

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

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

**Videoconference  
May 5, 2016**

**Council Members Present:**

Jill Burkert  
John Cannon  
Anthony Cravalho  
Sandra Dehart-Mayor  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
Angelina Fraize  
Dean Gates  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Alex Gimarc  
Mallory Hamilton  
Alexis Henning  
Christine King  
David Kohler  
Sara Kveum  
Margaret Kossler  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Amy Simpson – Chair  
Maggie Winston

**Council Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
Brittney Howell, Research Analyst III  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator II  
Kristin Vandagriff, Program Coordinator II  
Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator I  
Lanny Mommson, Health Program Manager I  
Barbara Allen, Administrative Assistant II  
Ian Miner, Office Assistant II

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

Thursday, May 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 8:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After a safety briefing, **Patrick Reinhart** welcomed Council members to this videoconference meeting noting that holding the meeting in such a manner is direction from the Governor to all boards and commissions. He noted that all Council members will have an opportunity to give feedback on the success of this format via a survey following the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** MOVED to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Lucy Odden**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING

**Christine King** MOVED to approve the February 2016 minutes as written, **SECONDED** by **Alexis Henning**. The motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No Council members had conflicts of interest to declare at this time.

CHAIR'S REPORT

**Chair Simpson** introduced the Council's Executive Committee members, **Lucy Odden**, **Angelina Fraize**, **Art Delaune**, **David Kohler**, **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus**, and **Mallory Hamilton**.

**Chair Simpson** reported the following:

Activities:

- Participated in State Systemic Improvement Planning with the Infant Learning Program.
- State Plan reviews and revisions.
- Reviewed legislative positions.

Letters of Support/Advocacy:

- SB 72, The Alaska Care Act.
- Budget cuts to programs affecting individuals with disabilities.
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant.
- Welcome letter to Ivy Spohnholz.
- Position on HB 102/SB 103.

### Upcoming Activities:

- Participate in smooth transition of EI/ILP to SDS.
- Complete final draft; submit Five-Year State Plan and two-year activities.
- Elect vice chair (one-year term to become chair in July 2017).

**Chair Simpson** also reminded Council members that a conflict of interest could occur when a Council member stands to personally benefit (financially) as a result of decisions made by the Council. Council members will be asked if there are any perceived conflicts for committee and Council meetings. The conflicts should be recorded in the meeting minutes. If there is a conflict, the member should not vote on any motions relating to the issue.

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

**Patrick Reinhart** reported to the Council as follows:

#### Staff Update/Changes

- Rich Sanders retired, and they have not gotten permission to post his position yet.
- **Brittney Howell** is leaving the Council on June 15<sup>th</sup> to start a job with Hope Community Resources.
- **Ian Miner** is helping SDS three mornings per week as SDS is in need of administrative assistance.
- MASST employee **Reinhard Howard** is now helping out in the Council office.
- All positions are funded in FY17.

#### Council Member Updates

- Time to renew for those who want to remain on the Council. Council members should apply online.
- Edna DeVries, Alaska Commission on Aging representative, decided she could not do both boards and her job.
- **Angelina Fraize** and **Heidi Haas** will not be reapplying for the Council.
- The SESA board is full. Council members include: **Maggie Winston, Anthony Cravalho, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Jill Burkert, and Christine King.**

#### Reports/Surveys, Etc.

- Sectional analysis of ABLE Act legislation.
- Wrote and submitted Council comments to SDS.
- Letters to the legislature on a lot of bills.
- DEED regulations on FASD changed at the State Board of Education meeting.
- Alaskan Employer Perspectives on Hiring People with Disabilities – survey and report.
- Comments to Department of Labor on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Provided input to SDS as part of steering committee for Inclusive Community Choices Council (1915(i) and (k))

#### Trainings, Presentations, and Important Meetings

- SESA board meeting

- Full Lives presentations and table
- Peer Power retreat
- Initial Discovery training
- PIE grantee meeting in Washington, D.C. coupled with meetings with senators, CTAA, and NACDD
- Alaska Mobility Coalition and the Transit Conference
- Microenterprise proposal review
- DD mini grant proposal review
- Complex Behavioral Solutions Group
- Meeting with State ILP staff and federal technical assistance people
- Autism Society of Alaska first annual conference in Fairbanks
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Monthly NACDD public policy calls
- Weekly Trust advocacy calls
- Weekly HHS legislative calls
- SDS external stakeholder budget reduction group
- Almost weekly ILP transition planning calls
- LEND fellow trainings
- DD Act program meeting (CHD, DLC, SILC, GCDSE).

