

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

**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

**May 9, 2017  
Videoconference**

**Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Jill Burkert  
John Cannon  
Anthony Cravalho  
Art Delaune  
Don Enoch  
Dave Fleurant  
Dean Gates  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Mallory Hamilton  
Maureen Harwood  
Alexis Henning  
Elizabeth Joseph  
Christine King  
Margaret Kossler  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Amy Simpson – Chair  
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich  
Maggie Winston

**Council Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director  
Kristin Vandagriff, Planner  
Christie Reinhardt, Program Coordinator II  
Anne Applegate, Program Coordinator II  
Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator I  
Lanny Mommson, Research Analyst III  
HalleliYah Yisra'el, Administrative Assistant II  
Ian Miner, Office Assistant II

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

**Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 8:30 a.m.**

Chair Simpson welcomed Council members to the meeting, and roll call was taken.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Christine King**. **Patrick Reinhart** offered a few amendments to the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the agenda was approved as amended.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 2017 MEETING**

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the January 2017 minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Lucy Odden**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Simpson announced that this is her last report as chair and shared that the Council is an impressive group of individuals, and she is proud of what they have accomplished. She also individually thanked the Executive Committee members for their contributions, and commended staff on the work they do.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Patrick Reinhart reported to the Council as follows:

Staff Update/Changes

- Research analyst III position – **Lanny Mommsen**
- Program coordinator II position – **Anne Applegate**
- All positions funded in FY'18 except non-perm health program manager I.

Council Member Updates

- Welcome to **Anna Attla**
- Losing **Christine King** and **Lucy Odden**
- **Mallory Hamilton** and **Anthony Cravalho's** seats up for renewal.

State Plan Update and Reporting

- Council Five-Year State Plan for 2017 – 2021, amendment due August of 2017
- Federal DD Council Program Performance Report was submitted December 2016, and there was only one question.

## Disability Policy Seminar

Council members **Mallory Hamilton** and **Maggie Winston** attended and met with Alaska's Congressional Delegation. The following areas of concern were discussed:

- Medicaid
- Funding for DD Act programs
- Budget cuts and rhetoric: SNAP, HUD, ACL, Heating Assistance
- Social Security
- Education.

## DD System Assessment

Developed a shared vision and values statement.

- Significant stakeholder outreach through surveys, community forums, and webinars
- Infographic booklet created
- Consistent, broad system message going into this session.

Shared vision: *Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job, and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff, and services available throughout the state now and into the future.*

## Overview of FY'17 Operating Budget Impact

- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education - \$1,778,400 (\$849,000 fed, \$280,000 I/A receipts, \$272,000 GF/MH, \$377,400 MHTAAR). Decrease of \$188,600.
  - Trust - \$100,000 for BEE, \$127,400 for research analyst, \$150,000 for Microenterprise program.
  - \$272,000 GF: \$247,000 pass-through for ILP program for professional development, \$25,000 for Microenterprise.
  - Losing 1 of 9 positions at the end of this year, health program manager.
  - \$367,000 annual federal AIEI grant ends September 30<sup>th</sup>, but enough has been saved over five years to get a one-year, no-cost extension through September 20, 2018.
  - Level funding from the feds for DD Councils. The Council has not received their award letter yet, but the funding should be approximately \$475,000.

## Upcoming Priorities

- Legislative wrap-up
- AIEI no-cost extension to the feds
- FY'18 budget built on "actuals"
- Closeout of FY'17 budget – under spent again
- DD system changes – next steps
- DME re-use program development
- Trust CEO search, reorganization, and FY'19 budget
- State plan amendment
- FASD five-year plan

- Looking for funding beyond FY'18 – new grant opportunities
- ABLE and DB 101 implementation
- Keeping up with Medicaid Reform and Redesign in the state
- Federal changes and impacts on Medicaid and how the Council can influence that.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Officer Elections**

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to confirm **Maggie Winston** as the incoming chair to the Council, **SECONDED** by **Don Enoch**. Hearing no objections, **Maggie Winston** will become the chair of the Council beginning on July 1, 2017.

