Talk with the unions to address concerns.
- Online training materials.

Trust Microenterprise Grant Fund Priorities

- Increase the number of applicants with intellectual and developmental disabilities who apply by enhancing awareness of the grant program via the DD provider network and through self-employment trainings via the Center for Human Development.

Disability Law Center's Priorities and Recommendations

- DLC research findings that the Council may want to further examine in the following areas:
 - Segregated employment/subminimum wage.
 - Transition services provided through the school.
 - Transition services provided by DVR.
 - Transition services provided by TVR.
 - Integrating employment in the home and community-based waiver.

- Increase the capacity of benefits counseling.
- Transportation as a key component of employment.

Center for Human Development Youth and Parent Survey

- Survey results for youth and young adults (ages 16 – 26) with I/DD and their parents:
 - 23 youth answered, 20 completed the survey.
 - 66 parents answered, 55 completed the survey.
 - Both parents and youth found completing high school or transition program and getting a good paying job to be of high importance.
 - Youth viewed living in the same house or apartment as family; having children; taking care of parents, sisters, brothers, or other family members; looking good and being attractive to others as being much more important than the parents did.
- Customized employment and self-employment trainings face-to-face, videoconferencing, and webinar formats. Roger Shelley has completed the customized employment trainings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kenai/Soldotna. He has also completed self-employment trainings in Anchorage, Wasilla, Ketchikan, and Juneau. He will be presenting at the National Association for People Supporting Employment First conference in July.
- Two-tier benefits counseling training. The Trust is going to send a host of Alaskans to a training in Denver to hopefully double the number of benefits planners within the next year. The Center for Human Development will also offer a tier one, ten-hour training for front line staff and families to get basic benefits planning information.

Discussion and Selection of FY'15 Priorities

1. Advocate for changes in the I/DD home and community-based waiver and Medicaid State Plan services to increase employment supports.
2. Increase the employment of youth with disabilities in transition from school to adult life.
3. Work with the Center for Human Development and other stakeholders to increase provider capacity to provide employment services and supports.
4. Work with partners to develop and implement a plan to double the number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are employed by 2016.
5. Increase the use of provisional hire within State government.
6. Oversee implementation of the Employment First Act: What is in alignment, where are the gaps, what are the best practices.
7. Increase private sector employment of people with disabilities – education and engagement of business and industry.

WORK SESSION ON TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Legislative Update

- Success with the taxicab ordinance in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or

practices per year that increase accessible public transportation options.

Transportation Accomplishments

- Continued to support efforts to increase funding to develop public transportation infrastructure.
- A statewide public transportation board has been created.
- Continued to advocate for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations/policies.
- In 2013, the taxi ordinance was passed, which included approximately 80% of the priorities for accessible taxi service in Anchorage.
- The Wings for Autism event in March was a very big success. It allowed individuals with autism and other intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families the chance to rehearse the travel process.

Transportation Recommendations

- Advocate for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations and policies.
- Provide technical assistance to help communities establish coordinated accessible transportation options.
- Collaborate with the Alaska Mobility Coalition to enhance transportation options statewide.
- Promote training on disability etiquette for TSA agents, taxi drivers, and public transportation providers.
- Accessible taxi ordinance, model in other communities appropriate to the community. Be proactive and do some random sample testing of the Anchorage cab services, monitor progress on Anchorage model, and increase the number of accessible cabs.
- Introduce competition for local accessible transportation options for people with disabilities and seniors.

Alaska Mobility Coalition Priorities

1. Continue to advocate for accessible travel options for residents and visitors with disabilities, including accessible hotel courtesy vehicles and taxis.
2. Assist TSA to develop an option for individuals with disabilities to practice screening at the airport in advance of a travel day.
3. Provide technical assistance to help communities establish coordinated accessible transportation options.

Discussion and Selection of Transportation Priorities

Voting took place with the priorities determined in the following order:

1. Advocate for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations and policies.
2. Accessible taxi ordinance, model in other communities appropriate to the community. Be proactive and do some random sample testing of the Anchorage cab services, monitor progress on Anchorage model, and increase the number of accessible cabs.
3. Promote training on disability etiquette for TSA agents, taxi drivers, and public transportation providers.

4. Introduce competition for local accessible transportation options for people with disabilities and seniors.

WORK SESSION ON ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 1.1 – The Council, in collaboration with the Center for Human Development and the Disability Law Center of Alaska, will assist in re-establishing and supporting a statewide self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.

Accomplishments in Leadership and Advocacy

- Significant increase in member recruitment. Over the last six months, Peer Power has grown by over 20 members to have 31 members currently.
- Six job fairs, two co-sponsored, six had table participation. Four in Anchorage, one in Mat-Su, and one in Kenai.
- Full Lives Conference presentation.

