

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

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

**October 2 - 3, 2018
Quarterly Meeting – Anchorage, Alaska**

Council Members Present:

Anna Attla
Meghan Clark
Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
David Fleurant
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Corey Gilmore
Mallory Hamilton
Alexis Henning
Laurie Hodne
Elizabeth Joseph
Heidi Kelly
David Kohler
Sydney Krebsbach
Banarsi Lal
Molly McManamin
Christian Muntean
Cindy Murphy-Fox
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Maggie Winston, Chair

Council Staff:

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

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

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 12:08 p.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alexis Henning announced that she started a club called the Rainbow Club for people who are gay, lesbian, and transgender and have a disability. She asked Council members for suggestions to advertise. Suggestions included Facebook, public schools, The Arc, and Hope Community Resources.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Heidi Kelly MOVED to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the agenda was approved with minor amendments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2018 MEETING

Mallory Hamilton MOVED to approve the May 2018 minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Banarsi Lal**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was taken and is included in the transcript of the day's meeting.

JOINT CHAIR'S REPORT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Winston reported that the Peer Power Self-Advocacy Summit was held this past weekend at the Dimond Center Hotel, and it was an amazing event that was attended by self-advocates statewide. The format included sessions on SDS services and how to be a better self-advocate as well as love and relationships. They then met in small groups to connect and talk about the issues. She stated that **Ric Nelson** did an amazing job of coordinating this conference.

Patrick Reinhart reported to the Council as follows:

New Council Member News:

New Council Members

- **Sydney Krebsbach**

- **Molly McManamin**
- **Cindy Murphy-Fox**
- **Lizette Stiehr**
- **Margaret Evans**
- **Laurie Hodne**
- **David Kohler**
- Recently departed Council members: John Cannon, Sandra DeHart-Mayor, Dean Gates, Amy Simpson, Sara Kveum, and Jill Burkert.

Next Council Meetings

- February 5 – 7, 2019 – Juneau, followed by Key Campaign
- May 7 or 14, 2019 – Anchorage/webinar
- October 2 – 3, 2019 – Anchorage with either FASD or Autism on October 1st.

Disability Pride Celebration:

- Events in Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Anchorage, and Fairbanks

Developmental Disability Vision Bill Signing:

- August 25, 2018 in Soldotna.

Critical Efforts Coming Up:

- National Disability Employment Month – October
- Supported Decision Making Summit, November 15th
- Moving to the Atwood Building
- Project SEARCH technical assistance in December
- Transportation grant proposal to promote volunteer transportation for medical purposes through Medicaid due November 13th
- Recent recipients of the Living Well Grant.
- ISW launch October 1
- Enabling technologies launch
- Comprehensive Mental Health Plan
- Reporting to funders
- Negotiated a higher reimbursable services agreement with the Department of Education for the Council’s work as the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) as well as from the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) as the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (ICC).
- The Council has taken over the management of the Alaska ABLE accounts from the Department of Revenue. **Patrick Reinhart** and **Kristin Vandagriff** are the contact people for this.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that the Living Well Grant key partners include:

- Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Disability Law Center (DLC)

- Peer Power
- Key Coalition of Alaska
- SDS
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center
- Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
- Center for Human Development (CHD)

Kristin Vandagriff stated that the overarching goal of this five-year grant is to increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well being of individuals with developmental disabilities through realization of the Shared DD Vision. Some of the standout work items they hope to come out of this effort include:

- Implementation work around home and community-based services integrated settings rule
- Enhancing enabling technology
- Increase healthy living, safety, and employment goals in the plan of care
- Community relationship building program pilot
- Enhancing Employment First policy implementation
- Reducing instances of institutional placement and incarceration
- Person-centered planning and capacity building through trainings
- Increase cultural linguistic competency.

DISCUSSION OF NEW COMMITTEE SCHEDULE AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

A committee sign-up sheet was passed around for Council members to sign up for committees.

Patrick Reinhart stated that staff have been engaged in conversations about creating a more effective committee schedule as well as what constitutes quorum for Council committees. He noted that the bylaws only speak to the issue of the Council in that the majority of Council members constitute a quorum. He noted that some committees have public members, non-voting members, and voting members, and it was inconsistent. He stated that they are trying to determine when they should count someone as a voting member of the committee versus just a member of the public that wants to participate in a committee, particularly related to the Education Committee as the SEAP with many members, and the Early Intervention Committee (EIC) as the ICC with many members. Both of these committees have participation requirements outside of just Council members.