Nominees for the position of vice chair:

- **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** declined
- **Anna Attla** accepted
- **Mallory Hamilton** accepted.

A vote was taken, and **Mallory Hamilton** was elected vice chair of the Council.

Nominees for the position of Legislative Committee chair:

- **Art Delaune** accepted
- **Dave Fleurant** accepted
- **Mallory Hamilton** declined.

A vote was taken, and **Art Delaune** was elected chair of the Legislative Committee.

### **FY'18 Draft Budget Approval**

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that there is nothing to report on the draft budget at this time, as the legislature has not yet approved the budget.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

### **Accomplishments Since February 2017**

- Participated in Key Campaign 2017
- Presentation to the HSS Committee on recent FASD population data – 2 to 5 percent of the population.
- Discussed new durable medical equipment regulations and impact
- Continued DD System Assessment Project partnership and booklet dissemination
- Discussed impacts of day habilitation cuts
- Discussed potential new companion services
- There are 558 individuals on the DDDR.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Initiate Workforce Workgroup
- Review 2016 DDDR report
- Follow the Home and Community-Based Services Transition Plan for the State of Alaska
- Follow the CDDG refinancing/1915(c) limited supports waiver
- Review proposed cost containment service reductions and provide public comment
- Follow interRAI progress
- Follow CMS Issues Guidance to States on Community First Choice 1915(k)
- Follow potential new companion service
- Follow Durable Medical Equipment progress
- DD System Assessment Project – continued work with Trust and partners
- Monitor SB 10 – Adult Foster Care for Disabled, Medicaid.

### **MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE**

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

#### **Recent Activities**

- Disability Policy Seminar Participation – March 2017.
- Continued Council staff participation in SDS Technology Group.
- Submitted public comment on SDS draft policies on waiver application amendments:
  - Acuity designation for qualified recipients
  - Central Intake Unit
  - Developmental disability determination
  - Adult Protective Services General Relief Assisted Living Home Care Program
  - Hosted AADD Hot Topics webinar for the interRAI
  - Development of some preliminary answers for the interRAI questions
  - Development of a summary presentation on the interRAI for committee members.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

- Continued public comments on Medicaid policy changes and proposed regulations
- interRAI discussions and comment
- Monitor changes to SDS policies, procedures, and forms for the Medicaid program.

### **AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Jill Burkert provided the report for the Autism Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

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

- Dr. Siv Fasci has been hired as a new developmental behavioral pediatrician in Alaska
- A new developmental clinic has been constructed at the Alaska Native Medical Center and will open in a year-and-a-half.

## **April Meeting**

- Curriculum for providers to diagnose autism and ADHD:
  - Core skills
  - Critical diagnostic testing
  - Methods and interpretation
  - Diagnostic criteria
  - Communicating with families
  - Family-centered and culturally-competent care
  - Referral for families
  - Treatment options
  - Reports and billing
  - Pharmaceutical management.

## **Developmental Screening**

To increase access to universal developmental screening statewide:

- About 26% of children have a moderate or high risk of developmental delay
- Developmental screening is a Medicaid quality measure
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) project
- Help Me Grow.

## **Who is Screening Young Children:**

- Parents as Teachers
- Infant Learning Programs
- Childcare
- Public Health nurses
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Primary care
- Head Start
- Specialty clinics
- Tribal Health
- Private sector
- Military
- Education

## **Alaska Project ECHO**

Collaborative learning community to increase knowledge and treatment of autism to include:

- Center for Human Development
- Women's Children's and Family Health
- Division of Public Health
- Tribal Health
- The Council
- Boston College
- University of Missouri
- Will meet twice a month and will go over a didactic case study and hold a topic presentation.

## **Other**

- Who can diagnose autism? Complicated question with no easy answer
- Medicaid coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis. When? What will it look like?
- Family Navigation training has started.

