

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

**Anchorage, Alaska, May 5 - 6, 2015**

**May 5, 2015**

**Council Members Present:**

Jill Burkert  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
David Fleurant  
Angelina Fraize  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus - telephonic  
Alex Gimarc  
Taylor Gregg  
Mallory Hamilton  
Alexis Henning  
Tara Horton  
Susan Kaplan  
Christine King  
Margaret Kossler  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Karli Lopez  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Sean O'Brien  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Justine Sheehan  
Amy Simpson

**Council Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
Rich Sanders, Planner III  
Brittney Howell, Research Analyst III  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator I  
Kristin Vandagriff, Program Coordinator II  
Marilee Rivas, Administrative Assistant II  
Ian Miner, Office Assistant II  
Lanny Mommsen, Health Program Manager I  
Johanna Richter, Legislative Intern

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 10:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was taken and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to approve the amended agenda, **SECONDED** by **Amy Simpson**. The motion **PASSED**.

Later in the course of the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the agenda needed to be amended a second time to accommodate speakers. **Justine Sheehan MOVED** to amend the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Lucy Odden**. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2014 MEETING

**Amy Simpson MOVED** to approve the January 2015 minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Tara Horton**. The motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No Council members had conflicts of interest to declare.

CHAIR'S REPORT

**Chair Nelson** highlighted the following activities since the January Council meeting:

- Presented at the Trust.
- Attended the AADD face-to-face meeting.
- Attended Key Campaign.
- Worked on the bylaws.
- Attended a conflict-free case management meeting with the Trust.
- Worked on Council comment of SDS's transition plan on settings.
- Attended the Anchorage conflict-free case management presentation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Patrick Reinhart** began his presentation by updating the current staffing: **Marilee Rivas** has come back to the Council as the administrative assistant II, **Rich Sanders** has been promoted to planner III, Michelle Jenkins has left her position, and **Kristin Vandagriff** has been promoted to **Rich Sanders'** previous position of project coordinator II. The Council has one open staff position remaining, which is in the process of being rewritten.

**Patrick Reinhart** reviewed staff accomplishments in the following areas:

### Reports, Surveys, et cetera

- Federal AIE semi-annual report.
- ASPEN needs assessment report and MOU for partners for selected community.
- EIC reviewed and commented on State Annual Performance Report.
- AHFC Fair Housing Survey.
- Bylaws Workgroup report.
- FASD – review of regulations and statutes regarding definition of physician.
- Autism Task Force Report review.
- Evaluation of FAScinating Family Camp
- Comments on AHFC’s Five-Year Consolidated Housing Plan
- Housing barriers focus groups and interviews.
- Reviewed State System Improvement Plan for Part C submission to OSEP.
- Autism phase II planning
- Formalization of FASD Workgroup structure.
- Review of federal ESEA proposals and comments to Senator Murkowski.
- Get Out and Play campaign to feature four kids with disabilities.

### Trainings and Presentations

- Spring health fairs around the state.
- National Certificate of Employment training.
- Testimony to State Board of Education.
- Publicized and assisted SDS with conflict-free case management public forum.
- Face-to-face Autism Workgroup meeting May 1.
- Attended training on reasonable housing accommodations.
- Co-sponsor of Fair Housing Accessibility Training with AHFC.
- Table and presentation at Full Lives
- Co-sponsor of Youth Job Fair in Anchorage.
- Attended Council for Exceptional Children Conference.
- Emergency preparedness presentations around Anchorage.

### Upcoming Priorities

- Project coordinator II hired and trained.
- Office of Rate Review public work session on DD rates, May 8.
- AIEI Advisory Board and CinemAbility event, May 11 – 12.
- Trust meeting, May 13 – 14, Kenai.
- EPIC Grant Consortium Meeting, May 14 – 15, Seattle.
- Second Project SEARCH technical assistance visit with Erin Riehle, May 18 – 19.
- APSE Conference, June 22 – 23, Philadelphia.
- NACDD National Conference, July 20 – 24.
- 25-Year ADA Anniversary Celebration, July 26.
- AIEI Grant Meeting, July 28 – 30, Alexandria, VA.
- Trust meeting, August 26 – 27, Anchorage.
- SHRM Conference, September 29 – 30. GCDSE sponsoring Erin Riehle as keynote speaker.

## **REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED FY'16 BUDGETS**

**Patrick Reinhart** led the Council through a review of the FY'16 proposed budgets. He explained that with the current state of the State budget this year, there are many unknowns in the Council budget, and they do not have their guidelines for a finalized budget. He stated that staff will develop a budget for the Executive Committee to approve at their June meeting. He did note, however, that many of the Council's revenue sources are federal and Trust related with very few State dollars. They will be able to project out and carry over some of the federal funding over the next three fiscal years.

## **BYLAWS REVISION – FIRST READING**

**Amy Simpson** stated that the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee convened in an effort to clarify Council member roles, executive director roles, officer roles, and the at-large member roles. They also had an in-depth discussion regarding Robert's Rules of Order and a possible conversion to the Democratic Rules of Order.