Advocacy and Leadership Priorities and Recommendations

- Support and advocate for Peer Power.
- Collaborate with Key Campaign.
- Be involved with Partners in Policymaking.

Peer Power Presentation

Accomplishments Since January:

- Created a banner for use at job fairs and conventions.
- Held a general membership meeting in March.
- Participated in six job fairs.
- Added 16 new members from these job fairs.
- Established contacts in the Mat-Su Valley and Kenai to help facilitate job clubs.
- General membership amended bylaws so that in the future the board of directors is able to make amendments to the bylaws.
- Registered 14 new Peer Power supporters from around the state.
- Continued with a second round of workshops with Rider Consulting focusing on establishment and management of funds, board development, leadership styles, and utilization of social media to grow membership and participation in Peer Power.

Plans for the Next Six Months:

- Present Peer Power to schools.
- Focus on job clubs.
- Continue to get the word out and build membership.
- Work with Rider Consulting with a plan for Peer Power to become an independent organization.
- Plan a job fair specifically for people with disabilities.

Christine King suggested that Peer Power put together a YouTube video and distribute it to provider organizations to help get the word out. **Eric Gebhart** also suggested presenting at the Special Education Directors Conference and the ASSEC conference.

WORK SESSION ON HOUSING PRIORITIES

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

- Goal 3.1 – Advocate for a minimum of one new or amended state or public program, policy or practice that increases accessible, affordable housing per year.
 - 3.1.1 – Advocate for housing for unserved or underserved groups: Transitioning youth, criminal justice system.

Amanda Lofgren stated that the Trust Housing Focus Area is entering into its first big planning effort to revise the focus area. The first meeting will be May 9th.

Amanda stated that one of the largest housing accomplishments was the Housing First model, Karluk Manor, in Anchorage. She stated that Fairbanks also has a Housing First project that serves 58 individuals. Juneau, Nome and Bethel are also interested in starting a Housing First project in their communities.

Teresa Holt stated that the Trust’s Housing Focus Area also has the Bridge Program to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- 3.1.2 – Develop a public awareness campaign about local housing options and resources as well as resources for home modifications.

Amanda Lofgren stated that the Trust has done the You Know Me campaigns, and there have been a couple of public awareness efforts around Housing First. She stated that more could be done in this area.

- 3.1.3 – Promote the use of assistive home technology that increases independence of residents with providers and families.

Amanda Lofgren stated that one of the areas of focus for the Housing Focus Area is home modifications and home adaptations. They have been working with the Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center as well as the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center to do Home MAP, which is to come into a person’s home and provide them an accessibility assessment and education about assistive technology and adaptive equipment that would be beneficial rather than doing a full home modification.

Amanda Lofgren stated that when the Council held the Residential Summit five or six years ago, they learned about a company called Rest Assured, which puts technology into the home to support the person towards living independently. Assets, Inc. tried this technology with an individual and it was very successful. The other idea they learned about at the summit was the idea of smart homes. At the conclusion of the summit, the Trust set aside \$50,000 for the

Council to be able to implement some of this technology. Amanda asked that the Council keep this a priority because there is a lot of opportunity to advance this area.

Discussion and Selection of FY'15 Priorities

Council members brainstormed priorities for the Housing priorities as follows:

- Define the use of assistive home technology that increases the independents of residents.
- Partner with the SILC to work with AADD and do a housing survey for people with I/DD.
- Research supportive housing environments.
- Create an ad hoc committee to look at this issue more in-depth.
- Develop a public awareness campaign about housing.
- Continue to work with AHFC to educate contractors and builders about universal design.
- Continue to reach out to UAA department of architecture.
- Work with DLC to research California statute that allows supportive and transitional housing in any zoning district as a matter of right.
- Consider the needs of people with co-occurring disorders, I/DD and mental health or substance abuse disorders. Substance abuse program including residential services or supportive living.

The top priorities chosen for housing include:

1. Define the use of assistive home technology that increases the independence of individuals with disabilities.
2. Advocate for grants for private property owners to rent to people with disabilities (Section 8 housing).
3. Develop community partnerships to keep people in their own homes, i.e., university students providing supports in exchange for free rent.
4. Educate builders and contractors about the importance of universal design.
5. Identify availability of supported housing for individuals with co-occurring disorders and identify best practices.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson provided the chair's report as follows:

Accomplishments Since January 2014:

- Provided testimony for the Employment First legislation.
- Attended AADD face-to-face meeting.
- Attended Key Campaign.
- Testified for CBC funding.
- Met with Sandy Parnell about Council issues.
- Provided a letter of support for SDS requesting a federal grant for traumatic brain injury.

Ric Nelson read an inspirational quote to the Council and concluded his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt formatted her report as highlighting the year in perspective, and she began by noting all the staffing changes and changes to the Council membership and structure. She then provided the following highlights from the state and federal perspectives:

Year in Review - State Perspective

Legislative:

- Last year: Removing MR from statute, SESA Reauthorization, one-time funding for CBC, missing and vulnerable adults response plan.
- This year: New relationship with Representative Millett's office, ongoing CBC funding, Employment First Act, Safe Student Act, HSGQE removal, Autism Insurance Task Force, Anchorage taxicab ordinance.