Patrick Reinhart stated that staff have also been discussing how often committees should meet. It was suggested that the EIC meet four times a year in their official capacity as the ICC, and the other four meetings in the year would be the broader EIC. The same structure was suggested for the Education Committee to meet four times a year as the SEAP and four times as the broader Education Committee.

Discussion ensued among members of the Council. **Patrick Reinhart** noted that upon further inspection of the bylaws, a proxy cannot be appointed to vote in the place of a Governor-appointed Council member, no matter their seat on the Council.

Suggestions included:

- Acquire another definition of quorum.
- Do a thorough review of the bylaws and make a complete change of the bylaws.
- Improve attendance at committee meetings by creating an agenda that requires the committee to make deliberations and decisions and that the time is not just spent hearing reports.
- The committee schedules varying from a monthly occurrence needs to be determined by each committee individually.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Representing the Governor's Council:

- Leadership Council for the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
- State Board of Education and Early Development (BOEED)
- Special Education Services Agency Board
- Alaska Advisory Board for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.

SEAP:

- DEED's Annual Progress Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan
- Monthly updates on items for stakeholder input
- Review of annual reports on exiting and graduation outcomes
- Review of Alaska's IDEA implementation determination status
- 2017 – 2018 Annual Report of the SEAP
- Ongoing work to advise DEED on unmet needs:
 - ⇒ Reporting on Project SEARCH and other transition resources
 - ⇒ Need for rural opportunities for employment experiences
 - ⇒ Heard report from Council staff on strategic plan for FASD Workgroup.
- Ongoing training on regulatory role and authority as the SEAP.

Collaborating to Expand Resources for Transitions:

- Rural Transitions Workgroup:
 - ⇒ Survey of Southwest region educators and professionals
 - ⇒ Attended Sealaska Culturally Responsive Education Conference
 - ⇒ Attended EPICS Native American Special Education Conference.

Promoting Best Practices:

- Accepting nominations for Inclusive Practice Award 2019
- New Paraeducator of the Year Award 2019
- Paraeducator Professional Development Project:
 - ⇒ Scholarships to conferences
 - ⇒ Peer-to-peer sharing via webinar.

Supporting Parents and Special Educators:

- Alaska Special Education Parent/Teacher/Student Association
- Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference
- Collaborating on restraint and seclusion follow-up with partners and stakeholders
- Ongoing review of ACT college testing.

Advocacy:

- Commented on federal extension of deadline for Significant Disproportionality Methodology
- Commented on amendments to State Plan for ESSA
- Commented on DEED proposed state regulations for ESSA.

Upcoming Activities:

- Training IEP teams on Supported Decision Making Agreements
- Statewide town hall on district restraint and seclusion practices and policies
- Following DEED's new accountability system under ESSA
- Four meetings focused on SEAP duties.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Anna Atlla reported on the Employment and Transportation Committee as follows:

Recent Activities:

- Now five Project SEARCH sites in Alaska.
- AIEI federal employment grant ended September 2018.
- Lou Orslene from the Job Accommodation Network presented in Alaska.
- Alaska Society of Human Resource Management 2018 keynote, table, survey.
- **Kristin Vandagriff** gave a national presentation for TASH/American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) regarding Alaska's innovative employer engagement efforts.
- National Governor's Association Employment Learning Lab:
 - **Patrick Reinhart, Kristin Vandagriff**, and Heather Chord from SDS attended, and it resulted in four employment recommendations to the Governor:
 1. Enhance the State as a Model Employer efforts in state government
 2. Enhance apprenticeship opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities
 3. Initiate an Employment First taskforce or commission
 4. Enhance Alaska's re-entry process and system to make employment/work experience an area of stronger focus.
- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.
- Council has again led the #ABLEtoSave campaign for Alaska. As of August 2018:
 - Total open accounts – 197
 - Funded accounts – 181
 - Total assets - \$839,887.48
 - Average account size - \$4,263.