**Amy Simpson** reviewed each of the changes to the bylaws that were highlighted in red in Council member's binders. In addition to the changes noted in the binder, the following corrections or additions were suggested:

- Article IV, Section 4, C, "... Council and/or Executive Committee."
- Article IV, Section 1, 3, A, 5 – Need clarification that it is the Council chair's responsibility to appoint public members to committees.
- Article VI, Section 1, 2 – Need to clarify that the at-large member's term runs consecutive with the chair's term.

**Amy Simpson** directed Council members to the handout and flow chart in the binder that explained the Democratic Rules of Order and explained that unlike the 700-page Robert's Rules of Order, the Democratic Rules of Order is a more simplistic 27-page manual, which follows the same pattern the Council has used to oversee their meetings. She stated that the process is very simple and meets their needs nicely, and if it is the will of the Council, this method can be adopted for all Council and committee meetings.

A discussion ensued among Council members and staff regarding their being no term limits to membership of the Council. **Patrick Reinhart** explained that through a lengthy process, the Council voted to not have term limits, because oftentimes it can take Council members years to get up to speed on Council business. He stated that people can remain on the Council for as long as a Governor is willing to appoint them, but in practice Boards and Commissions tends to bring new members on to the Council after members have been on for four three-year terms. **Patrick Reinhart** also mentioned that it is the practice of other state DD councils to have nomination committees, and that might be a worthy discussion for this council at some point. He stated that he forwarded this idea to Karen Gillis, director of Boards and Commissions, to receive some guidance on an application committee.

**Amy Simpson** stated that the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee will reconvene and make further revisions of the bylaws. The Council will receive the amended bylaws in early September to review prior to the Council's October meeting where the Council will then vote on the amended bylaws.

### **WORK SESSION ON EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

**Taylor Gregg** and **Christie Reinhardt** gave the report from the Education Committee as follows:

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Reviewed and made comments on Stone Soup Group Parent Guide.
- Reviewed and made comments on "Participation Guidelines for Students with Disabilities."
- Reviewed OSEP letter of determination.
- Participated in State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) team, which has a focus and a new indicator on improved graduation rates.
- Participated in Assessment Training Institute.
- Partnering with AIEI on pilot "Discovery" high school class.
- With FASD Workgroup, reviewed and researched definition of physician for amendment of education regulations. Submitted request to DEED.
- With Autism Workgroup, reviewed education needs for input on State five-year plan.
- SESA governance.
- Deaf Education Board.
- As advisory group to Senator Murkowski, reviewed ESEA drafts and made comments on Maintenance of Effort (MOE), alternate assessment one percent caps, the Cassidy amendment, and teacher evaluations.
- Researched and reviewed the following draft legislation:
  - HB 36 – pre-kindergarten programs within a school district.
  - HB 76 – relating to the GCDSE removal of the term "gifted" from enabling statute.
  - HB 80 – repealing secondary students taking college and career readiness assessments.
  - HB 89 – relating to civics exams and secondary school graduation requirements.
  - HB 102 – relating to the provision of educational services in a psychiatric setting.
- Presented at ASSEC, Stone Soup Group Parent Conference, LEND, LEND Family Advisory Council trainings, SOS Family Support Group, Alaska Association of School Boards.
- Made comments to the Board of Education on assessments and alternate assessments, participation guidelines, restraint and seclusion, and waivers from early literacy screening.
- Inclusive Practice Award presented to Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School in Sitka.

#### **Review Five-Year Plan Objectives**

### **7.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or**

**practices per year that improve the quality of education for students with disabilities.**

- 7.1.1 Research and advocate for services, programs, or regulation changes that will improve the scope, delivery, and effectiveness of post-school transition.
- 7.1.2 Research suspension and expulsion rates of students with disabilities.
- 7.1.4 Research use by parents of procedural safeguards and parental rights, in particular due process rights.
- 7.1.5 Research ways for telepractice and distance delivery to improve special education services in Alaska.
- 7.1.6 Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 7.1.7 Govern the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) to ensure SESA meets its statutorily mandated responsibilities.

Education Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:

- 1. Suspension and expulsion.
- 2. Procedural safeguards and parental rights.
- 3. Graduation rate.
- 4. Post-school transition.
- 5. Regular duties as the SEAP and SESA governance.

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to accept the above mentioned recommendations for the Education Committee's work plan priorities, **SECONDED** by **Mallory Hamilton**. The motion **PASSED**.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT TELEPRACTICE AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Dr. Matt Hirschfeld, director of maternal child health services at Alaska Native Medical Center, approached the Council to discuss the need to address support for telepractice for people with developmental disabilities statewide. He stated that he has been tasked with providing services via telepractice through ANMC. He stated that one of the great successes they have seen is the implementation of pediatric therapies via telemedicine. He stated that they have hired three speech pathologists who provide services via VIDYO, which is HIPAA compliant. Through this telepractice, the speech therapists are able to see children weekly, and the parents are very happy with the service.

Dr. Hirschfeld asked for the Council's support in advocating to the Commissioner and the Governor for expanding telepractice services. He noted that particular challenges they see right now are reimbursement rates as well as licensing and privileging issues. He commented that another current issue that could be resolved with telepractice is the amount of turnover in hard-to-staff positions in rural Alaska.

Christie Reinhardt added that in addition to the pediatric practice discussed by Dr. Hirschfeld, telepractice touches everything else they do as a council. There are issues with Medicaid payments for telepractice, bandwidth, and confidentiality. She stated currently there is a lot of individual siloing regarding telepractice, and there is a tremendous need within Alaska for telepractice to grow, and all the pieces need to be talking to each other.