#### Upcoming Priorities

- Trust stakeholder meetings on FY18/19 budget – Council members welcomed to attend
- Council membership renewals and applications
- Bill signing for HB 188
- State Plan – finish and public comment
- ABLE implementation
- NACDD Conference in D.C. in July
- Trust meeting September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Patrick Reinhart** added that the Governor signed HB 76, and he thanked **Jill Burkert** for attending the signing at the Governor’s office on such short notice.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

**Chair Simpson** asked Council members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

#### ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

**Chair Simpson** opened up the floor to nominations for vice chair, a one-year term that becomes the next Council chair. **Christine King** nominated **Maggie Winston**, who accepted the nomination. **Lucy Odden** nominated herself for the position of vice chair.

After ballots were tallied, **Maggie Winston** was elected vice chair of the Council starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **FY 17 DRAFT BUDGET APPROVAL**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that they have currently expended 76 percent of the Council's FY 16 budget. They anticipate being under budget by the end of this fiscal year and plan to roll over the federal funds to FY 17.

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that with the new IRIS accounting system with the State, the Council is still not able to break out funding by every grant source for this fiscal year. Staff have determined a way to monitor their expenditures by grant for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Patrick** reviewed the projected FY 17 budget with Council members.

**John Cannon MOVED** to approve the budget as presented, **SECONDED** by **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**Chair Simpson** stated that the Council is required to maintain the following standing committees: Early Intervention, Education, Developmental Disabilities, Legislative, and Executive. In the last several years, there have been additional ad hoc committees and workgroups added. She shared her concern about how thin the Council staff and Council members will be stretched by having so many committees. She would like Council members to make some decisions about what the Council and staff can bear in terms of the volume of work these groups require.

**Patrick Reinhart** suggested that it could be that some ad hocs or workgroups meet quarterly, or perhaps they combine with another ad hoc or workgroup.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** provided the DD Committee report as follows:

### **Update on Activities:**

- Provided input to the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee on conflict-free care coordination provider certification and rural exceptions and version 3 of the transition plan on settings.
- Drafted objectives and two-year work plan for next Five-Year State Plan.

### **FY'16 Next Steps:**

- Work with partner agencies to increase availability of telepractice assessments and services.
- Continue to work on Medicaid reforms and provide comment with the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.
- Review assessment tools and provide SDS with recommendations.
- Provide comment to the Office of Rate Review on systems that support a living wage for

- direct service professionals and workforce development.
- Work on reuse and recycling program for durable medical equipment.

### **FASD WORKGROUP REPORT**

**Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** gave the presentation for the FASD Workgroup as follows:

#### **Accomplishments Since February:**

- Continued participation in the Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee.
- Began reviewing potential assessment tools to use under the new Medicaid redesign system.
- Discussed end of funding for SAMHSA FASD Center for Excellence and idea of creating an Alaska NOFAS chapter.
- Began 9/9 FASD Awareness Day planning.

#### **FY'16 Ongoing Work Activities:**

- Upcoming presentation at June meeting from Rep. Ivy Spohnholz.
- Research project on the benefits of supports and services for people with FASDs.
- Partnering with WCFH on prevention programs.
- Monitor Medicaid changes:
  - Advocate for expansion of services to individuals with FASD and others who do not meet institutional level of care.
  - Review proposed changes and provide comment on Medicaid reforms.

### **MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Dean Gates** provided the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee report as follows:

#### **Progress Since February Meeting:**

- Held four meetings in two months to craft and submit Council comment on:
  - SDS's third draft of the transition plan on settings.
  - Changes to SDS's care coordination provider certification to make it conflict free.
  - General Relief Program waitlist for assisted living facilities.
  - I/DD waiver renewal application to CMS.