Upcoming Activities:

- Transition Handbook outreach 2018 – 2019: Postcards and flyers, electronic toolkit
- Employment First reporting to Department of Labor, DHSS, DEED, and the Trust
- Alaska ABLE outreach
- Alaska DB 101 outreach
- Site visit technical assistance with all five Project SEARCH sites December 3 – 7 with national Project SEARCH co-director
- Explore Employment Summit.

CONVERSATION WITH COMMISSIONER MICHAEL JOHNSON, DEED

Commissioner Johnson began his presentation by stating how much he appreciates working with the Council to increase his awareness of what's happening in the disability community. He noted that Council members and staff participate in monthly leadership calls and bring insightful perspectives to the meetings. He also appreciates the Council's advisement on unmet needs, and the comments on DEED's proposed ESSA regulations.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the ESSA plan becomes operational in October, and school designations regarding support levels needed will be announced October 23rd. He stated that the ESSA plan is a work in progress, and he asked for the Council's support in showing the Department where they can improve it.

Commissioner Johnson stated that they are wrapping up the planning of the Alaska Education Challenge. He stated that the Challenge has three components:

1. Call to Action

We, the people of Alaska, need to commit to improving student success, cultivating safety and well being, and supporting responsible learning.

2. Measureable Goals/Positive Trajectories

- Reading
- Increase the amount of career and technical education in the state
- Close the achievement gap
- Prepare, attract, and retain effective educators
- Work with communities to make sure kids are safe and well.

3. Targeted Strategies

This will continue to grow as methods applied strategically roll out and grow to meet the individual needs of students.

Based on a question about transition from the Council, Commissioner Johnson noted that he is chair to the Governor's Children's Cabinet, which consists of nine commissioners specifically focused on ensuring Alaska is a great place to be a child. He stated that transition is an issue he can bring before the Cabinet, because transition is a concept that affects multiple departments. He asked Council staff to educate him further on the topic.

Commissioner Johnson addressed the difficulty in recruiting educational staff to Alaska by stating that they have to have a shared vision for education in the state to attract people to come to Alaska. He also remarked that the Department and the university system are working on a common goal to have 90 percent of their educators be from Alaska. He noted that Alaskan residents tend to stay longer in rural Alaska, and the teacher turnover rate is part of the state's achievement problem. In terms of gaining additional support for resources from the legislature, they need to do a better job of explaining exactly where and how those resources will be spent.

EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE

Christian Muntean provided the report for the Early Intervention Committee as follows:

Activities Since May:

- Results review and discussion of next steps on early childhood expulsion survey conducted by Learn & Grow.
- Adjustment of membership and operational procedures in accordance with SICC roles. Enlisted ten new members.
- Development of infographic “Services for Young Children with Disabilities 0 – 4 Years Old.” Third draft under review.
- EIC self-evaluation survey.
- Universal Developmental Screening Task Force met June 5th with 28 attendees.
- EI/ILP designation of “Meets requirements,” support of SPP/APR.

Trainings and Presentations:

- Staff participated in on-site visit with one of Alaska's Part C technical assistants, Karen Finello.
- EIC/ICC chair attended the 2018 conference for SICC chairs, parents, and coordinators, “Improving Data, Improving Outcomes,” August 13 – 16.
- LEND Fellows Rebecca Bjorke and Katrina Nunemann conducted research and presented on Increased Family Engagement in Developmental Screening.

Developmental Screening Task Force:

- Met in small groups since June. Discussed where 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
 - ◆ Centralized data
 - ◆ Data sharing
 - ◆ Address confidentiality challenges.
- Branding campaign for rural areas – “Look at me and where I'll be!” Campaign parameters and costs have been discussed.
- Ages & States (ASQ) addendum to Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual (CHAM) – letter from Dr. Zernzach in support of the addendum has been submitted.
- ASQ – the data tool has been improved to address duplication in its results.

SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING AGREEMENTS (SDMAs)

Anne Applegate reported on SDMAs as follows:

- HB 336 was signed by the Governor at the Disability and Aging Conference.
- Seven trainings since the last Council meeting, 30 since March of 2017.
- Statewide Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS).
- Pilot project has started; staff trained and first participants identified.
- SDMA Summit, November 15, 2018, room for 70 attendees.
- Thanks to support from the Trust, videos have been created.
- SDMA website is under development and will be going live November 15th. It will contain video vignettes, trainings and tools, forms and guides, resources for increasing independence, and a referral list and links to more information.
- Workgroup Activities:
 - ◆ Outreach to private attorneys and public health organizations
 - ◆ Engaging research partners from UAA
 - ◆ Collaborating with AARP and other partners about SDMAs for older Alaskans
 - ◆ Publishing the work at a national level.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COMMITTEE

Corey Gilmore presented the report from the DD Committee as follows:

DD Committee Meeting Discussions:

- IDD Registry – Approximately 877 individuals as of June 2018
- Individualize Supports Waiver (ISW) and Community First Choice (CFC). Amendments approved by CMS effective July 1, 2018, planned October 1 implementation date.
- Companion Services Exploration Group.
- Settlement on day habilitation between SDS and Alaska Legal Services/Disability Law Center:
 - ⇒ Settlement only applies to 170 waivers submitted between 10/17 and 7/6/18 that requested over an average of 12 hours of day habilitation per week.
 - ⇒ More detailed standards on allowable exceptions will be coming out for public comment soon.
 - ⇒ Until amended regulations are out, SDS will continue to review plans that request over 12 hours a week of day habilitation.
- Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) – bill signed extending compliance timeline to 2020 and 2021 with a good faith effort. Original bill was sponsored by Senator Murkowski.
- DD Safety Net Funds:
 - ⇒ For individuals on the DRR who are Medicaid eligible but do not meet level of care and cannot be served on a waiver.
 - ⇒ Safety Net Funds are available through Stone Soup Group via SDS IDD Unit referral.
 - ⇒ Initially plans will be capped at \$10,000 with some flexibility.
- The Council put forth a \$2 million grant application proposed to the federal

- Administration on Community Living for its Living Well grant opportunity.
- SB 174 – DD Shared Vision legislation was passed and signed August 25th, 2018.

Alaska DD Collaborative:

Implementing the Shared DD Vision:

- Six Project Area Teams:
 1. Culture Change
 2. Direct Service Professional Workforce Development
 3. Legislative Engagement
 4. Community Outreach
 5. Measuring Progress
 6. Self-Advocacy Advisory – Council staff and members leading and participating.
- Large DD Collaborative meeting May 23rd.

NACDD 2018 Annual Conference:

- Attended by DD Committee staff and chair. Gave a plenary session presentation on the Shared DD Vision.
- Staff attended technical assistance institute.
- **Corey Gilmore** inducted into the National Self-Advocate Leadership Circle.

Upcoming Activities:

- FY'18 Program Performance Report – including FY'21 work plans
- DD Vision community awareness – revised work plan
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency Plan
- Caregiver Barriers Survey
- 2019 DD infographic development.

FASD WORKGROUP

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

Recent Activities:

- September FASD Awareness Month:
 - ⇒ “*Moment to Moment: Teens Growing up with FASDs*” at Bear Tooth Theater September 17th
 - ⇒ Governor’s proclamation for FASD Awareness Day
 - ⇒ Social media toolkit and campaign.
- August 23rd, 1 – 3 p.m. FASD update meeting – infographic for the Five-Year Strategic Plan.
- October 1, 2018 – All-day meeting for FASD Workgroup.
 - ⇒ Northwest Strategies is doing a campaign targeting college-educated Caucasian women, the demographic most likely to have a child with FASD.
 - ⇒ Reviewed the infographic with suggestion to make the graphic more inclusive of all women, not just women who are already pregnant.
 - ⇒ Looking into developing an evaluation component.

⇒ Work plan will be updated to reflect new objectives by January 1st.

Updating 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 transformation and navigation, youth and adults
 - ⇒ Community outreach and education
 - ⇒ Workforce development.

Upcoming Activities:

- Priority area groups continue to meet
- Next FASD update meeting – to be determined.

MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE

Kristin Vandagriff stated that this committee meets on an as-needed basis to review regulations or comment on federal or state legislation. She asked Council members to consider participating in this committee noting that they are in need of a chair since Dean Gates' departure from the Council.

AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE

Heidi Kelly presented for the Autism Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

Activities Since May:

- Comments on the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) final regulations
- Autism Ad Hoc Committee:
 - ◆ Updated their annual plan
 - ◆ Alaska now has four pediatric neurodevelopmental specialists
 - ◆ Continued discussion on adult services, including transitioning youth.
- The Gould Project – pilot classroom for children with autism
- Alaska Project ECHO:
 - ◆ Participated in Autism ECHO
 - ◆ In June CHD held a training to learn more about ECHO
 - ◆ Opioid ECHO has been in the works with Behavioral Health
 - ◆ Providence Hospital is preparing for a prenatal ECHO next year
 - ◆ Rolled out their new 2019 curriculum and schedule in September.

Conferences:

- Stone Soup Group Parent Conference
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Institute
- Help Me Grow national forum in Seattle.

Current Activities:

- Continue adult services discussion
- Participate in Autism ECHO
- Continue to explore ways to fund Family Navigation (Help Me Grow)
- Discuss survey on autism services (CHD)
- Implementation of ABA regulations.

Upcoming Activities:

- ECHO will be held one more time this year and will encompass more developmental disabilities.
- Broad survey of autism services led by CHD and will study the housing, educational, employment, therapeutic, and funding aspects.
- Continue developing a tiered approach to diagnosing autism spectrum disorder. Neurodevelopmental workgroup formed aimed at eliminating barriers and sharing resources.
- Research adult programs in other states including reduction of barriers to employment and capacity building. An ad hoc workgroup was formed for the scope of this work.

Upcoming Conferences:

- Representatives from Alaska, including **Heidi Kelly**, will be presenting at a national autism conference in Columbus, Ohio November 14 – 16.
- Alaska's next Autism Conference will be held in the spring of 2019.

HEALTH

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

Recent Activities:

- Inclusive Play Dates in Anchorage:
 - ⇒ May 23, Kincaid Park
 - ⇒ June 20, David Green Park
 - ⇒ August 29, Kiwanis Park
- Inclusive Play Symposium, September 12 – 13 for architects, landscape engineers, and land surveyors with designers from across the country.
- Emergency preparedness:
 - ⇒ Disability Advisory Group tabletop exercise
 - ⇒ Presentations at Access Alaska and assisted living facilities
 - ⇒ Safe Seniors is using the Get Ready! Toolkit.
- Disability and Aging Summit, September 26 – 27, emergency preparedness and SDMA.

PEER POWER

Anna Attla presented the report for Peer Power as follows:

2018 Self-Advocacy Summit

- Created the 2018 Self-Advocacy Summit flyers
- Open registration for the summit July through August 15th
- Had over 190 people register before the deadline; 40 people attempted to register after the deadline
- Had 230 people who wanted to attend the summit
- Accepted 100 people to attend the summit; 65 self-advocates and DSP and family members
- Had eight facilitators to help run the summit.
- The summit topics included:
 - ◆ Services
 - ◆ Friendship and dating
 - ◆ Civil Rights movement
 - ◆ Employment issues
 - ◆ Social events and meet and greet.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:56 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL, ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was taken.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The only changes to the agenda were to note that an Alaska Brain Injury Network video would be played for the Council as time allows, and the federal legislative discussion would include state information.

COMMITTEE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Chair Winston announced that Art Delaune is the new chair for the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus and **Banarsi Lal** suggested to the Council that a good use of committee time would be to work on legislative issues once the new Governor and legislature are elected.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Art Delaune reported for the Legislative Committee as follows:

Bills Followed in the Previous Session:

- BH 64 - Establishing Task Force on Reading Proficiency, Reading Instructions, and Effects of Dyslexia on Some Students – passed.
- HB 106 – Civil Legal Services Fund, court filing fees – passed, \$300,000 annually.
- HB 151 - Foster Care, Child Protection – passed.
- HB 215 – DHSS: Public Health fees – passed.
- HB 216 – Crimes; Restitution; Dividend fund – passed.
- HB 236 – Extended Senior Benefits Program – passed.
- HB 273 – Extend Marijuana Control Board – passed.
- HB 299 – Extend Alcohol Beverage Control Board – passed.
- HB 312 – Crimes against medical professionals – passed.
- HB 336 – Supported Decision Making Agreements – passed.
- SB 26 – Permanent Fund deposits, earnings – passed.
- SB 80 – Telecommunications; disabled subscribers – passed.
- SB 81 – DHSS registry; license; background check – passed.
- SB 104 – Education curriculum requirements – passed.
- SB 105 – Marital and family therapy licenses and services – passed.
- SB 134 – Termination of parental rights; guardians – passed.
- SB 169 – Medical behavior health coverage – passed.
- SB 174 – Programs for people with disabilities (DD Shared Vision) – passed.
- SB 208 – March as Sobriety Awareness Month – Passed.