**Christine King MOVED** that the Council add an ad hoc committee on telepractice, **SECONDED** by **Alexis Henning**. Discussion ensued.

**Brittney Howell** stated that previously the committees and workgroups had been tasked with working on telepractice as it relates to their committees' focus. In going about the work this way, it has been very fragmented. **Karli Lopez** stated that last May, it was suggested that telepractice be an agenda item for each committee, and then the information was supposed to funnel to the Executive Committee. There was also supposed to be a sub group convened on telepractice consisting of various committee representatives. She noted that they did this in the EIC, but she is unsure of how it was handled in the other committees.

**Brittney Howell** stated that fitting telepractice under the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee has been discussed, but it appears that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will be very busy in the next couple of years and may not be able to give telepractice the attention it needs to come together.

**Rich Sanders** stated that if a telepractice ad hoc committee is formed, he would staff it.

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

### **WORK SESSION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

**Art Delaune** and **Brittney Howell** gave the report for the DD Committee as follows:

#### *FY'15 Accomplishments:*

- New staff – Rich Sanders, planner.
- Updates from AHFC regarding housing and people with disabilities.
- Hosted guest speakers from Division of Health Care Services to talk about the new Alaska Medicaid Coordinated Care Initiative (AMCCI).
- Attended AADD face-to-face meeting in Juneau.
- Submitted comment on SDS transition plan on settings.
- Supported and participated in Key Campaign in Juneau.
- Participated in AHFC's fair housing survey steering committee.
- Conducted housing barriers project with Stone Soup Group.
- Hosted guest speakers from tribal health to talk about telepractice in Alaska. Request came from them for the Council to consider a telepractice ad hoc committee.
- Participated in conflict-free case management stakeholder meetings, webinars, trainings, and community forums.
- Provided comment on AHFC's Five-Year Consolidated Housing Plan.
- Co-sponsored fair housing accessibility training for designers and builders with HUD and AHFC.
- Trust updates on Medicaid expansion and other changes.

#### *Review Five-Year Plan Objectives*

#### *Advocacy and Leadership*

**1.1 The Council, in collaboration with the Center for Human Development and the Disability Law Center of Alaska, will assist and support a statewide self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities and support opportunities for self-advocates to participate in public policymaking.**

- 1.1.2 Continue to support and participate in the Key Campaign, an annual advocacy effort with the legislature led by the Key Coalition.
- 1.1.3 Continue to support Partners in Policymaking at the Center for Human Development.

#### *Community Choice and Supports*

**2.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.**

- 2.1.1 Advocate for a living wage for direct service professionals.
- 2.1.2 Explore the use of technology and telepractice as a way to increase services in rural communities.
- 2.1.3 Review the process of the I/DD Registration and Review through the I/DD Registration and Review Workgroup.
- 2.1.5 Review the CMS guidelines for HCBS settings and other requirements and comment on SDS's implementation plan.

#### *Housing*

**3.1 Advocate for a minimum of two new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices that increase accessible, affordable housing per year.**

- 3.1.1 Define the use of assistive home technology that increases the independence of individuals with disabilities.
- 3.1.2 Identify availability of supported housing for individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- 3.1.3 Conduct survey of providers, self-advocates, and families on housing barriers and issues that affect persons with I/DD.

#### *Health*

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

- 8.1.1 Research and make recommendations to the State of Alaska on the reuse and recycling of durable medical equipment and assistive technologies purchased by State entities such as Medicaid, DVR, the Trust, AHFC, and special education.
- 8.1.4 Address health care access issues such as chiropractic care for people with disabilities over 21.
- 8.1.5 Develop recommendations for streamlining Medicare and Medicaid prior authorizations.

DD Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:

1. Advocate for a living wage for direct service professionals.
2. Explore the use of technology and telepractice as a way to increase services in rural communities and reform Medicaid.
3. Review new CMS guidelines, final rules, and other Medicaid changes in the state to provide recommendations and comment and in conjunction with the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.
4. Complete study of providers, self-advocates, and families on housing barriers and issues that affect persons with I/DDs.
5. Provide comment and input into AHFC's and the Municipality of Anchorage's Housing and Community Development Plans.
6. Provide input and make recommendations and public comment on regulation packages for the new Medicaid reuse and recycling program of durable medical equipment and assistive technologies.

**Brittney Howell** noted that the committee did not bring forth the recommendations this year regarding chiropractic care or streamlining the process of prior authorizations for Medicare and Medicaid to put in their FY'16 work plan.

**Alex Gimarc** requested that Medicaid prior authorizations remain on the list as a potential FY'16 DD Committee priority. **Alexis Henning** requested that the chiropractic care for people with disabilities over 21 be added to the list of priorities.

Council Vote on DD Committee Priorities

The votes were tallied for the order of priority for the DD Committee work plan priorities as follows:

1. Advocate for a living wage for direct service professionals.
2. Review new CMS guidelines, final rules, and other Medicaid changes in the state to provide recommendations and comment and in conjunction with the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.
3. Provide input and make recommendations and public comment on regulation packages for the new Medicaid reuse and recycling program of durable medical equipment and assistive technologies.
4. Provide comment and input into AHFC's and the Municipality of Anchorage's Housing and Community Development Plans.
5. Develop recommendations for streamlining Medicaid prior authorizations.
6. Address health care access issues such as chiropractic care for people with disabilities over 21.