#### **FY16 Ongoing Work Activities:**

- Begin holding meetings bi-monthly.
- Member participating in SDS's Inclusive Community Choices Council (1915(i) and (k))
- Restarting review of the DDRR waitlist by inviting SDS staff to some meetings.
- Will comment on SDS's final transition plan on settings.
- Analysis of SB 74, Medicaid reform bill that just passed the House and Senate. Need to understand all the amendments.
- Will write Council comment on SDS's conflict-free care coordination system and other waiver renewal changes.
- Anything else on Medicaid that comes up.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**David Kohler** began his report for the Education Committee by noting that the Council is the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and delegates the day-to-day business of the SEAP to the Education Committee. The members are educators, administrators, and agency representatives involved in the special education system. The majority must be parents. The Council also governs the Special Education Service Agency.

### **Accomplishments Since February:**

- HB 102/SB103:
  - Reviewed draft bills
  - Researched impacts in other states
  - Drafted a letter and a position paper
  - Collaborated with partners
  - Collected and gave written and oral testimony. Kudos to **Mallory Hamilton** who flew to Juneau to testify in person on this issue.
  - Alerted partners and legislators
  - Defended our ethics.
- Began an investigation into the barriers to students with disabilities accessing the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
- Special presentation from the Northern Justice Project on a lawsuit over non-compliance with restraint and seclusion reporting requirements.
- Oral comments to the State Board of Education on HB 102/SB 103.
- Worked on Five-Year Plan.
- Participated in the 2016 Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC).

**Christie Reinhardt** commented that this year's Inclusive Practice Award had the most nominations ever, and it was a remarkably diverse group. This award has become a very prestigious event. **David Kohler** stated that this year's winner was the Nikiski High School Life Skills Team.

### **Future Plans:**

- Follow up and monitor issues surrounding HB 102/SB103 and potential future legislation.
- Continue to monitor and offer improvement solutions on restraint and seclusion policies, implementation, and issues of non-compliance.
- Facilitate and partner to bring training to school principals and administrators on IDEA and discipline, in particular Manifestation Determinations.
- Continue to investigate barriers to the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
- Look for leadership and advocacy training for emerging special education advocates.
- Look at how special education interfaces with the rewrite of the education law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Continue to follow up on FASD being classified as other health impaired in education regulations.

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that the Trust was asked to facilitate an interim meeting to come up with a solution for HB 102/SB 103. **Patrick** offered the support of the Education Committee to do that.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Christie Reinhardt** stated that under the Council's federal obligation to be the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), they have a certain composition that is required under federal law. She stated that for the first time that she can remember, they have all of the seats filled with the exception of the representative from private insurance.

**Angelina Fraize** stated that the ICC works on issues, gaps, public programs, policies, or practices that improve the quality of early intervention in Alaska. They advise, review, assist, and report on the Infant Learning Program and other programs that provide services to infants and toddlers. They provide an annual report to OSEP and the Governor.

**Angelina Fraize** gave the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

#### **Activities Since February:**

- Met with OSEP federal program officers, the Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP), Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), and the Council chair and staff on the role of the ICC in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and the pending move of EI/ILP to SDS.
- Members and staff provided stakeholder input and worked closely with EI/ILP and the OSEP technical assistance on the SSIP Phase II. The EIC had a presentation from EI/ILP on the plan and offered recommendations and potential collaborations prior to the final submission. The SSIP Phase II has been submitted.
- Reviewed the Program for Infants and Children's (PIC) scripts for their informational videos on the EI/ILP and parental rights and procedural safeguards.
- Participated in the Alaska Pyramid Project's quarterly meeting.
- Early Childhood Mental Health Conference.
- Members and staff provided stakeholder input to the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Leadership (CYSHN) planning meetings and the Help Me Grow workgroups.
- Staff are participating in the ILP transition collaboration to ensure a smooth transition of the EI/ILP from OCS to SDS.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Help publicize the new PIC videos.
- Finish the Five-Year work plan
- Participate in the Alaska Pyramid Project's quarterly meeting.
- Staff and members will be working on the Help Me Grow Family and Community Outreach Workgroup with a soft rollout anticipated in September.
- Continue to participate in CYSHN planning.
- Participate in planning the Teddy Bear Picnic inclusive playground celebration in July.

