

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

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2018

Quarterly Meeting Teleconference

Council Members Present:

Jill Burkert
Meghan Clark
Anthony Cravalho
Mark Dale
Art Delaune
Don Enoch
David Fleurant
Dean Gates
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Corey Gilmore
Maureen Harwood
Alexis Henning
Elizabeth Joseph
Heidi Kelly
David Kohler
Christian Muntean
Amy Simpson
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Maggie Winston, Chair

Council Staff:

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director
Kristin Vandagriff, Planner
Anne Applegate, Program Coordinator II
Ric Nelson, Program Coordinator I
Lanny Mommson, Research Analyst III
Ian Miner, Administrative Assistant II

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 8:50 a.m.

Chair Winston welcomed Council members to the meeting. Roll call was taken, guests introduced themselves, and a safety briefing was conducted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that the last of her six children has graduated.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Maureen Harwood MOVED to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Amy Simpson**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the agenda was approved with minor amendments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 2018 MEETING

Amy Simpson MOVED to approve the January 2018 minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Maureen Harwood**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

JOINT CHAIR'S REPORT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Patrick Reinhart reported to the Council as follows:

Council Updates:

Staff Updates/Changes

- **Elena Markova** was welcomed as the new program coordinator II for the Early Intervention Committee.
- All positions have been funded for FY'19
- Linda Grant is the Council's new MASST volunteer.

Council Member Updates

- **Sandra DeHart-Mayor, Amy Simpson, and Dean Gates** - terms are up and this is their final Council meeting.
- **Heidi Kelly, Chair Winston, and Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** – terms are up and they need to communicate their intentions.
- John Cannon, DVR representative, has retired. A new DVR representative will need to be appointed.
- **Amy Simpson's** current seat is for either a DD or ILP provider, so they are actively recruiting for a provider to fill this seat.

Federal Issues and Monitoring:

- Meeting with Congressman Young on March 29 where they presented him with a Friend of the DD Network Award.
- Areas of concern shared with Congressman Young:
 - Funding for DD Act programs
 - Electronic visit verification
 - Weakening of the American's with Disabilities Act
 - Repeal of subminimum wage nationally.
- Potential grant opportunities:
 - Re-apply for federal grant that was rejected last go around
 - Funding related to assistive technologies
 - Funding to explore initiative to improve transportation for people with disabilities and seniors.

Overview of FY'19 Budget Impact – Operating:

- \$1,204,000 - \$486,000 federal, \$314,700 I/A receipts, \$25,000 GF/MH, \$378,700 MHTAAR.
 - Trust: \$100,000 for Beneficiary Employment & Engagement (BEE) Initiative, \$127,000 for research analyst position, \$150,000 for Microenterprise, \$125,000 supplemental support of BEE and Supported Decision Making Agreements (SDMA).
 - \$25,000 GF/MH is the Council's portion of managing the Microenterprise program.
 - Budget may change if the Council picks up the traumatic and acquired brain injury (TABI) advisory board and receives an additional staff person.
 - The one-year extension of the AIEI grant ends on September 30th. The Council and the Center for Human Development are spending the remaining funds.

Upcoming Priorities:

- Legislative wrap-up
- Close out of the federal AIEI grant
- FY'19 budget built on actuals
- Closeout of the FY'18 budget
- DD system changes, next steps
- DME Reuse Program development – collaboration with the Department of Corrections
- Moving to new offices downtown
- Exploring the volunteer driver program under Medicaid
- Two-year Trust budget planning beginning
- SDMA videos and next steps
- Project SEARCH Juneau launch
- Recruitment of new members
- Next steps in DD universal screening
- Taking on TABI advisory board
- Using Zoom videoconferencing platform for meetings.

Chair Winston thanked the Council members for the very successful legislative session.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Officer Elections

Elections were held for the position of vice chair as follows:

- **Corey Gilmore** – accepted nomination
- **David Kohler** – declined nomination
- **Anthony Cravalho** – declined nomination

Nominations were closed. Hearing no objection to electing **Corey Gilmore** as vice chair, the election was completed and **Corey Gilmore** was congratulated on his position. **Chair Winston** will select a new chair of the DD Committee to replace **Corey Gilmore**.

Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury (TABI) Advisory Board

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council has been asked by the Trust and the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) to consider taking on a state TABI advisory board. The Alaska Brain Injury Network (ABIN) has been doing the work of this advisory board as well as providing outreach and brain injury education. This year the federal government will be putting out funding for the advisory board and the outreach/education separately. ABIN has indicated they would like to continue in the areas of outreach and education, and the State is looking to the Governor's Council to manage the advisory board.