Federal Issues to Track:

- EMPOWER Act (Money Follows the Person). On September 13, the House Energy & Commerce Committee approved the EMPOWER Care Act, which reauthorizes Money Follows the Person (MFP) for one year.
- Customized Employment Demonstration Project Bill: To establish a demonstration program under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 targeted to transition-aged youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorders in order to achieve customized and integrated employment.
- Disability Employment Incentive Act: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits under the work opportunity credit; increase the work opportunity credit for vocational rehabilitation referrals, qualified SSI recipients, and qualified SSDI recipients; expand the disabled access credit; and enhance the deduction for expenditures to remove architectural and transportation barriers to the handicapped and elderly.
- ABLE Age Adjustment: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs from 26 to 46.
- Medicaid.
- DD Council and other DD Network funding
- Supreme Court Nominee Letter: The Council followed suit with other national DD councils and submitted a letter in opposition to Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination.

Art Delaune stated that pre-filings will come out in the state legislature around January 20th, 2019, which is when the Legislative Committee can begin making decisions on issues the Council will be advocating for.

Patrick Reinhart stated that they will continue to put in requests and follow up for the Council to meet with the Congressional delegation.

ALASKA BRAIN INJURY NETWORK (ABIN)

Patrick Reinhart stated that GCDSE was approached to consider taking on the TBI advisory board as a subset of the Council. ABIN was approached by SDS with this concept, and ABIN has asked for a year's extension to work with CHD to develop a more advocacy TBI board than their existing structure.

Art Delaune suggested that the TBI population would greatly benefit the ABLE account age extending to 46.

Video played.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that ABIN offers a support group for individuals with brain injuries and a separate group for families. A brain injury outreach clinic will be held November 19 – 20 in Kotzebue for the Maniilaq and Norton Sound service areas. Access Alaska has support groups in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Meghan Clark stated that CHD will be hosting a Head Injury ECHO, which will launch in the spring of 2019.

PARTNER UPDATES

Center for Human Development (CHD)

Karen Heath, associate director at CHD, provided a report to the Council as follows:

- Hosting a Fellow from Uganda October 13 – November 12, and his focus is on employment of people with disabilities and other identified vulnerable populations in his country, including women and refugees. His project is to support micro entrepreneurs.
- Disability Abuse Response Teams (DART) – Trust-funded project that recently moved over to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA). It is a coordinated community response to violence and sexual violence against people with disabilities. Seven teams currently exist in Anchorage, Cordova, Kenai/Soldotna, Juneau, Nome, Petersburg, and Seward.
- Georgetown – CHD was awarded the opportunity to receive technical assistance from Georgetown's UCEDD's Center for Cultural Competence. CHD hosted a training in September focused on Embedding Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competency.
- AK Geriatrics Interdisciplinary Leadership Development provides face-to-face and

distance-delivered interdisciplinary leadership training over one academic semester to prepare leaders to promote systems change and advocacy to meet the needs of older Alaskans, Alaskan Native elders, and their families.