- The ICC will continue to collaborate with EI/ILP, OCS, and SDS on a smooth transition.

### **EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

#### **Recent Activities:**

- Discovery training.
- Certificate in Employment Services training.
- Financial Work Incentive Navigator training.
- Medicaid Buy-In Program training.
- Alaska APSE held the first CESP exam.
- Peer Networks (Job Clubs):
  - Stone Soup Group youth
  - Anchorage Project SEARCH interns
  - Microenterprise grantees.
- Job Fairs:
  - Employment First (February)
  - Mat-Su (March)
  - Kenai Peninsula (March)
  - Youth Hiring Event (April).
- Conferences and Partnerships:
  - Partnerships in Employment meeting
  - Full Lives Conference
  - ASSEC post conference
  - Stone Soup Group Parent Conference.
- Matrix document revisions
- Alaska Disability Benefits 101 Calculator
- AIEI semi-annual federal reporting
- Business Employment Services Team (BEST) – Joint BEST/OFCCP training for federal contractors
- Alaska Mobility Coalition
- Microenterprise application review
- Employment First implementation.

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Discovery evaluation
- Certificate in Employment Services training – Fall 2016
- AK APSE:
  - Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign
  - CESP exams – taking them statewide
  - Second anniversary of Employment First.
- Additional job fairs and peer networks
- Project SEARCH expansion efforts

- National APSE and Project SEARCH conferences
- Alaska DB 101 Calculator – launch and trainings September 12 – 16
- Transition Handbook.

### **PEER POWER REPORT**

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

#### **Updates Since February 2016:**

- Three board meetings
- Attended five job fairs
- Job Club at Stone Soup Group
- Three EPIC teleconferences
- EPIC training – Student First training in March 2016
- Board retreat April 9, 2016 – discussed plans for Peer Power’s future, reviewed bylaws, talked about the history of Peer Power.
- New elections of board members.

**Patrick Reinhart** added that the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is holding a series of regional discussions this month with executive directors from each region to talk about support of self-advocacy organizations. **Patrick** stated that he will share what he learned with Peer Power.

### **TELEPRACTICE AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Alex Gimarc** stated that the committee has had two meetings since February. There is very little reportable progress, although they did make some progress towards formulating a yearly plan. He stated that this committee is probably a candidate for termination, although there are a number of folks who are interested in the field and believe that they can bring a perspective of the Council to other groups and organizations that are currently involved in doing this. Perhaps they could consider another model for doing what they need to do.

### **ASPEN UPDATE**

**Lanny Mommsen** provided the report for Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN) as follows:

#### **Statewide Committee:**

- GCDSE
- Center for Human Development
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Statewide Independent Living Council.

**Focus Community Committee:**

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

**Activities Since February – FY'16 Community**

- Contracts sent out and signed.
- Needs assessment:
  - Focus groups
  - Key informant interviews
  - Policy and procedure review.

**Upcoming Activities:**

- Strategic planning day
- Technical assistance/training
- FY 17 community.

**HEALTH AND DISABILITY COMMITTEE**

**Lanny Mommsen** gave the report for the Health and Disability Committee as follows:

**Activities Since February:**

- Grant application
- Presentations/trainings
- Conferences/fairs:
  - \$1,570 Get Ready! Toolkits
  - 587 SKIP Kits (650 waiting for assembly)
- Adaptive physical activity
- Friendship and dating
- Health Matters.

**Health and Disability Grant**

**Lanny Mommsen** explained that the Health and Disability Grant has changed the focus and target population. The grant application has been submitted, and they are hoping to know if they received the grant by July 1<sup>st</sup>. This grant is a five-year grant.

The focus areas include:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Tobacco use and exposure
- Nutrition
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Physical activity
- Healthy weight
- Oral health

The target populations include:

- People with mobility limitations
- People with intellectual disabilities
- Families, healthcare providers, organizations serving these populations, and the general public.