The Council engaged in a discussion regarding the availability of space within their new office location, the potential to add an additional staff person dedicated to the TABI board, and brain injury being within the Council's scope of work.

Dean Gates MOVED that the Council establish an ad hoc committee to explore a TABI advisory board continuation, the scope of their duties, and whether there is enough staff support, with the results of this exploration to be reported back to the Council at the fall meeting. **SECONDED** by **Amy Simpson**.

Further discussion ensued.

Depending on how timely an answer needs to be given to the State, the ad hoc committee can provide a report to the Executive Committee and then inform the full Council at the fall meeting.

Questions that were posed to be answered by the ad hoc committee include:

- Would this change the makeup of the Council structure so it would include a consumer and an agency representative for brain injury?
- Has the Council ever grown like this in the past, and does the Council have the inherent authority to grow in such a way?
- Consider mission creep.

Dean Gates considered withdrawing his motion to form an ad hoc committee to revise it to forming a workgroup to report to the Executive Committee. After further review of the bylaws, it was noted that the full Council forms ad hocs, while committees form workgroups. **Dean Gates** decided to stay with the original motion and disregard the withdrawal.

Hearing no objection, the original motion **PASSED**. Volunteers for this committee include: **Dave Fleurant, Meghan Clark, Jimael Johnson, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Don Enoch, Art Delaune, and Anthony Cravalho. Patrick Reinhart** stated that next steps will include setting up meetings with SDS, the Trust, and ABIN to collaborate.

Other New Business from the Floor

There was no other new business from the floor.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

Corey Gilmore and **Kristin Vandagriff** provided the report for the Developmental Disabilities Committee as follows:

Recent Activities:

- I/DD Registry – Approximately 871 individuals as of May 2, 2018.
- Discussions around:
 - Electronic visit verification
 - Harmony data system transition
 - Companion services exploration
 - Council Cultural and Linguistic Competency Plan
 - Integrated Settings Transition Plan – version 4
 - Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW) and Community First Choice (CFC) rollout.

Alaska DD Collaborative:

- SB 174 – DD Vision legislation
- Large DD Collaborative meeting May 23rd
- Implementing the Shared DD Vision - Six project area teams:
 - Culture change
 - Direct service professional workforce development
 - Legislative engagement
 - Community outreach
 - Measuring progress
 - Self-advocacy advisory
 - Council staff leading in two areas; participating in all areas
 - Council members also participating.

DD Safety-Net Funds:

- Administered by Stone Soup Group
- Part of transition from DD grants to ISW
- Once referred, the Stone Soup Group STAR coordinator will:
 - Conduct a person-centered intake
 - Provide options counseling
 - Work with the individual to develop a person-centered plan based on the individual's needs and preferences.
- The annual cost cap per individual is estimated to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year based on the number of eligible individuals.
- Individuals will be able to select services from a broad array of providers and are no longer limited to providers of CDDG services.
- Stone Soup Group will:
 - Connect the individual with services
 - Provide ongoing monitoring and support
 - Reimburse providers for services using Medicaid rates.
- The program and processes will be evaluated annually to ensure satisfaction for consumers and providers.
- DD Committee to have SDS and Stone Soup present on DD Safety-Net funds in greater detail at their upcoming meeting.

DD Safety-Net Fund Limitations:

- Once level of care determinations have been made and 600 people have qualified as eligible for the ISW, referral to the DD Safety-Net program will be closed.
- Future applicants for the ISW and I/DD waivers who do not meet ICF/IID level of care and have not been receiving CDDG services are not eligible for limited DD Safety-Net funds.

Supported Decision Making (SDM):

- Full Lives keynote – SDMA as part of the Civil Rights Movement
- Five other trainings since the last Council meeting – 23 total this year
- Workgroup implementing and supplementing work plan
- Engaged in statewide Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS)
- House Bill 336 – SDMA Act legislation passed
- Pilot project development and groundwork
- SDMA Summit with local partners and national SDM advocates, November 15, 2018.

Upcoming Activities:

- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in Washington, D.C., July 2018. **Kristin Vandagriff, Corey Gilmore, and Mallory Hamilton** attending. Approved to present plenary session discussing the DD Shared Vision and employment efforts.

MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE

Dean Gates reported on the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

Comment Letter to SDS:

- Version 4 of the Integrated Settings Transition Plan to CMS
 - Positives: Transition plan website, DD Vision work
 - Enhancement opportunities:
 - Accessibility to the general public consumer outreach
 - Day habilitation, need for a person-centered exception to the soft cap
 - Opportunities for competitive and integrated supported employment
 - Restraint
 - Personal freedoms (house rules)
 - Provider non-compliance and individual relocation
 - Heightened scrutiny and settings that isolate
 - Compliance level determination process and assessments
 - Compliance monitoring
 - Non-disability specific settings.

Upcoming Activities:

- Continued Medicaid research and awareness
- Continued interRAI discussions and comment
- Monitor changes to SDS policies, procedures, and forms for the Medicaid program
- Meet on an as-needed basis.

AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE

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

Priority Areas:

- Screening and diagnosis
- Workforce development
- Early intervention and education
- Integrated and comprehensive services
- Funding, billing, and systems issues.

Activities Since January:

- Comments on applied behavior analysis final regulations.
- During the last meeting: Updated the annual plan noting that there are now two pediatric neurodevelopmental specialists in Alaska, and started a discussion on adult services.
- The Gould Project - A pilot classroom for children with autism.
- Alaska Project ECHO:
 - ECHO has created a charter cooperative that includes the following partners: CHD, Providence, WCFH, and Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention

- CHD will hold a training to learn more about ECHO in June.

Conferences:

- Stone Soup Group Conference
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Institute Conference in Anchorage. Council members, partners, and staff attended and presented on a variety of topics.
- Help Me Grow National Forum in Seattle, a team of Alaskans attended.

Current Activities:

- Continue adult services discussion
- Participate in Autism ECHO
- Continue to explore ways to fund family navigation
- Implementation of ABA regulations.

Upcoming Activities:

- ECHO will be held one more time this year and will encompass more developmental disabilities. Rollout of their new 2019 curriculum and schedule in September.
- Survey on autism services will be conducted by CHD and ad hoc group members.
- Another meeting will be held in the fall.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

David Kohler provided the report for the Education Committee as follows:

Representing the Governor's Council on:

- Leadership Council for the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan
- Special Education Service Agency board
- Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DEB)
- State Board of Education and Early Development.

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP):

- Stakeholder group engagement with DEED in determining Alaska's significant disproportionality methodology
- DEED's Annual Progress Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan
- Ongoing work to advise DEED on unmet needs:
 - Improving graduation rates through alternative or differentiated diplomas
 - Increasing understanding of Project SEARCH and transition resources
 - Emphasizing the need for rural opportunities for employment experiences
 - Representing students with disabilities in the creation of the ESSA Final State Plan.
- Ongoing training on regulatory role and authority as the SEAP.

Creating Resources for Transitions:

- Rural Transitions Workgroup

- Transition Handbook distribution
- Project SEARCH
- ACT testing and accommodations processes.

Promoting Best Practices:

- Inclusive Practice Award 2018 winners: Ben Griese and Nicole Wagner, Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok, Southwest Region School District.

Supporting Parents and Special Educators:

- Alaska Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association
- Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference:
 - Supported decision making for IEP teams
 - Trauma-informed practices
 - Transition Handbook and other resources
- Stone Soup Group Parent Conference
- Ongoing review of ACT college testing – outreach and information to parents and educators and national website changes
- Training Council and Education Committee members on best practices to collaborate with DEED.

Advocacy:

- Supported HB 64 on dyslexia task force
- Supported HB 336 on Supported Decision Making Agreements
- Commented on the federal extension of the deadline for significant disproportionality methodology
- Commented on state plan for ESSA.

Coming Up

- Collaboration with Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation offices and other new partners on rural transitions project
- Presenting at Sealaska Education Conference
- Commenting on DEED proposed regulations for ESSA
- Training IEP teams on Supported Decision Making Agreements.

EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE

Elena Markova provided the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

Activities Since January:

- Conduct early childhood expulsion survey, April 20th – May 4 (Learn & Grow). The survey focuses on implicit bias and teacher stress and supports. It will study licensed childcare providers, Head Start, and pre-K programs.
- Adjust 2018 work plan
- Participate in Fiscal Action Plan group
- Two new LEND fellows are researching how families get healthcare information

- ECHO has created a charter cooperative

Upcoming Activities:

- Infographic outlining the roles and responsibilities in relation to early intervention. Committee members will funnel information to fit into those parameters.
- Universal Developmental Screening Task Force meeting June 5th.