**WORK SESSION ON MEDICAID AD HOC PRIORITIES**

**Brittney Howell** gave the report on the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

FY'15 Accomplishments

- Reviewed and provided comment on Medicaid Reform Advisory Group's (MRAG) recommendations.
- Reviewed and provided comment on SDS's transition plan on settings.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

**2.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.**

- 2.1.2 Explore the use of technology and telepractice as a way to reform Medicaid.
- 2.1.5 Review the CMS guidelines for HCBS settings and other requirements and comment on SDS's implementation plan, including Medicaid expansion.

**4.1 Advocate for a minimum of four new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that increase accessible public transportation options.**

- 4.1.1 Monitor transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations/policies.

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

- 5.1.4 Advocate for changes in the State's I/DD home and community-based services and Medicaid State Plan services around employment supports.

**8.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improve health and well being.**

- 8.1.1 Develop and advocate for recommendations for Medicaid reform.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:

1. Medicaid expansion and reform input, planning, implementation, regulation reviews and public comments, including:
  - Conflict-free case management
  - Creation of the reuse and recycling program for durable medical equipment and prosthetics.
  - Switch from 1915(c) waivers to 1915(i) and (k) State Plans (including FASD eligibility).
  - Other upcoming Medicaid reform and expansion changes.
2. Implementation of the transition plan to settings.
3. Review and comment on plans and regulations for rate rebasing project from the Office of Rate Review.

**Amy Simpson MOVED** that the Council accept the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee priorities,

**SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. The motion **PASSED**.

**WORK SESSION ON EARLY INTERVENTION PRIORITIES**

**Karli Lopez** gave the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

Accomplishments - Telepractice

- Presentation from tribal health, discussion of successes and challenges which include:
  - Specialty providers are in urban areas.
  - Lack of neurodevelopmental services.
  - Payment for telepractice, particularly Medicaid and out-of-state providers.
  - Mental health and non-medical services are not covered.
  - Technologic challenges with varying video platforms, in-home care delivery, and billing.
  - Request came from tribal health for the Council to consider a Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee.

Accomplishments – Inclusive Childcare

- Reviewed inclusive childcare barriers. Identified numerous issues and conflicts between support agencies.
- Presentation from Alaska IN!, the State program responsible for access to childcare for families with children with disabilities.
- Recruited a member from this department.
- Preliminary discussions of future research into system changes needed in partnership with UAA, WCFH, thread, and LEND.

Accomplishments – Partnership

- Participated, partnered, and collaborated with:
  - Alaska Infant Learning Program Association
  - Alaska Pyramid Project
  - State Systemic Improvement Plan leadership team
  - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program
  - Women’s, Children’s, and Family Health medical home grant board
  - FASD Partnership
  - Council Workgroup on FASD
  - Council Workgroup on Autism
  - Presented on parent rights with Laurie Thomas, EI/ILP director, at Stone Soup Group’s Parent Conference.

Accomplishments – ICC Duties

- Reviewed Annual Performance Report and submitted annual letter to OSEP and the Governor.
- Reviewed regulations and submitted comments to the State Board of Education on Early Literacy Screening.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

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

- 6.1.1 Research ways to use telepractice and distance delivery methods to improve infant learning services in Alaska.
- 6.1.2 Research understanding by parents and providers of parent rights and procedural safeguards under IDEA.
- 6.1.3 Increase partnerships, communication, and collaboration between parents, partners, and stakeholders involved in early intervention services.
- 6.1.4 Research inclusive childcare opportunities statewide.
- 6.1.5 Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Early Intervention Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:

- 1. Improved collaboration
- 2. Inclusive childcare
- 3. Telepractice
- 4. Procedural safeguards.

**Amy Simpson MOVED** that the Council adopt the recommended priorities, with the exception of the telepractice moving to the ad hoc committee, and leave collaboration, inclusive childcare, and procedural safeguards, **SECONDED** by **Mallory Hamilton**. The motion **PASSED**.

**WORK SESSION ON FASD**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** gave the report from the FASD Workgroup as follows:

Accomplishments Since January

- New staff transition, Britteny Howell.
- Evaluating FAScinating Family Camp.
- Participate in monthly FASD Partnership steering committee meetings.
- Starting a Self-Advocates with FASD in Action (SAFA) chapter.
- Recommended changes to the Department of Education regulations that define physicians for other health impairment on Individualized Education Plans (IEP).
- Attended FASD Family Voice Forum in Juneau.
- Created mission statement, work plan, website.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

**2.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.**

- 2.1.3 Review the process of the I/DD Registration and Review through the I/DD

- Registration and Review Workgroup.
- 2.1.4 Create Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Workgroup to develop recommendations for improved services to this underserved population.
  - 2.1.5 Review the CMS guidelines for Medicaid home and community-based services and other requirements and comment on SDS's implementation plans.