### **FY 17 Projects**

- Adaptive physical activity (direct service providers)
- Aging and Disability Summit
- Adapted Diabetes Self-Management and Education curriculum
- Host adapted physical activity workshop at FASD summit
- Develop four short videos on nutrition.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Art Delaune** gave the report for the Legislative Committee as follows:

#### **Updates Since February 2016:**

- HB 188/SB 104 - ABLE Act - passed.
- HB 76 – Removal of “gifted” from GCDSE enabling statute - passed.
- HB 77 – Disability Training and Education Bill – sitting in Rules Committee.
- HB 102/SD 103 – Residential psychiatric education funding – Council opposed, and bill has stalled.
- SB 74 – Medicaid reform - passed.
- HB 28 – Foster care - bill died.
- HB 315 – Electronic visit verification for PCA and HCBS - Council opposed, no current information available on BASIS about it.
- HB 154/SB 49 – Establishing a legal services fund - died in the Senate.
- SB 91/HB 205 Omnibus crime bill - passed.
- SB 72 – Caregivers of patients bill - passed.
- HB 27 – Foster care - sitting in Rules Committee
- Followed budget bills.

**Patrick Reinhart** reported that on a federal level, he and **Kristin Vandagriff** met with Senator Murkowski and her staff and Senator Sullivan’s staff while in D.C. for the AIEI grant meeting to discuss the DD Act funding level and Keeping all Students Safe Act (national restraint and seclusion legislation).

**Patrick** also noted that the Council trained LEND fellows who went to the Disability Policy Seminar and also met with the congressional delegation.

**Alex Gimarc** stated that Liz Vazquez’s staffer Anita Halterman is interested in working with the Council after the session on HB 315 to improve it and address the Council’s concerns.

**Lucy Odden** volunteered to sit on the Legislative Committee.

## **AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Christie Reinhardt** gave the report for the Autism Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

### **Priorities:**

1. Screening and diagnosis.
2. Workforce development and training for professionals, educators, families, and community partners.
3. Early intervention and educational systems (Age 0 – 22).
4. Integrated and comprehensive services across the lifespan.
5. Funding, billing, and systems issues.

### **Activities Since February:**

- Participated in an interview panel for a potential pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist. Unfortunately the position was not filled.
- Presented on autism five-year plan to All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (A2P2).
- Incorporated objectives into the Council's Five-Year State Plan.
- Stakeholder input and collaboration on potential autism grants.

**Christie Reinhardt** added that the section on Women's, Children's, and Family Health is currently applying for a highly competitive HRSA grant that would significantly fund three years of improving screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism using a model that would involve training practitioners that Alaska already has within the state to diagnose autism. This also has a very large component about training family members and people within clinics to be able to work with families. As a part of that grant, the Council has promised opportunities for those new family navigators to be able to participate within the Council and Council activities as well as other advocacy activities.

**Christie Reinhardt** reported that the Autism Society of Alaska had their first annual conference, which was sold out. Temple Grandin was the keynote speaker, and 1,350 people attended this presentation.

**Christie Reinhardt** stated that they are planning for a full-day, face-to-face meeting the first week of June.

## **STATE PLAN OVERVIEW**

**Patrick Reinhart** led the Council through an overview of timelines and the draft Five-Year State Plan. During this exercise, the Council refined their goals from six to five, and were able to further refine objectives to lessen the number of measurable objectives they will have to report on, as was recommended through federal guidance.

Staff will take the recommendations of the Council and rewrite the draft plan to present to the Executive Committee at their May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY (SESA)**

Patrick Pillai, executive director for SESA, provided the Council with the following updates for SESA:

- SESA has a total staff of 22 individuals, and they currently have three vacancies. Recruitment is ongoing to fill the vacancies.
- In FY16, SESA's Low Incidence Disabilities program completed 1,433 mission-related activities, of which 347 were completed via distance delivery. In total, 49 school districts in 106 locations were served.
- The Alaska Autism Resource Center brought Dani Bowman, a college student and business owner with autism, to the state. Dani travelled to rural Alaska speaking to school students and parents.
- The Alaska Autism Resource Center also had a successful turnout at the Autism Walk held at the Anchorage Dome.
- Through a mini grant, SESA coordinated and partly funded trainings and materials for the following school districts: Lake and Penn, Yupiit, Hoonah, Yukon Flats, Bering Straits, Lower Kuskokwim, Galena, Chugach, and Hydaburg.
- Continuation grants are being completed.
- The Alaska Autism Resource Center will lose \$25,000 of Trust funding this year, and this loss has been factored into the FY 17 grant activity, including a relocation of the AARC to space within the SESA lease.