Developmental Screening Task Force:

- Will meet in June
- Has developed work plan and timeline.
- Need to decide where Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) tool will be housed, how much it costs, who will pay for it, data managing, public messaging, et cetera.
- Goals:
 - Developmental screening for all kids
 - House efforts in one place (Help Me Grow)
 - Centralized data
 - Data sharing
 - Address confidentiality challenges.
- LEND project on marketing the importance of developmental screenings to Alaskan families.
- Help Me Grow is now an enterprise for the ASQ.
- Help Me Grow has surveyed providers and partners and is collecting great data.

EMPLOYMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Ric Nelson reported on the Employment & Transportation Committee as follows:

Updates:

- Presented in transition events: Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference, Full Lives, and Stone Soup Group Parent Conference. Talked about ABLE accounts and the DB 101 website, and distributed Transition Handbooks.
- Updated work plan.
- Participated in three job fairs:
 - Employment First Job Fair – 829 people in attendance, 116 estimated hires.
 - King Career Center Hiring Event - 23 students gathered resources from the table.
 - Kenai Job Fair – 22 individuals gathered resources.

Peer Power Update:

- Started planning for the Second Annual Self-Advocacy Summit held in September.
 - Save the Date flyer
 - Fundraising
 - Emphasizing the need to collaborate to start growing organization to its full potential. Creating a five-year work plan to gain funding.
- Working with other self-advocacy groups to collaborate.

FASD WORKGROUP

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus presented on the FASD Workgroup as follows:

Recent Activities:

- SB 198 – UAA Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) study
 - Created a white sheet
 - Hearing and public testimony.
- “*Moment to Moment: Teens Growing up with FASD*” movie shown at Bear’s Tooth and another showing will be September 17th.
- Held a FASD Workgroup meeting in April.
- Added new members to the FASD Workgroup.

Upcoming Activities:

- September is FASD Awareness Month.
 - “*Moment to Moment*” movie at Bear’s Tooth.
 - Governor’s proclamation for FASD Awareness Day.
 - Approach politicians early to request they read the proclamation locally.
- August - FASD update meeting, discuss the infographic for the five-year strategic plan.
- October 1, 2018 – Full day meeting for FASD Workgroup.

Strategic Plan:

Comprehensive, collaborative statewide Five-Year Plan:

- Priority Areas:
 - Primary prevention of FASDs
 - Screening for and diagnosis of FASD
 - Early childhood and education
 - Systems transformations and navigation, youth and adult
 - Community outreach and education
 - Workforce development (embedded in other groups).

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Art Delaune presented for the Legislative Committee as follows:

Bills We Are Following:

- DD Shared Vision – SB 174 – passed.
- Supported Decision Making Agreements – HB 336 – passed.
- Alaska Relay cost share bill – SB 80 – passed.
- Establishing task force on reading proficiency, reading instructions, and effects of dyslexia on some students – HB 64 – passed.
- Extending the Alaska Senior Benefits Program – HB 236 – passed.
- Supervision or direct supervision for behavioral health services – SB 169 – passed.

- Civil legal services fund, court filing fees – HB 106 – passed.
- LARC – SB 198 – supported by the Council, did not pass, though \$500,000 was put into the budget to engage in the study.
- \$48 million needed to continue the Medicaid program through June 30th was approved.

Federal Items of Interest:

- Healthcare legislation
- Disability Integration Act (S910)
- ABLE Act bills:
 - ABLE Age Adjustment Bill – S817/HR1874
 - ABLE Financial Planning Act – S816/HR1897
 - ABLE to Work Act – S818/HR1896
 - Increases annual cap if working
 - P3I budget proposal combining DD councils, SILC’s, and traumatic brain injury boards into one.

Patrick Reinhart and **Art Delaune** thanked Council members for stepping up to provide last minute testimony at various hearings throughout the legislative session.

HEALTH

Lanny Mommsen reported on the following health-related activities the Council has been engaged in as follows:

Recent Activities:

- Emergency preparedness:
 - Spring Preparedness Conference
 - Full Lives Conference
 - Special Olympics Health Fair
 - Assisted living facilities provider orientation
 - Domestic violence/sexual assault:
 - Alaska Public Health Summit
 - Full Lives Conference.

Upcoming Activities:

- Inclusive Play Dates, May 23rd and June 20th.
- Disability Pride Celebrations statewide, Anchorage will be July 21, 2018 at the South Anchorage Sports Complex.
- Disability and Aging Summit – September 26 – 27 – emergency preparedness and Supported Decision Making Agreements.