### **Next Steps**

- Next meeting is in October
- Ask for opportunity to provide input on ABA
- Explore universal screening
- Participate in Project ECHO
- Participate in systems' grants, programs, and committees.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Anthony Cravalho** announced the committee's new staff, **Anne Applegate**, and gave the report for the Education Committee as follows:

### **2017 Inclusive Practice Award**

- Adam Ahonen and the Service High School Partners Club were this year's winners.
- 16 nominees this year.
- Award ceremony at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference.

### **Recent Activities: Comments and Positions**

- Commented to Senator Murkowski on Secretary DeVos confirmation
- Commented to Alaska federal delegation on Judge Neil Gorsuch
- Commented to Senator Murkowski on U.S. House Joint Resolution 57
- Supported Alaska House Bill 64, dyslexia task force bill.

### **Other Recent Activities**

- Staff and members presented at ASSEC
- Reviewed Annual Performance Report
- Reported on Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District
- Wrightslaw training
- Met with ACT directors again
- Reviewed Alaska Performance Scholarship
- Spring Leadership Working Conference on the State Plan compliance with Every Student Succeeds Act.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Membership drive to ensure proper representation as the SEAP
- Advise the Department of Education and Early Development on unmet needs, developing policies about coordinating services, and developing corrective actions
- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the state
- Work with partners to improve graduation rates
- Review and comment on changes to the delivery of I/DD services
- Support the FASD Workgroup
- Monitor and comment on the Alaska Education Challenge meetings
- Supported decision making.

## **EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE**

Chair Simpson gave the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

### **Activities Since January**

- Presentation on Infant Learning Program professional development
- Presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences and the economic impact
- Presentation on developmental screening
- Review of HB 52.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Finance review
- LEND Fellows presentation on inclusive childcare
- Universal screening Midwest Academy planning
- Meeting with ICC members in Washington, D.C. in July
- Meet with Alaska IN! regarding optimizing the use of this program.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

### **Recent Activities**

- AIEI federal grant work:
  - Advisory Board meeting prep
  - Semiannual reporting complete
  - Sixth year request
  - National Partnerships in Employment meeting.
- Employment First Work
  - AK APSE Collaboration – held two CESP exams and Full Lives employment keynote and breakout sessions.
- Employment First Job Fair
  - 718 job seekers
  - KTUU coverage
  - 2016 Job Fair – 75 individuals were hired as a result
  - 2017 Job Fair – 167 hires are expected to result
  - Collaboration between DHSS, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Business Employment Services Team (BEST).
- Multiple trainings and presentations to promote recently launched websites, ABLE and DB 101.
- Bottom Dollars moving showings in collaboration with Disability Law Center
- Additional resources and presentations given at ASSEC and Care Coordination

- Conference
- Project SEARCH expansion efforts in Juneau.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Continued Community Outreach for DB 101 and AK ABLE Program
- Project SEARCH expansion in Juneau and Anchorage
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) conference keynote and event with Access.
- Transition Handbook completion and dissemination
- AIEI sixth-year, no-cost extension request.

### **FASD WORKGROUP**

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

#### **Activities**

- Presentation to Health and Social Services
- Presentation to the Trust
- SDS FASD proposal:
  - Prevalence
  - Evidence-based practice
  - Pilot using Denali KidCare funds
  - Focus pilot on juvenile justice.
- Comprehensive, collaborative statewide five-year plan next steps:
  - Champion
  - Compiling background information
  - Planning sessions for June and October
- Participated in FASD Partnership workgroup on foster care.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

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

#### **Adult Foster Care for Medicaid Disability – SB 10**

- Home and community-based waiver services under Medicaid
- Personal care services
- Adult foster care home license
- Transition of severely disabled individuals from foster care to adult foster care homes
- Bill has been rewritten and has not been introduced back this session
- Senator Dunleavy is revising it to reintroduce next year.

#### **Disability Training and Identification – HB 16**

- Training for police, probation, parole, corrections, and village public safety officers regarding people with disabilities.
- Guidelines for drivers when encountering or being stopped by a peace officer

- Questions on the driver's license exams
- Voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and driver's license
- Still waiting to be scheduled to go to the Senate floor for a vote.