## **DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES**

Maureen Harwood stated that Duane Mayes apologized for not being able to attend this meeting.

Maureen stated that the Division continues its work toward the implementation of 1915(i) and (k) as well as the implementation of a new DD eligibility assessment tool. SDS looks forward to working with the Council on the exploration of a new tool.

Maureen Harwood reported that another big project the Division is working alongside the Council on is the move of EI/ILP from OCS to SDS. SDS is trying to be responsive to all the community and federal partners when addressing this move. This is a very exciting change for SDS.

Another area that SDS intersects with the Council is through employment efforts through the waiver. Maureen stated that SDS has been very appreciative of being included in the work of the AIEI. She noted that SDS has put in for technical assistance through the National Association of State Developmental Disability Directors to assist with guidance on moving forward with employment efforts. This should hopefully help with the conditions of participation and allow SDS to move forward with the employment efforts in a way that matches the needs and goals that CMS has.

## **CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CHD)**

Karen Ward stated that the CHD is Alaska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and they were established in the same federal law as the Council. Their mission is to do interdisciplinary education, community training, technical assistance, research, and information dissemination.

Karen Ward stated that they revamped their Partners in Policymaking program this year to a train-the-trainer model. They have trained 13 people from ten different agencies that serve all the beneficiary groups in Kiana, Juneau, Ketchikan, Nome, Soldotna, and Anchorage. Those trainers then went forth and did training around self-advocacy and advocacy, and they have trained approximately 30 beneficiaries as of the end of May.

Karen Ward stated that CHD also does a lot of work in capacity building around autism and autism prevention. Their annual Autism Institute is coming up, and the focus will be around the provision of applied behavior analysis intervention services that would fit into the State's amended plan for EPSDT.

Karen stated that CHD is very active in the Complex Behavior Collaborative and serves quite a few agencies.

CHD is also very active in employment, and their role as the UCEDD is to do the training. They are going to be taking over the training of community rehabilitation providers through an employment services course that is nationally certified. This is a rigorous course for folks who want to provide employment services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Karen Ward reported that CHD also just finished their first distance-delivered course in Discovery.

Another program that CHD has is the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other related Disabilities (LEND). They are just finishing their five-year round of that program and they have submitted for the next five years.

Karen Ward stated that the Tapestry Program is also just finishing up a round of a federal grant to have established a transition to post-secondary education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By August they will have had over 40 students that have completed that program, and 80 percent of them are employed.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Barbara Thompson introduced herself to the Council as the representative from the State Board of Education. She stated that she has been coming up to speed on the Council's State Plan and has been working with the Department of Education on meetings related to the next steps with student assessment since the department cancelled testing for the rest of this year. She noted that there is also the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act, and there are issues that might relate to the work of this Council that may come up.

## **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**

**Anthony Cravalho** reported that Heidi Frost continues to be the executive director, and Joan O’Keefe is the council chair.

**Anthony** stated that the State Plan for Independent Living is due June 30<sup>th</sup>, and it is currently available for public comment.

The SILC has been looking for partners to work on state issues regarding advocacy, elder care, transportation, technology, and emergency preparedness.

**Anthony Cravalho** stated that the next meeting of the SILC is May 12 – 13 in Nome. During this meeting they will be discussing accessible taxis, which is a big issue in Nome. Another big issue they will be working on is they have received funding from the Trust to do a project with transition programming to help people who want to move out of assisted living facilities and back into their home communities in a way that can allow them to be independent.