DISCUSSION ON 2017 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT (PPR) SURVEY DATA

Lanny Mommsen stated that the Council sent out a stakeholder satisfaction survey, and she reviewed with Council members the data she gathered from the 72 responses to the survey. She

stated the Council also sent out performance measure surveys to all of the committee members of the Council, and they had 153 respondents, which was an increase from the previous year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY (SESA)

Patrick Pillai introduced John Barrowman and then reported as follows:

- FY'18 technical assistance:
 - Served 47 of 54 school districts, 87 percent
 - 1,078 technical assistance activities logged into their data base, and 201 of those activities were via distance delivery
 - 399 student service reports were written, and the average completion rate was 8.9 days.
 - 625 student consultations
 - 60 site consultations
 - 132 trainings were provided, many by distance delivery
 - 81 community relations contacts
 - 92 interagency contacts
 - 88 other contacts
 - Served an average of 404 students over five years
 - 70 attendees at SESA's first virtual Autism Conference
 - Hosted a training for students with deaf blindness for parents and some district staff at the Egan Center in Anchorage.
 - Held PBIS, ILP training for 18 educators in five districts with Eric Kloos from the Minnesota Department of Education
 - Deaf Blind Intervener training taking place today for 18 attendees from eight districts
 - The Autism Walk was a successful event at the O'Malley Sports Complex.

John Barrowman, SESA autism specialist, demonstrated the modules that will be available online. He stated that every time SESA does an online training, they're going to record it and turn it into a perpetual course that can be accessed readily through their online library.

Patrick Pillai stated that they have one seat on the board representing CASE that they need to fill; otherwise they have all of their seats filled.

CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CHD)

Karen Ward, director for CHD, reported on the following CHD trainings:

- STAT MD training to assist general medical providers in diagnosing tier 1 autism - 24 participants
- Assistance with Self Administration of Medication – 1,010 participants
- Frontline Leadership Institute – 45 participants
- Person-Centered Thinking, Planning, and Services – 20 participants

- Family Navigation – 34 participants attended the full training; 15 attended the lunch and learn series
- Registered Behavior Technicians – 11 trained, 18 in progress
- Effective Behavior Interventions
- Mental Health First Aid – since CHD took over the program in 2011, over 9,000 Alaskans have been certified
- Traditional Health-Based Practices – over the last three years have served 300 members of the Alaska workforce.
- National Certificate in Employment – 14 participants
- SBA PRIME Funding – 25 participants
- Financial & Work Incentives Navigator – 20 participants
- Working Disabled Medicaid Buy-In – training offered once
- ABLE Act – training offered five times
- SSA Work Incentive Training – offered eight times.

Additional activities of CHD are as follows:

- Sex Talk for Self-Advocates – June 18.
- Full Lives.
- Project ECHO – launched three Project ECHO clinics: Neurodevelopmental, traumatic and acquired brain injury, and BCBA. ECHO immersion training scheduled for the end of June.
- LEND fellows met with Senator Murkowski, Representative Young, and Senator Sullivan’s staff to discuss the threats to Medicaid and the impact of the LEND program.
- Completed recruitment for the FY 18 – 19 LEND cohort.
- Neurodevelopmental Outreach Clinic – served five communities, 46 patients total.
- Tapestry – 8 students graduated with the certificate in May. Summer academy is June 5 through the 31st. Recruiting for a peer mentor to work with the summer experience program.
- Received a grant from the Administration on Community Living to receive training and technical assistance from the staff from the Georgetown UCEDD’s National Center for Cultural Competence.
- Awarded Microenterprise grants ranging from \$900 to \$10,000 to 13 applicants.
- WIPA: Provided benefits counseling services to over 35 beneficiaries new to WIPA services, and provided follow-along counseling to approximately 20 ongoing beneficiaries.

ELECTRONIC VISIT VERIFICATION (EVV)

Allison Lee reported that electronic visit verification is a mandate within the 21st Century CURES Act, and the State of Alaska, SDS has contracted with her to engage in the required stakeholder participation and input. They have been actively holding forums throughout the state and will continue to do so until August to take feedback on implementation.