### **Civil Legal Services Fund – HB 106**

- Civil legal services through non-profit public interest firms to help low income Alaskans and people with disabilities to receive legal support.
- Attaches a core service fee onto civil court services, which will go into a pool for the non-profit legal firms.
- Referred to Senate Finance.

### **Alaska Relay – SB 80**

- Spreads the cost of paying for relay services for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate by phone to all telecommunication devices
- Paid only by persons with landlines
- Charge mobile devices the same amount as landlines
- It was passed through the Senate and was transferred to the House.

### **DISCUSSION AND AMENDMENTS TO STATE PLAN**

**Kristin Vandagriff** stated that the five-year plan was submitted in August of 2016, and in the winter they received a tier 2 federal review. Those review comments must be incorporated into the State Plan amendment, which is due August 15, 2017. The review comments included:

- Clarification on coding for two Council members who serve in multiple roles
- Clarifying sentence in the evaluation plan discussing how self-advocacy work will be separately evaluated
- Objective wording being outcome focused versus action focused.

**Kristin Vandagriff** began a review of the wording revisions in the objectives. Other partners appeared to present to the Council for this meeting, so it was decided that the work on reviewing these amendments would be done in committee at a later time.

### **DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES (SDS)**

Duane Mayes presented to the Council as follows:

#### **Settings Rule**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is requiring Alaska to be settings compliant in terms of home and community-based service settings. The date of compliance for providers has recently been moved from March of 2019 to March of 2022.

SDS continues to work with providers to achieve settings compliance. Duane noted that there are 820 declared settings, of which 255 triggered a second-level review. The SDS compliance team will compile findings related to each setting and send applicable providers requests for

formal plans describing in detail how that setting will transition into compliance with the CMS final rule on settings. The compliance team will then begin to review formal remediation plans submitted to SDS and begin to establish which settings meet full compliance with the final rule. Formal notification to recipients and providers of non-compliant settings will then begin, and recipients of services will transition from those non-compliant settings to other locations.

Any inquiries regarding compliance can be made to [DSDScompliance@alaska.gov](mailto:DSDScompliance@alaska.gov). SDS policy and compliance teams are also working to develop a website devoted to settings that will contain up-to-date progress for providers on compliance, SDS progress with reviewing settings compliance, helpful resources, and a monthly newsletter.

### Limited Supports Waiver

As a part of the Medicaid Reform effort, SDS has been engaged in considering a 1915(c) limited supports waiver versus a 1915(i) State Plan Option to finance the individuals receiving services through the Community and Developmental Disability Grant (CDDG). The 1915(c) limited supports waiver would allow the state to establish a cap for services, thereby controlling costs, and they would use the DDDR as a vehicle for individuals coming onto this waiver. They are going to go live with this waiver in January 2018.

### Inclusive Community Choices Council (ICCC)

The ICCC has been meeting regularly as a mandatory component of implementing the 1915(k) State Plan Option. The ICCC has recently been restructured to have two components, ICCC voting members and beneficiary board representatives, and a separate group of provider associations. The two used to meet as one, but in order to give the voting members a greater voice, the provider association members will now meet separately. The ICCC will also have involvement regarding the limited supports waiver.

### Community First Choice – 1915(k)

SDS is expecting to have Community First Choice draft regulations out for public comment in June of this year, and the go-live date has been pushed back to October or November of this year.

### American Health Care Act

A lot of concern has been raised regarding the recent passage of the American Health Care Act by the House and the impact it could have on Alaska's Medicaid Reform efforts if it passes the Senate as written. Duane Mayes stated that in the meantime, SDS will continue to move forward on their current initiatives as planned.

### Telehealth

The use of telehealth to complete assessments through SDS has increased, and they are recognizing a cost savings as compared to flying someone out to do assessments in person. Telehealth will become well entrenched in state business moving forward.

### Harmony

The new data management system Harmony will go live January of 2018.