*FASD Workgroup Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:*

1. Clarify roles, responsibilities, and collaboration opportunities with various FASD agencies and organizations in Alaska.
2. Restart SDS waitlist workgroup and begin to meet regularly.
3. Investigate statutory changes to DD eligibility to include FASD as a qualifying diagnosis.
4. Regulation changes to allow advanced nurse practitioners to diagnose FASDs on Individualized Education Plans.
5. Change other health impaired category on IEPs to include FASD.
6. Review, comment, and provide recommendations to State Medicaid changes to include FASD.
7. Create Alaska SAFA chapter for self-advocates.

**Caroline Hogan** asked for a change to recommendation number three to read: "Investigate statutory changes to I/DD waiver eligibility..."

*Council Vote on FASD Workgroup Priorities*

1. Clarify roles, responsibilities, and collaboration opportunities with various FASD agencies and organizations in Alaska.
2. Investigate statutory changes to I/DD waiver eligibility to include FASD as a qualifying diagnosis.
3. Regulation changes to allow advanced nurse practitioners to diagnose FASDs on Individualized Education Plans.

**RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

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**Council Members Present:**

Jill Burkert  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
David Fleurant  
Angelina Fraize  
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Alex Gimarc  
Taylor Gregg  
Mallory Hamilton  
Alexis Henning  
Susan Kaplan  
Christine King  
Margaret Kossler  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Karli Lopez  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Sean O'Brien  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Justine Sheehan  
Amy Simpson

**Council Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
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Marilee Rivas, Administrative Assistant II  
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Lanny Mommsen, Health Program Manager I  
Johanna Richter, Legislative Intern

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

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 8:30 a.m.

WORK SESSION ON ASPEN

Lanny Mommsen gave the report for ASPEN as follows:

Accomplishments

- Strategic plan finalized.
- Memorandum of Understanding finalized.
- Training provided by ASPEN statewide partners – In Her Shoes training.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

**2.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.**

- 2.1.6 Implement ASPEN in at least one new community to better meet the needs of individuals with disabilities who are victims of sexual or physical assault.

Next Steps:

- Engage community for ASPEN FY'16.
- Continue providing technical assistance and training for FY'15 community through June 30, 2015.

WORK SESSION ON HEALTH PRIORITIES – CDC GRANT

Lanny Mommsen gave the report for the health grant as follows:

Health Grant Accomplishments

- Technical Assistance Center
- Get Out and Play commercial.
- Adaptive physical education.
- Strategic plan finalized.

Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

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

- 8.1.2 Increase by two percent the number of individuals with disabilities who receive preventative health care.
- 8.1.3 Provide training for individuals with disabilities and their direct care professionals about receiving preventative health care.
- 8.1.4 Provide training to individuals experiencing disabilities, their direct care professionals, and emergency responders regarding emergency preparedness for

individuals with disabilities.

Health Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:

1. Support emergency preparedness activities (SKIP kits, trainings, et cetera).
2. Provide training for individuals with disabilities and their direct care professionals about receiving preventative health care.
3. Programmatic evaluation.

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that the Council doesn't need to vote on these ASPEN or Health work plan priorities, because they are requirements of their grants.

**WORK SESSION ON ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES**

**Peer Power**

**Ric Nelson** gave the report from Peer Power as follows:

Accomplishments Since January 2015

- Membership – 60 members, 29 registered supporters.
- Participated in three events/job fairs:
  - Diversity Job Fair
  - Stone Soup Group's Parent Conference
  - Mat-Su Employer Expo
  - Full Lives Conference.

Upcoming Activities:

- EPIC Conference, May 13 – 15, 2015.
- Job Clubs at Special Olympics and Stone Soup Group.

**Partners in Policymaking (PiP)**

Richard Kiefer-O'Donnell, associate director for the Center for Human Development, presented on Partners in Policymaking as follows:

**PiP Internships** – Focused two-part training associated with developing personal and/or professional advocacy skills. PiP 1 – Self-advocacy; PiP 2 – Action planning/resource development; PiP 3 – Legislative or navigation skills.

Accomplishments:

- Finalized new core competencies for three levels of internship.
- Jointly recruited with Stone Soup Group (SSG) interns for PiP 1 and PiP 2 through new MOU.
- Trained 16 interns through PiP 1 with four SSG parent navigators.
- Conducted results-based accountability based evaluation.

Current Work:

- Preparing two-part training phase for 14 PiP 2 interns.
- Ongoing collaboration with SSG on evaluation of products of PiP 1 training and June implementation of PiP 2.
- Preparation of annual performance report for the Trust with recommendations on changes made FY'15.

Future Work:

- PiP action plan and grant proposals maintained on the Community Toolbox shared workstation for future usage.
- Recruitment of PiP 3 interns for start of FY'16.
- Plan recruitment for FY'16 of PiP 1 and 2.
- Review evaluation feedback on content and format for internship training and make modifications.

**PiP Workshops** – One-day diversified trainings on such topics as self-advocacy, promotion of voting, school advocacy and the IEP process, bullying, participation in State advocacy activities, and emergency preparedness.

Accomplishments:

- To date, 12 separate workshops have been provided by PiP staff, with another seven provided jointly with another speaker, or facilitated through the use of PiP funding.
- These 12 events had 196 attendees. 458 participants attended the other seven.
- Training was provided through nine groups or events.

Current Work:

- All workshop training for the year has ended.
- Currently data from the evaluations from these efforts is being prepared for analysis and use next year.

Future Plans:

- Report on findings from training evaluations.
- Develop advocacy and voter's rights training needs assessment.
- ID locations to disseminate at the start of the new fiscal year to prepare training plan and schedule.