- Alaska Training Cooperative:
 - ⇒ 4,201 unduplicated training participants from 557 provider agencies in 85 communities statewide.
 - ⇒ 217 trainings presented in 41 Alaskan communities.
 - ⇒ 82 training technical assistance events with 1,043 unduplicated participants.
 - ⇒ Of these total 299 training events, 110 were based in urban areas, and 189 in rural areas or distance delivered.
 - ⇒ Worked collaboratively with 68 agencies, an increase of 200 percent from FY'17, to promote the use of the Learning Management System (LMS).
 - ⇒ There were 6,008 active users in the LMS in FY'18.
 - ⇒ 408 training opportunities listed in the LMS, and 272 training events were used in this system.
 - ⇒ Training stipends provided to 63 rural and community staff representing a total of \$39,642.
- Tapestry – Post-secondary education program from transition-age students with disabilities. 16 students enrolled in the summer program, and 16 students are currently enrolled in the fall program.
- Collaborative Behavior Analysis and Intervention (CBAI):
 - ⇒ 5 students progressing through their field supervision toward national certification
 - ⇒ 17 direct service providers (DSPs) were trained to meet the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) credential in FY'18; have already trained 10 DSPs for the RBT for FY'19, and they currently have six enrolled.
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – Received a three-year federal TBI State Partnership Grant.
- Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) – 2018-2019 cohort began September 6th. The Fellows will begin selecting leadership projects soon.
- Family Navigation – Offering family navigation and pediatric care coordination training that will include nursing CE's beginning in October; social work CE's are in process. Family Navigation Training is currently being modified so that it can be offered to Provide Mission Services' Peer Language Navigators.
- Behavior Analysis ECHO resumed in September and will meet monthly through May 2019 with a primary focus on challenging behaviors. Other ECHOs include:
 - ⇒ Opioid Management
 - ⇒ Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
 - ⇒ Head Injury.
- Effective Behavior Interventions Program:
 - ⇒ Delivering behavior analytic consultation services through the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC) to agencies across Alaska.
 - ⇒ Working directly in classrooms through school district contracts to consult with teachers working with children and youth with complex behavioral support needs.
 - ⇒ In the process of discussing and planning a clinic that serves children and youth

with autism and is a practicum site for training ABA students.

- Microenterprise Project is in the process of reviewing applications from Trust beneficiaries. Ten applications were received, eight will be forwarded to the committee for review, and two applicants withdrew. The total amount of funds requested is approximately \$40,000.
- Alaska Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) – Continues to provide benefits counseling services to SSA disability beneficiaries throughout the state. 100 beneficiaries per year are served.
- Project AWARE through SAMHSA - Project that focuses on mental health and wellness in nine alternative high schools.
- Small Business Administration Grant project that focused on providing self-employment training to low-income rural potential entrepreneurs as well as individuals involved in the criminal justice system.
- Customized Employment Research Project – Conducting research on using the customized employment model with individuals with psychiatric disabilities who are interested in employment.

Karen Heath fielded questions from Council members and concluded her presentation.

Disability Law Center (DLC)

Dave Fleurant stated that DLC is an independent non-profit law firm providing legal advocacy for people with disabilities anywhere in Alaska. He stated that in addition to straight legal advocacy, they also have a federal authority to conduct monitoring and investigations. They serve people with:

- TBI
- Mental illness
- Intellectual disability
- Developmental disability
- Physical disability.

Issues DLC might help with include:

- Social Security applications and some higher-level appeals
- Medicaid/Medicare appeals
- Disability-related housing or employment discrimination
- Disability-related financial exploitation
- Access to appropriate special education programs
- Physical barriers/access to businesses or services
- Complaints about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or an Independent Living Center
- Access to voting.

Dave Fleurant shared a number of graphs with the Council members that demonstrate the type of cases DLC has worked on as well as the number of projects and the number of people impacted and their demographics. He also noted that DLC will be receiving funds from the

Social Security Administration to monitor and educate and review representative payees in the state.

Dave Fleurant discussed other issues that have come up since the last Council meeting. DLC was directly involved in the day habilitation litigation, and they have also been involved in ABA litigation, both of which have been resolved.

Dave Fleurant stated that DLC has a project through the Juneau Community Foundation helping individuals who are primarily homeless file Social Security applications, which is a relatively complex process. He noted that this leads into another grant they have through the Alaska Bar Foundation to examine the abysmal record of the two administrative law judges in Alaska who preside over appeal hearings for Social Security benefits denials. He is hopeful that by assisting people in filing complete and accurate Social Security applications the first time, it will prevent appeals before these judges.

Dave Fleurant stated that DLC has some funding to ensure individuals with disabilities have access to the polls. He asked Council members to be aware if there are any barriers in their polling stations, and to let DLC know.

Dave Fleurant stated that DLC is advertising for the business manager position, and he fielded questions from Council members and concluded his presentation.

Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

Patrick Pillai, executive director for SESA, presented to the Council as follows:

SESA was created in 1986 by the Alaska State Legislature targeting educational outreach to rural Alaska for students with disabilities. They receive funding from the State of Alaska to focus on low-incidents disabilities, and they also house the Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC).