### Infant Learning Program

The Infant Learning Program is a welcomed addition to SDS and will continue to be a priority.

### Budget Reductions

SDS is realizing the reductions from last session through efficiencies and utilization control. They are unsure as of yet what FY'18's budget will hold for them. SDS will continue to focus on the use of technology to realize efficiencies as well as address the landscape of the waiver world to realize efficiencies there as well.

One reduction for FY'18, which is part of a \$42 million reduction to the Medicaid program, is to put a soft cap in place for day habilitation of eight hours per week. The regulations are out in draft form, and they will be hearing public comment on it. He noted that one thing the division needs to revisit is consideration of creating a companion service or rate.

Duane Mayes concluded his presentation by noting that his division has done their part to absorb massive reductions to their budget, and it was his sentiment that they cannot have any more reductions.

### **ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY**

Greg Jones, interim CEO for the Trust, stated that one of the biggest needs of the Trust is an updated set of governance documents to reflect the current business and structure of the Trust's activities. Governance documents would establish charters for the entire board as well as charters for the chair, vice chair, standing committees, and CEO. Having this type of governance foundation would eliminate a lot of uncertainty and will provide stability within the organization.

In order to get the governance documents written, four questions are being asked of the board, partners, and advisors:

1. How does the Trust Land Office fit within the Trust governance and organizational structure?
2. What changes can be made to the Trustee and staff roles to optimize the Trust's efficiency in governance?
3. Does the board of Trustees have the appropriate committee structure?
4. How can the Trust strengthen its relationships with its statutory advisors?

These four questions will be addressed in a workshop to be held the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>. When those questions have been answered and clearly vetted, they can draft governance documents for each of the positions noted above and supply the documentation back to the board the first week

of August. Advisors will also be asked to come talk about the governance documents at this time. If need be, a third workshop will be held the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> with a goal of having these governance documents adopted at their September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Greg Jones stated that they are also going through a management transition and have selected an executive search company to recruit for both the CEO and CFO positions. Both of those searches should be underway at the end of May. He also noted that their five-year contract with their internal auditor expired, so they have an RFP out for that position.

Greg Jones stated that the confirmation process for Trustee replacement Judge Chris Cooke is still somewhat up in the air. They are hoping the legislature will make the Governor's confirmations by May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Greg Jones stated that the special legislative audit should begin around mid June and is estimated to take about a year.

Amanda Lofgren stated that the Trust is in a two-year budget process; last year was developing the FY'18-'19 budget, and this year will be a smaller effort to look at what was approved last year and do updates. The stakeholder meeting will be on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and any changes will be taken to the August Planning Committee meeting and finalized at the September board meeting.

Amanda Lofgren stated that in terms of long-term services and supports, one new project they implemented was flexible funding for individuals transitioning in or out of state or coming from API or another institution. The Trust is in the process of fleshing out those details, and that will continue in the FY'19 budget and hopefully beyond.

Amanda Lofgren thanked the Council for their involvement with the DD System Assessment and unified vision. Lizette Stiehr assured Council members they will receive an electronic version of the phase 1 report. She noted that part of the next steps as they move forward are figuring out what data they need to collect that are on the shared vision of meaningful lives, inclusive communities, person centered, flexible services, skilled workforce, and outcome driven.

Lizette Stiehr also announced that AADD will be joining with Special Olympics to host an Aging and Disability Summit October 13 and 14, which will be focused on supported decision making.

Amanda Lofgren stated that the WINGS Project was funded for Alaska. The focus of the project is on guardianship.

## **GUARDIANSHIP AND SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING**

**Anne Applegate** presented to the Council on supported decision making as follows:

### **Alaska's Guardianship**

- A full guardian can make all decisions for another person who is called a ward.
- A limited guardian can make fewer decisions.

- A conservator makes decisions about money and how it is managed.

### **Going to Court: Guardianship Order**

- Legal capacity to make decisions is a yes or no question.
- The judge is only looking at capacity at the time of the court case.
- The judge is not thinking about whether the person with a disability has strong supporters or good, consistent access to services.