Allison Lee stated that the CURES Act requires that electronic visit verification be utilized for

Medicaid-funded personal care services starting January 1, 2019. States that fail to implement are then subjected to a small but progressive reduction of their federal matching dollars. Part of the issue with the deadline is that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have yet to issue formal rulemaking to states regarding EVV. She noted that Senator Murkowski is expected to introduce an amendment to the CURES Act that would delay the reduction in federal match by one year and also require CMS to engage in formal rulemaking.

Allison Lee stated that in a good faith effort, Alaska is participating in gathering information from stakeholders and agencies and will put that information together to provide to the beneficiary boards to make recommendations to the State of Alaska on how to move forward with implementation.

DISABILITY LAW CENTER (DLC)

Dave Fleurant reported that the DLC and Northern Justice Project have filed suit against the State of Alaska over the lack of an applied behavioral analysis program. He stated that they have also filed a lawsuit recently against the State of Alaska over day habilitation. This is a class action lawsuit, and it challenges what's described as a soft cap, which they believe is more of a hard cap. They are also concerned that this soft cap was implemented without the appropriate approval from the federal government.

Dave Fleurant stated that another issue DLC is taking on is human trafficking and the intersection of that crime with individuals with disabilities. He presently sits on the Alaska Human Trafficking Workgroup, and since his time with that group, he has come to realize there is quite an intersection between human trafficking and people with disabilities. He stated that there will be a lot more information to come, and he hopes to be the conduit to the Council for this issue.

Dave Fleurant reported that he is participating in WINGS on the court monitoring subcommittee, and they are trying to make it easier for non-professional guardians to fill out the forms as well as create simplified forms and/or have a third-party auditing system to review the annual reports.

Dave Fleurant reported on three new programs starting up at DLC:

- Alaska Bar Foundation grant to continue investigating why the allowance rate within the Social Security Hearings and Appeals Office in Anchorage is so low.
- Juneau Community Foundation grant – A Juneau-specific grant to create a position to help individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness complete their Social Security application and get on benefits.
- A federal grant that should be recurring every year to allow the DLC to monitor representative payees.

Dave Fleurant stated that he has been working with **Anne Applegate** and Hope Community Resources to develop a pilot project for supported decision making. He stated that DLC's role in this will be to help do the training and advise individuals who are seeking Supported Decision Making Agreements.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Heidi Frost, executive director for the SILC, stated that with **Lanny Mommsen's** help with the emergency preparedness group, they will be having their first tabletop exercise to see how well they understand their interaction with emergency management offices both locally and statewide.

Heidi Frost stated that transit continues to be a big issue, and they've worked with the AMATS in Anchorage to submit a coordination grant to see if they can help People Mover ensure people have rides.

Heidi Frost stated that they have a new assistive technology pilot project with SDS, which is funded by a grant from the Trust. They are also hopeful they can receive some funding assistance from Mat-Su Health Foundation. They will be bringing 12 waiver recipients online to see how well assistive technology, medication management, and telehealth services impact the cost of providing waiver services as well as increase independence. They're hoping to have the first applications out no later than July 1st. To be eligible, an individual must be on a waiver, be over the age of 18, live in an urban area, have an interest in technology, and their support network has to be interested in being a part of this project. The selection committee will determine the recipients, and then the recipients will have a Home MAP completed to determine their home's accessibility. The recipients will have up to \$10,000 for assisted technology, minor home modifications, and any subscription costs. She noted that they also have a Rasmuson grant to determine how well this project impacts both the individuals' independence as well as the cost for delivering those services.

Heidi Frost stated that they continue to work on nursing home and assisted living home transitions. They currently have a grant to help people in assisted living homes move to independent housing using Section 8 AHFC housing.

Heidi Frost stated that a new issue the SILC would like to work on is education regarding service animals in businesses. Ultimately they would like to bring a piece of legislation forward that would ensure the rights of people with disabilities to have a service animal by making it harder for people to use fake service animals. Another issue they would like to see addressed is consequences for people with fake service animals that attack legitimate service animals.

Heidi Frost stated that the SILC is responsible for the Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living, and this is their year to gather information. They will be doing their needs assessment within the next six to eight months by holding focus groups around the state and conducting a survey.

The next meeting of the SILC will be June 7 - 8 in Wasilla. They plan on holding two public testimony sessions, one during the lunch hour, and one in the evening to hopefully get a better public testimony turnout.

ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (AADD)

Lizette Stiehr stated that AADD is the provider organization for agencies that offer services for developmental disabilities in the state of Alaska. They have 47 members statewide. She provided the following information on AADD's activities:

Monthly Networking:

- Membership call with state and partner updates
- Chief financial officers
- Compliance group
- Hot Topics.