**PiP Technical Assistance** – Over the last year the technical assistance services have shifted to focused efforts including working with a rural school district to be more family-centered in the IEP process, forming a collaborative group with the Rasmuson Foundation on 211 system, and forming a partnership with SSG to promote parent navigator training to increase statewide capacity to provide advocacy training.

Accomplishments:

- Two-day, hands-on technical assistance was provided to 31 teachers and staff of Valdez school to improve the role of families in the IEP process and support parents as advocates

with the IEP.

- Rasmuson grant application tabled for consideration for FY' 16.
- MOU signed with SSG with jointly recruited and delivered PiP 1 internship in March.

Current Work:

- Activities scheduled and slated through months of April, May, and June to collaborate on June trainings and use of PiP workstation through Community Toolbox (online equivalent of Midwest Academy's Strategic Planning methodology).

Future Plans:

- Complete TA evaluations and report.
- Assess need for 211 collaboration in FY' 16.
- Jointly plan with SSG continued collaboration to support skills of parent navigators.
- Expand MOU collaborative relationship to LINKS.

**PiP I Vote I Count** – Included training of various agencies/personnel to promote awareness and voter registration, training to promote voter rights and access, and an effort to organize increased shuttle services to voting booths on election day.

Accomplishments:

- The following resources were developed and posted to PiP website in support of the three above goals:
  - How to vote via touch screen voting machines.
  - Voter accessibility options.
  - Why should I vote, and how can I do it?
  - What non-profits need to know to promote voter registration.
  - What care coordinators need to know to promote voter registration.

Current Work:

- Currently no additional work is taking place.

Future Plans:

- Track and report on uploads of I Vote I Count documents.
- Formulate plan with other state advocates to create a plan for speakers and increased voter registration and participation for the 2016 presidential and state of Alaska elections.

Richard Kiefer-O'Donnell introduced Annette Blanas, also from the CHD.

**Legislative Committee**

**Patrick Reinhart** gave the report for the Legislative Committee as follows:

Important Activities Since January

- Participated in Key Campaign.
- Participated in Anchorage Caucus meeting.

- Participated in weekly Trust Advocacy calls on Fridays.
- Officially support Medicaid expansion and reform.
- Wrote letters to legislators for support of SB 49 – Establishing civil legal services fund; SB 26/HB 71 – Capital budget, specifically for support for Denali Deaf Community Center and coordinated transportation funding; and to oppose HB 99 – Voluntary termination of life.
- Continued communication with Senator Murkowski regarding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization.

#### Progress on Council's Legislative Priorities

- HB 76 – Removal of the word “gifted” from Council’s enabling statute. Passed the House 37 – 0.
- HB 161 – Medicaid reuse and recycling program for durable medical equipment. Passed unanimously, awaiting Governor’s signature.
- HB 77 – Disability Training and ID Bill – passed the House State Affairs Committee unanimously and was scheduled to go to the Finance Committee and stalled. The training at the police academy levels was removed from the bill because it didn’t need to be in statute, and now the bill contains just the ID portion and the public training portion. The Alaska Police Standards Council has agreed that the police officer training portion could be added to their regulations.
- SB 78/HB 148 – Medicaid expansion and reform.
- Capital project support for the Denali Deaf Community Center for \$995,000 was not included.

#### Other Bills the Council is Following

- Capital and operating budget bills.
- SB 74/HB 148 – Medicaid expansion and reform.
- HB 102 – Residential psychiatric education funding.
- HB 99 – Voluntary termination of life.

#### Next Steps – Bills the Council will Follow Going into the Next Session

- HB 27/28 – PCA services.
- SB 74/HB 148 – Medicaid expansion and reform.
- HB 77 – Disability training and ID bill.
- HB 154 – Civil legal services appropriations.
- HB 99 – Voluntary termination of life.
- HB 85 – Repealing college and career readiness assessments.
- HB 89 – Graduation requirements.
- HB 102 – Residential psychiatric education funding.
- Alaska ABLE Act legislation.

#### National Advocacy Issues

- Disability Policy Seminar – prepared congressional policy packets and trained LEND fellows.
- ESEA reauthorization – reviewed language of new draft, provided comment to Senator

Murkowski per her request, and introduced NACDD policy staffer to Senator Murkowski.

## **WORK SESSION ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES**

**Lucy Odden and Kristin Vandagriff** gave the report for the Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

### **Employment Accomplishments:**

- Employment First implementation progress.
- Project SEARCH Alaska sites – national praise.
- Discovery class pilot under development.
- CinemAbility event organized.
- Alaska Community Rehabilitation Provider training under development.
- Diversity Job Fair and OFCCP workshop for federal contractors – new annual collaboration.

### **Transportation Accomplishments:**

- Continued support to increase funding to develop public transportation infrastructure.
- Continued advocacy for transportation changes in Medicaid and waiver regulations/policies.
- Continued collaboration with the Alaska Mobility Coalition.
- Developed contacts with TSA through Wings for Autism events.

### **Review Five-Year Plan Objectives**

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

- 5.1.1 Implement Employment First Act.
- 5.1.2 Enhance transition.
- 5.1.3 Increase provider employment training.
- 5.1.4 Enhance supported employment services.
- 5.1.5 Increase provisional hires.
- 5.1.6 Increased employment numbers by 2016.
- 5.1.7 Increase self-employment opportunities.