### **What's good about guardianship?**

- Can protect against abuse and exploitation.
- Provides a format and a standard for decision-making.
- Makes it clear who is the decider.
- Insures there is someone with authority to act in an emergency.
- Provides third parties certainty about the validity of contracts and debts.

### **What's so bad about guardianship?**

- Loss of independence, self-expression, and possibly integration.
- Loss of dignity and dignity of choices about risk.
- Loss of interest in planning or taking responsibility.
- Loss of civil rights.
- Possible exploitation by abusive guardian or neglect.

### **Common Changes Made to Guardianship Laws**

- Changing the definition of capacity.
- Placing limits on the guardians' authority.
- Encouraging limited guardianships/conservatorships.
- Making other alternatives more available such as powers of attorney and healthcare advance directives.

### **What if we did the legal part completely differently?**

- What if we treated "legal capacity" as something that changes with the decision to be made and treated it as if it could be increased by learning and access to information?
- What if we could write a legal agreement that built in support for higher risk decisions?

### **Definition of Supported Decision Making**

- Relationships, practices, arrangements, and legal agreements
- Formal or informal
- Designed to assist an individual with a disability
- Help a person make decisions and communicate to other decisions about his or her life.

### **Principles of Supported Decision Making**

- People do not inherently lack capacity.
- Everyone has a will and preferences.
- Those can be expressed by the person.

### **Principles: Supported Decision Making is an Accommodation**

- Understand information, issues, and choices
- Focus their attention on decision making
- Weigh options
- Ensure decisions are made on their own preferences
- Interpret and/or communicate decisions to other parties
- Everyone's decision-making process is going to look different
- Support for decision-making is really just an individualized accommodation to assist another life skill.

### **Principles: Equal Rights, Equal Access**

- We all use supported decision making every day. None of us makes decisions completely on our own.
- A right to support for decision-making is consistent with public policy and with our community values.
- Equality of rights; even if someone needs more help or different help.

### **How do we write legal agreements to replace guardianship orders?**

- Advanced healthcare directives
- Financial planning/conservatorship paperwork
- DVR Individual Plans for Employment
- Healthcare; informed consent
- School districts; IEPs
- Medicaid; person-centered planning.

### **Other states have already started changing their laws:**

- Texas: Changed laws and also included support in community services
- Massachusetts: Pilot project modeled on Texas
- The Arc of Indiana: Researched changes needed to state law and also next steps
- Other states have WINGS stakeholder working groups to identify barriers and plan next steps. Alaska just received a WINGS grant.

### **Three Next Steps:**

- Raise awareness about need; teach self-advocates, parents, and service providers
- Develop Alaska standards and work plans with stakeholders
- Institutional change to laws, courts, methods of doing business, ways of providing public services.

**Anne Applegate** then further discussed the Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) Project, which is a grant funded by the Administration on Community Living through the American Bar Association's Committee on Aging. The Alaska Court System will administer the grant. She stated that the stakeholder group developed through the WINGS grant will involve approximately 50 different groups, and the Council and Disability Law Center are required partners of this grant. She also noted that the Trust provided a 50 percent match for the grant.

**Anne Applegate** stated that she will be doing a presentation at the Aging and Disability Summit to provide greater detail about the legal distinctions between the alternatives to full guardianship.

### **CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Karen Ward highlighted the following from the Center for Human Development:

- CHD recently had 15 fellows complete their LEND program. They are currently interviewing applicants for their next cohort to begin in the fall, and they have had 27 applications.
- LEND fellows have put together a toolkit around health issues and working with healthcare providers. She will provide that link to the website to Council members.
- CHD is about to launch two Project ECHO pilot clinics, one on autism and one on traumatic brain injury.
- 16 people recently completed the national certificate in employment services course.
- CHD sponsored a statewide continuing education training on supported decision making facilitated and taught by **Anne Applegate**.
- CHD is in the process of converting some academic courses into non-credit distance courses primarily targeting direct service workers. The courses will be person-centered planning, customized employment and discovery, health promotion, and understanding and managing difficult behaviors.
- 27 individuals completed Family Navigation training.