**Patrick Reinhart** thanked the SILC for stepping in and helping to develop a solution for the Alaska Mobility Coalition.

## **DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)**

**John Cannon** thanked the Center for Human Development for stepping up and taking over the training of CRPs, and noted that to have this kind of training expertise within the state is greatly appreciated.

**John** stated that the hiring freeze and travel restrictions have made it challenging to meet their mission, but they are trying to keep things in balance given the economic hard times facing the state. He noted that like the Council, all of their positions have been funded for 2017.

**John Cannon** stated that they recently submitted their State Plan, and theirs is a challenge because the federal funders are requiring anyone that is in the workforce system to do a combined plan. As a result, DVR had to coordinate their State Plan with other agencies within the Department of Labor such as Employment and Training Services, Adult Basic Education, and Unemployment Insurance. He said it was an interesting exercise, and it really brought together the workforce partners.

**John Cannon** reported that the Independent Living Program will be transferred to Health and Social Services, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee is scheduled to meet next week face-to-face in Sitka, and the rest of their meetings will be virtual meetings.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, CONTINUED**

**Chair Simpson** stated that now that they have had an opportunity to look at the work of the various committees and see how they interrelate to the State Plan, they can consider some options on restructuring the committees. Council staff forwarded the following suggestions for consideration:

- Discontinue the Telepractice Committee.
- Combine FASD Workgroup and Autism Ad Hoc.
- Discontinue FASD Workgroup.
- Discontinue Legislative Committee and let the committees handle their own legislative responsibilities.
- Have the ad hoc committees meet quarterly.
- Reduce Peer Power.

During the course of discussion, Council members and staff offered the following ideas:

- The Legislative Committee is in the bylaws as a standing committee, but it only meets on an as-needed basis.
- Peer Power is their own organization, but it's the Council's responsibility to support them with an advisor. Peer Power can be advised to do their business in an effective way so that it's not cost prohibitive to the Council.

**Dean Gates MOVED** to disband the Telepractice Committee, **SECONDED** by **Don Enoch**.

Further discussion among Council members ensued and further suggestions were offered:

- Need to make sure one of the committees maintains a focus of looking for information within Medicaid reform that addresses whether or not services can be provided by telepractice and be billable.
- Make sure there is Council representation on the larger statewide group looking into telepractice, particularly representation from the early intervention community.
- Would like time to digest this information and give it thoughtful consideration before making an urgent decision to streamline or reduce.
- Telepractice can be woven into various objectives within the State Plan.
- Consider having Council members participate in a variety of statewide initiatives, which also supports those objectives of helping self-advocates become better advocates.

Hearing no objections to the motion, it **PASSED** and the Telepractice Committee was disbanded.

### **Autism Ad Hoc Committee**

**Chair Simpson** asked if it was necessary to have the Council spearhead the Autism Ad Hoc Committee. **Christie Reinhardt** explained that because there is no other coordinated effort within the state, and the Council was asked to reinstitute the former Autism Ad Hoc Committee. They currently meet quarterly and have received some funding from Women's, Children's, and

Family Health for the meeting costs. The consensus from the Council was to leave this committee as it stands.

### **FASD Workgroup**

**Chair Simpson** stated that the FASD Workgroup has focused on specific goals, which they did a great job this year in achieving. She asked if there was a continued need for this workgroup or if another group can absorb it. It would be up to the DD Committee to determine when the FASD Workgroup's work is completed. **Patrick Reinhart** suggested that they take it up in committee and discuss the ability to staff it.

### **Employment and Transportation Committee**

**Chair Simpson** stated that this committee has a significant work plan and she wondered if this committee could meet less frequently until the Council is fully staffed. **Kristin Vandagriff** stated that they can take a short hiatus in the summer, and they most likely won't have 12 meetings a year. Some of the work of this committee can also be accomplished through the AIEI grant meeting.

### **Medicaid Ad Hoc**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that this committee meets only as needed. They will staff it the best they can given their new limitations.

### **INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Council members expressed their appreciation for **Brittney Howell's** leadership during her time with the Council.

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

### **ADJOURN**

**Mallory Hamilton MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by **Alexis Henning**. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.