#### **6.1 Advocate for a minimum of three new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that increase accessible public transportation options.**

- 4.1.1 Monitor transportation changes.
- 4.1.2 Statewide accessible taxi advocacy.
- 4.1.3 Establish statewide accessible transportation.

### **Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations for FY'16 Work Plan Priorities:**

## ***Employment:***

1. Implement Employment First Act.
  - Meet with Employment First leaders designated by department commissioners (DEED, DHSS, and DOLWD).
2. Enhance transition.
  - Support discovery class pilot sites in curriculum development, teacher, and paraprofessional training, class start up, and post-class outcomes data analysis.
3. Increase employment provider employment training.
  - Explore funding options for provider training such as draw down of federal Medicaid money as well as potential WIOA and IDEA funds.
  - Partner with the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project at CHD to oversee the integration of the newly developed two-tier system of benefits planning for Alaska into the State system.
4. Enhance supported employment services.
  - Provide feedback to SDS regarding transition plan implementation with respect to supported employment services in integrated and competitive settings.
5. Increased employment numbers by 2016.
  - Collaborate with Department of Labor on the annual Diversity Job Fair as well as federal contractor workshops and state agency networking events.
6. Increase microenterprise self-employment.
  - Hold at least two open house events per year with specific marketing to the DD community.
  - Hold at least one informational webinar with rural DD communities as the target attendees.

## ***Transportation***

1. Monitor transportation changes.
  - Provide feedback to SDS regarding transition plan implementation with respect to integrated settings, ensuring that current services that include transportation are being fully utilized.
2. Advocate for accessible taxi options in communities around the state.
  - Monitor Anchorage taxi response rate for accessible cabs.
3. Establish statewide accessible transportation.
  - Hold a transportation community conversation with transportation panel (TSA, taxi, and public transportation).
  - Develop, disseminate, and analyze a transportation survey for individuals with

disabilities to determine transportation gaps and needs with respect to employment.

### Council Vote on Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee Priorities

The results for the voting of the Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee priority order are as follows:

1. Meet with Employment First leaders designated by department commissioners (DEED, DHSS, DOLWD) to implement Employment First Act.
2. Support discovery class pilot sites in curriculum development, teacher and paraprofessional training, class start up, and post-class outcome data analysis to enhance transition out of school.
3. Hold a transportation community conversation with transportation panel (TSA, taxi, public transportation).
4. Explore funding options for provider training such as draw down of federal Medicaid, WIOA, and IDEA funds to increase employment provider training.
5. Provide feedback to SDS regarding transition plan implementation with respect to supported employment services in integrated and competitive settings.
6. Partner with the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project at CHD to oversee the integration of the newly developed two-tier system of benefits planning for Alaska into state system to increase employment provider training.
7. Collaborate with DOL on the annual diversity job fair, federal contractor workshops, and state agency networking events to increase employment numbers by 2016.
8. Monitor Anchorage taxi response rate for accessible cabs.
9. Hold at least one informational webinar with rural DD communities as the target attendees to increase microenterprise self-employment.
10. Hold at least two open house events per year with specific marketing to the DD community to increase microenterprise self-employment.

### WORK SESSION ON AUTISM PRIORITIES

**Margaret Kossler, Christie Reinhardt,** and Amanda Lofgren gave the presentation from the Autism Workgroup as follows:

#### Accomplishment Timeline:

- September 2014 – Preliminary meetings with Dr. Siegel, an autism consultant working with the State as well as other stakeholders including Women’s, Children’s, and Family Health; Behavioral Health; Health and Social Services; UAA; CHD; and others.
- October 2014 – The Council gets a LEND fellow, Amy Sundheim, a BCBA from Homer, whose research project is compiling and capturing ideas to develop Autism Phase II five-year plan for the State.
- January 2015 – Council agrees to form an Autism Workgroup. Receives pledges of meeting funds from Women’s, Children’s, and Family Health and the Trust.
- January 2015 – The final report to the legislature from the Autism Taskforce recommends that the Council work on several fronts to increase the quality and capacity of systems.

- February 2015 – Work with a facilitator from Agnew::Beck. Hold first face-to-face steering committee meeting.
- April 2015 – Five priority areas are developed. Small groups form to work on these areas in preparation for May 1 face-to-face meeting to develop five-year plan.

### Review Five-Year Plan Objectives

#### *Advocacy and Leadership*

### **1.2 Increase the knowledge of policymaking process and advocacy skills of at least 100 Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members, and/or service providers.**

- 1.2.1 Provide at least one opportunity annually to Council members, self-advocates, family members, and providers to advocate for issues of importance to the Council.

#### *Community Choice and Supports*

### **2.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that promote consumer choice, flexibility, and control of services.**

- 2.1.7 Conduct statutorily mandated responsibilities as a beneficiary board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

#### *Employment*

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

- 5.1.2 Increase employment of youth with disabilities in transition from school to adult life.
- 5.1.3 Work with the Center for Human Development, the Trust, and other partners to increase provider capacity for employment services and supports.

#### *Early Intervention*

### **6.1 Advocate for a minimum of four new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improve quality early intervention services.**

- 6.1.3 Increase partnerships, communication, and collaboration between parents, partners, and stakeholders involved in early intervention services.