Senior and Disability Services:

- Recent: New I/DD HCBS waiver regulations, new fiscal system (MMIS), long-term care committee and recommendations.
- Upcoming: Increase in I/DD waiver costs, new online automated service plan system, review of DDDR process.

Trust:

- Winding down Bring the Kids Home Focus Area, new employment commercial, new Trustee, Beneficiary Employment Focus Area, and Substance Abuse Focus Area.

Center for Human Development:

- Retirement of Kathy Fitzgerald, replaced by Lynn Kenny and Stephanie George for Partners in Policymaking.

Year in Review - Federal Perspective

- 50th anniversary of the DD Act.
- National Governor's Association focus on employment of people with disabilities.
- New commissioner, Aaron Bishop. Administration on I/DD completed the move to Administration for Community Living.
- CMS released new rules on home and community-based services: Independent care coordinators, community-based services focus, person centered planning, and emphasis on working in an integrated setting.
- Employment: Executive Order raising minimum wage to \$10.10 for all. Rehab Act requires federal contractors to hire people with disabilities.
- Congress: Completed sequestration and Affordable Care Act.
- Congress: Ongoing – Achieving a Better Life (ABLE) Act, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Keeping All Students Safe Act.

FY'14 FISCAL REPORT

Teresa Holt directed Council members to the FY' 14 budget, FY' 14 year-to-date expenditures, and FY' 15 projected budget sheets at the back of the Council binder, noting that so far this year they are slightly under spent. She also discussed the series of events relating to staffing changes at the Council and SDS that made learning the financial aspects of the Council difficult in the past year. She commented that it has been an educational experience, and staff has learned a lot.

Teresa Holt reviewed the data in the budget sheets and answered questions from Council members.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FY'15 BUDGET

Eric Gebhart MOVED that the Council accept the FY' 15 budget as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

LEGISLATIVE WORK PLAN REVIEW

Dean Gates began his presentation by thanking Council members and staff for their hard work this legislative session.

Review of Legislative Committee Work Plan

- Establish base funding for CBC – pending completion.
- Pass effective Employment First legislation – pending completion.
- Establish state and/or federal regulations regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.
- Advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to obtain a high school diploma.
- Obtain a state match for public and community transportation.
- Advocate for accessible taxis statewide – track other community efforts to get accessible cabs and provide support and advocacy.

Additional Legislative Priorities Suggested:

- The idea of when equipment is approved by Medicaid, it should stay approved instead of always having to ask for approval for it later on.
- Legislation directing state Medicaid to set up a program that allows for reuse and recycling of durable medical equipment.
- Disability training and voluntary disability designation on a state ID legislation. Possibly have the Council do a Midwest Academy on this issue.
- Keep an eye on possible legislation relative to entities that utilize public airports and the ferry system, requiring them to be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Deaf Children's Bill of Rights.
- A strategy for the Education Committee for advocating for alternative routes for students with disabilities to obtain a high school diploma, look to getting the Accuplacer on the list of required testing with the SAT, ACT, and WorkKeys.
- Zoning as a right.
- Reviewing the statutes that govern the Council – address the word “gifted” in statute.

- Changing the transition age to 14 or 9th grade.

Selection of FY'15 Legislative Priorities

1. Reuse of durable medical equipment and assistive technology.
2. Disability training and voluntary disability designation on a state ID legislation.
3. Accessible transportation required from airports, ferry terminals, et cetera.
4. Review governing statutes of the Council, may need updates and remove the word “gifted”.
5. Funding for transportation infrastructure (ongoing).

DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES FOR FY'15

Heidi Haas MOVED to approve the priorities the Council voted on for FY'15. The motion **PASSED**.

DISCUSSION: ARE CHANGES NEEDED TO THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Teresa Holt stated that there are fairly significant differences in the priorities selected by the Council and what is contained in the Five-Year State Plan. She stated that they will go ahead and put the revisions out for public comment for 45 days and then submit them as a change.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Ric Nelson thanked **Anna Attla** and **Milton Cheemuk** for their service to the Council, noting that their terms are up. **Ric Nelson** also thanked **Lucy Odden** for her hard work and dedication to the Council and presented her with a plaque. **Lucy Odden** commented that she has applied for reappointment.

Eric Gebhart stated that this is his last meeting as a Council member. He thanked staff and Council members for everything. He also noted that although he will no longer be on the Council, if he can ever be of any service to the Council, they can feel free to contact him.

NEXT MEETING

- October 1 – 3, 2014, Anchorage.

ADJOURN

Eric Gebhart MOVED to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.