Written Communication:

- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly report
- Email resources
- Email response to individual questions.

Alaska Mental Health Trust grant support for:

- Advocacy and best practice
- Change management
- Agency sustainability
- Workforce development

Lizette Stiehr added that the Governor's Council has allowed AADD to support "Be the Change," which is a two-and-a-half day leadership training.

STONE SOUP GROUP

Alex Fogarty reported on the following for Stone Soup Group:

- Parent Conference – Over 80 attendees in 19 sessions, and people joined it through live streaming as well.
- The Governor's Council supported production of a video about two youths speaking about what it means to transition into adulthood, and the video is available on their website. They're also going to be working on another video to interview the youths' mothers to get the parent perspective on that transition.
- The 2019 Parent Conference has been scheduled for March 22nd and 23rd. The focus of this conference will be on supporting challenging behaviors.
- Stone Soup Group Completed an employability class for six youth over the course of eight weeks to learn about soft job skills. They are going to offer another session in July.
- DD Safety-Net Program. Alex Fogarty stated that the referrals for the DD Safety-Net Program will be made directly by SDS. They will not be able to receive referrals from other agencies.
- Upcoming events:

- Youth Financial Fitness – Friday, May 18th from 3:30 – 5:00
- Inclusive Play Date – June 20 from noon to 1:00 at David Green Park.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

Mike Abbott, CEO of the Trust, reported that the Trustees are having their quarterly meeting next Thursday. He encouraged the Council to use that time to both update the Trustees on Council activities as well as provide counsel as to the investments of Trust resources.

Mike Abbott updated the Council members on the status of the legislative audit of the Trust, which he anticipates will be released publically in the next few weeks. The first major finding they are aware of is that the audit will be critical of the Trustees' behavior during which time they did not follow open meetings or public notice requirements as well as they should have. He stated that the Trust does not disagree with this finding, and efforts have been made on many levels to ensure this does happen again.

The second finding will be about some of the investment activity that the Trust has engaged in for the last six or seven years. Because the Trust saw its own investments managed by the Permanent Fund Corporation decline in value by about 20 percent, Trustees became concerned about spendable income for beneficiaries if that did not rebound. Trustees then allocated less than 10 percent through a commercial real estate portfolio that the Trust managed itself, which has performed very well. The audit will suggest that the Trust and/or Trustees did not have the authority to make that choice and that the statutes require that all of the investment activity of Trust assets be managed by the Permanent Fund. Mike Abbott stated that he doesn't know that the Trust agrees with that finding. In the meantime, the Trustees will make no further investments of that type until they have a clear understanding of their authority, they are going to start conversations with the beneficiary boards about what is appropriate for the Trust long term, and they are going to explore a scenario where they can jointly manage the existing investments with the Permanent Fund Corporation.

Mike Abbott stated that in addition to the audit report, they will also publish the Trust's response to the report. He fielded questions from Council members and concluded his report by stating that the Trust will be 25 years old in 2019, and they are going to plan a celebration.

Jimael Johnson reported that their two-year budget cycle is beginning, and there will be a large stakeholder meeting at the end of June.

Jimael Johnson stated that there are two new program officers that will start at the Trust on June 4th: Eric Boyer, who will work on workforce and behavioral health; and Travis Welch, who will work on justice-related initiatives. She stated that Verne Boerner was confirmed as a new Trustee a couple of months ago. They were hoping to have a second Trustee appointed, but there were some complications with that confirmation. As a result, Paula Easley will continue on the board for one more year.

Jimael Johnson reported on the following programmatic updates:

- The Trust is looking at opportunities for engagement around prevention and early intervention. This is something that the Trust is very interested in looking further upstream for their beneficiary populations and prioritizing wellness at a younger age.
- Housing: The Trust is currently funding three coordinator positions in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks to look into the housing issues in those three communities. They are also looking at increasing access to rapid housing and permanent supported housing around the state.
- Beneficiary Employment & Engagement: Jimael is continuing to get up to speed on this focus area and learning all about the work that has already taken place as they gear up for new opportunities.

Jimael Johnson stated that she looks forward to working with the Council to explore the possibility of adding the TABI advisory board. She also commented on the great work on the DD Vision in Alaska that is becoming known nationally.

Jimael Johnson stated that there has been some funding awarded to Key Campaign to support them in their sustainability. The Trust is coordinating some technical assistance for them to come up with a strategic plan for the future.

SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES

Maureen Harwood reported the following on behalf of Duane Mayes:

- Congratulations on passing SB 174, DD Vision; HB 336, SDMA; and SB 80, telecommunications. A special thank you to Anne Applegate for her work on SDMA and Dean Gates for his efforts on the telecommunications bill and all he's done for the deaf community over the years.
- ISW – Continued interaction with CMS to bring this waiver on line. 600 people have been offered the waiver, and approximately 260 people are in some stage of assessment.
- SDS is very excited about the pilot project with the SILC regarding enabling technology.
- SDS will begin their work to explore the implementation of companion services.
- There will eventually be amendments to the waivers around transition services to have a section in the waivers that gives SDS the flexibility to address the most challenging recipients of waiver services.
- Infant Learning Programs will have been with SDS for almost two years, and it has been a wonderful experience for SDS.
- SDS has done well this year with no reductions to their programs and services for Alaskan seniors and people with disabilities. Senior benefits are intact, home and community-based optional services are valued, and multiple programs were untouched. The next step for seniors is to shore up the Family Caregiver Program. A team from SDS will be working on this through technical assistance from the state of Washington.

Christian Muntean remarked that he is hearing there is a lot of interest from the medical community to engage in “concierge” services. He noted that if a funding mechanism can be secured, it could be a win/win for patients and providers alike, particularly individuals with challenging behaviors.

Maureen Harwood added that the Inclusive Community Choices Council will be meeting next week. This is the council that was formed for the Community First Choice option.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Margaret MacKinnon, Paul Prissing, and Bob Williams joined the meeting to provide answers to questions posed by the Council as follows:

Q: It doesn't look as though proposed paraprofessional regulations include any additional requirements that are specific to paraprofessionals providing services described in an IEP. Will we be seeing any movement next year toward requiring additional training either in supporting behavior with positive behavior supports or with applied behavior analysis techniques or maybe specialized subject area training?

The current package of proposed regulations are updating the paraprofessional regulations to comply with the changes under ESSA. DEED is not proposing additional requirements at this time. The ESSA statute requires the state to maintain paraprofessional regulations that were in place prior to the passage of ESSA.

Q: ESSA allows alternate or differentiated diplomas. Will we be seeing a future requirement for districts to have a diploma for students who are at target or advanced on the alternate assessment? Many Alaskan students are being immediately screened out of online applications by national retailers or chain restaurants because we don't have a tiered diploma option, and the state gets to include this in federal reporting.

ESSA allows the state to create an alternate diploma for the students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, which is approximately one percent of the students who take the alternate assessment. Differentiated diplomas are not being proposed at this time for several reasons. Alaska currently only has a regular high school diploma that signifies the graduate has met all the regular requirements based on curriculum alignment with the state standards. There are concerns that there would be confusion in the field about the efficacy of the Alaska State high school diploma if there are several versions of the diploma. DEED doesn't want to have any unexpected outcomes or expectations from businesses and employers about the type of diploma the student has and whether or not they could meet standards.

Q: In the proposed indicator of school quality and student success, chronic absenteeism is one that is much more prevalent among students with disabilities. It seems that some students' behavior that results in them not being in the same school for half of the term may not be included in the count for this indicator, even though it would be an important part of school quality and student success. How will these students be included in this important indicator in the future?

The requirements for the school quality and student success indicator are that they have to apply to all students. The department will continue to consider and collect data to determine additional indicators that might be relevant and applicable and present a picture for students with

disabilities; however, the students will be included for the accountability if they are in school for at least half the year, and that applies to all students.

Commissioner Johnson joined the meeting and thanked the Council for sending the questions and allowing the department an opportunity to respond. He stated that the Department has worked very hard these last few months to get their plan approved, and they are hopeful the process is coming to a close and that the plan will be approved soon. He noted that the plan they ended with is not all they had hoped for as they worked through negotiations with the U.S. Department of Education, so they will continue to work on issues once they get through this fall's initial implementation of the plan. He looks forward to the Council's engagement in the implementation and monitoring of the plan for the impacts on students with disabilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Patrick Reinhart presented **Amy Simpson** and **Dean Gates** with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Council. He noted that they will get **Sandra DeHart-Mayor** hers at a later date.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was heard, and a full transcript was prepared. The EPIC movies starring **Ric Nelson** and **Chair Winston** were played for Council members.

ADJOURN

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by **Dean Gates**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.