#### *Education*

### **7.1 Advocate for a minimum of five new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improve the quality of education for students with disabilities.**

- 7.1.1 Research and advocate for services, programs, or regulation changes that will improve the scope, delivery, and effectiveness of post-secondary transition.
- 7.1.2 Increase the graduation rate for students with disabilities.
- 7.1.7 Govern the Special Education Service Agency to ensure SESA meets its statutorily mandated responsibilities.

Purpose of the Workgroup

Develop a shared plan and common set of priorities, foster coordination and communication, and optimize available talent and resources to make positive and lasting improvements to the autism continuum of care in Alaska. The vision is to support the development of an integrated service delivery system for autism that is easy to navigate and empowers families, educators, health professionals, and community partners to better meet the needs of individuals and their families across the lifespan.

Five Focus Areas

- 1. Screening and diagnosis
- 2. Funding and systems issues
- 3. Workforce development and training
- 4. Early intervention and education
- 5. Integrated and comprehensive services.

**COUNCIL VOTE FOR AUTISM WORKGROUP TO BECOME AN AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Council members engaged in a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the Autism Workgroup becoming an official ad hoc committee of the Council.

**Karli Lopez MOVED** that the Autism Workgroup become the Autism Ad Hoc Committee, **SECONDED** by **Jill Burkert**. The motion **PASSED**.

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – JEFF JESSEE**

Jeff Jessee, CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, presented to the Council on the current state of the State budget as well as Medicaid expansion and reform.

Jeff Jessee stated that in terms of Medicaid expansion and reform, there are currently competing bills from the legislature that have reform but not expansion, and then there is the Governor’s bill which has expansion and some of the reform elements in it. He explained that when the Governor called the special session to address a variety of legislative issues, the federal receipt authority was included as one of the issues to be dealt with, and it has created a variety of issues relating to the majority caucus.

Jeff Jessee told the Council members that Alaska needs expansion, and the people that need health coverage can’t wait. He asked Council members to share that message. He stated that reform will be an ongoing process that the Council will be involved in, and he hopes that the Council will play a crucial role in the 1915(i) and (k) reform issues.

Jeff explained to the Council about a budgetary tool developed by the Division of Legislative Finance. He stated that with this tool, people can plug any State expenditure or revenue variable they want, such as price of oil, sales tax, income tax, et cetera, and see the impact on the fiscal gap. He noted that the outlook is very grim based on the current revenue projections for the state. He stated that the end result is that the State won't be able to cut budgets to eliminate the fiscal gap, and they can't tax their way out of the fiscal gap. The budget will need to be cut, taxes will need to be instituted, and earnings from the Permanent Fund will need to be used to fill that gap. He stated that legislators and all Alaskans need to understand what needs to happen to close the fiscal gap, and he encouraged Council members to be aware of community forums and to show their support for everything that needs to happen to close the gap.

### **FIVE-YEAR PLAN DISCUSSION**

**Rich Sanders** began his presentation by stating that Council members can expect to receive a call from him over the next few months so that he has an opportunity to get to know them better and find out their goals and desires for being on the Council. He noted that he also plans on attending all of the committee meetings to receive input on the Five-Year State Plan process.

**Rich Sanders** continued on with his presentation as follows:

- Current 2012 – 2016 State Plan ends on September 30, 2016.
- Need to create 2017 – 2021 State Plan. Tasks include:
  - Council decide on areas of emphasis.
  - Public input, hearings, focus groups, meetings, surveys, analysis, and reports of all data collected.
  - Create draft plan for the public.
  - Obtain public feedback on the plan for 45 days.
  - Council finalizes State Plan.
  - Submit State Plan to the feds on August 15, 2016.

**Rich Sanders** directed Council members to a cover of an NACDD report that contains a graphic that showcases different aspects of peoples' lives to take into account. Many of the things on the wheel the Council already does, such as education, employment, and supporting families, but he noted five other categories he would like to see incorporated into their State Planning efforts: Equality, inclusion, integration, independence, and most of all, happiness.

**Rich Sanders** encouraged people to reach out to their communities and all Alaskans to determine what is important to them, and he also encouraged Council members to be active participants within their committees.

**Brittney Howell** then explained an abbreviated timeline of activities that need to take place between the October 2015 Council meeting and August 15, 2016.

**CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL CHAIR**

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to confirm **Amy Simpson** as the Council chair, **SECONDED** by **Banarsi Lal**. The motion **PASSED**.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**Amy Simpson** nominated **Lucy Odden** for the position of vice-chair, which **Lucy Odden** accepted. **Mallory Hamilton MOVED** to accept **Lucy Odden** as vice-chair, **SECONDED** by **Christine King**. The motion **PASSED**.

**Karli Lopez** nominated **Art Delaune** for the position of Legislative Committee chair, which **Art Delaune** accepted. **Christine King MOVED** to accept **Art Delaune** as the Legislative Committee chair, **SECONDED** by **Justine Sheehan**. The motion **PASSED**.

**Patrick Reinhart** reminded Council members that these new terms begin on July 1, and the new chair will appoint all other committee chairs after that time.

**ADJOURN**

After closing remarks and announcements, **Justine Sheehan MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by **Lucy Odden**. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.