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

John Cannon provided the report from DVR as follows:

- Recent federal bill provides maintenance-level funding for state VR programs; and federal funds make up about 70 percent of Alaska DVR's total funding.
- Eagle River Job Center is scheduled to close on May 19<sup>th</sup>. A counselor from the DeBarr office will serve Eagle River clients on an itinerant basis.
- Macrina Fazio, Norm Silta, and Yvonne Christiansen have all retired, and overall, DVR has about 10 vacancies in various stages of recruitment.
- Gina Bastian was selected to replace Macrina Fazio as the Anchorage DeBarr office manager.
- The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee held their quarterly meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. SVRC is looking forward to announcing the winners of the large and small employer awards at this year's SHRM annual conference, which was a collaborative project with the Council.
- DVR will have provided 16 transition camps by the end of the school year. Of these 16, 11 transition camps were offered in rural school districts. Five of the transition camps were offered at Division of Juvenile Justice facilities. There will have been 177 students participate in these transition camps from 71 different Alaskan communities.
- The Community and Public Transportation Advisory board was officially sunsetted on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **DISABILITY LAW CENTER (DLC)**

**Anne Applegate** provided the report for Disability Law Center in Dave Fleurant's absence as follows:

- Last year DLC fielded almost 1,000 calls for assistance; approximately 200 of those calls came from individuals or family members of individuals with I/DD.
- DLC represented 72 individuals with I/DD on a variety of issues.
- In addition to the intake and referral and individual casework, other efforts of DLC include changes in federal healthcare laws.
- Continued support to Council committees as well as continue their own efforts regarding systems change and digitizing Medicaid waiver training.
- Continue following up on the North Star/Anchorage School District education concerns.
- Continue following up on the issue of people with I/DD being placed at API.
- Pursuing a project regarding Department of Corrections treatment of individuals with disabilities.
- Gearing up for DLC's activities under the Help America Vote Act.

### **STONE SOUP GROUP**

Mary Middleton thanked everyone who participated in or sponsored the Wrightslaw training. They had over 120 participants statewide; 80 in Anchorage and 40 at the eight different live streaming hub sites.

Additional information from Stone Soup Group:

- Nominations will be taken for the Annual Soupy Awards through June and into July.
- 2018 Parent Conference will be held in March, and the focus will be on transition and healthcare issues related to transition-aged youth.
- STAR Program has increased the call volume into the agency, and as times become more uncertain, Stone Soup Group has seen an increase in the number of people contacting the STAR coordinators for information.
- The Teddy Bear Picnic will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and there is a Teddy Bear Drive happening now for new or gently used teddy bears.

### **ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION (AMC)**

John Kern provided the following report from AMC:

- The AMC board has reviewed its priorities. Their goals are related to communication in the form of e-mail, newsletter, website, and Facebook page.
- AMC is restructuring its outreach to transportation providers across the state to determine their needs and provide technical assistance and mentoring.
- AMC is assisting members in identifying funding sources, grant writing and administrating, operating and maintenance information, and attempts to find answers and

information sources to allow members to operate safely.

- AMC continues to work on funding and advocacy, particularly a continuation of the \$1,000,000 from the state that provides a match to federal dollars.
- AMC recognizes that the sunseting of the Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board leaves a hole that needs to be filled.

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard, and a full transcript was prepared.

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

**Lucy Odden, Christine King, and Chair Simpson** were presented with certificates in recognition for their dedication and tireless efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Alaska.

### **Accessible Bathroom Issue**

A topic that was heard in public testimony was the need to address sanitary, safe bathrooms for caregivers to provide assistance with toileting needs. Members of the Council shared their own thoughts and experiences highlighting the need for more family bathrooms, particularly in rural Alaska.

### **ADJOURN**

**Mallory Hamilton MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by **Christine King**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.