- There are 23 staff at SESA that support the following programs: AARC, Autism, Deaf-Blind, Emotional Disabilities, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and Multiple Disabilities.
- In FY'18, the following service participants were served: Administrators, general education teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers, SPED teachers, students, and family members.
- Student Service Reports: 407, average completion time 8.75 days.
- Service Activities: 1,105, which includes 133 trainings, and of those 42 were delivered via distance delivery.
- Cost savings: Using an average travel cost of \$1,049 and a daily salary and benefits cost of \$423, 42 distance-delivered trainings saves districts \$61,824.
- Districts served, 52; schools served, 151
- Updated website: www.SESA.org
- Updated FileMaker Pro management system.
- The state Deaf-Blind Grant housed at SESA ended on September 30th, 2018. The final performance report has been submitted, and the new five-year grant application for the period of October 2018 through September 2023 was accepted and has been funded.

Based on their funding levels, they received a \$21,000 increase.

- SESA hired two multiple disabilities specialists, one autism specialist, and one deaf/hard of hearing specialist in August 2018. Total number of SESA specialists is 15.
- AARC will hold a virtual conference on October 25 – 26 via Blue Jeans. One UAA course credit will be offered for \$79.
- The AARC has also contracted with Brenda Smith Myles to conduct a two-day workshop at ASSEC on February 3 – 4 as well as to offer multiple presentations across the state.
- The SESA management system has been redesigned to produce specific reports. This redesign was proactive planning for the forthcoming comprehensive legislative audit in 2020 for SESA reauthorization in 2021.
- The next SESA board meeting will be October 5, 2018.

Patrick Pillai fielded questions and comments from Council members and concluded his presentation.

Stone Soup Group (SSG)

Mary Middleton, executive director for Stone Soup Group (SSG), reported to the Council on the following:

- Recruiting for a new parent navigator for the recently awarded Family-to-Family Health Information Center expansion grant to serve American Indian/Alaska Native families.
- SSG is working on an introductory video to special education for families. They are hopeful that school districts will be able to host it on their websites as a resource for families whose children have been referred for special education.
- As a result of a generous donation received by SSG, they updated their gaming equipment and worked with ATLA to get apps on iPads so families and youth can try them out at their monthly Super Gaming Nights on Fridays from 4:00 to 5:30 for younger kids, and from 6:00 to 8:00 for older kids.
- SSG was the recipient of the DD Safety Net Funds. They have a fourth STAR navigator on staff to handle that caseload. Currently only five people have been referred, and the evaluation process with SDS is still ongoing.
- They received additional funding this year to support their Mentor Advocate Partner (MAP) program. This program trains parents to be support parents to be matched with other parents who might have a child who is newly diagnosed or is experiencing some sort of situation where they want peer support.
- Information about all of the SSG trainings are available on their website.
- The Annual Parent Conference is scheduled for March 22 – 23, 2019 at the BP Energy Center. The focus will be on managing challenging behaviors.

DD Collaborative

Kim Champney, the network coordinator for the Shared Vision, stated that the DD Collaborative steering committee will be working on operationalizing the Vision through their six project teams. Roy Scheller, executive director of Hope Community Resources, is the chair of the DD Collaborative. Kim stated that **Maggie Winston, Corey Gilmore, Art Delaune, Mallory**

Hamilton, Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich, Dave Fleurant, Lizette Stiehr, and Kristin Vandagriff are all actively involved in the Shared Vision.

Kim Champney stated that a Shared Vision song just debuted last week, and it has been videotaped so it will be available for people to view and share.

Kim Champney shared the following information about the project teams:

- Community Awareness: Co-chairs are **Corey Gilmore** and **Kristin Vandagriff**
- DSP Workforce Development: Co-chaired by **Ric Nelson**
- Person-Directed Culture Change: Co-chaired by **Maggie Winston** and Travis Noah

Kim Champney expressed her pleasure with the recent Self-Advocacy Summit and believes that a lot of the enthusiasm generated at the summit was the direct result of having the Vision in place.

Kim Champney stated that an outcome of the Person-Directed Culture Change project team was the Shared Vision for Developmental Disabilities “Call to Action Pledge.”

Roy Scheller stated that the Call to Action Pledge is asking all stakeholders in the system to:

- Create policies and model practices that support people to live the life they choose with the support they direct,
- To use words and actions that promote a person-directed culture shift,
- Awaken this commitment in others through actions that are visible to people receiving services, their family members, employees of organizations providing or supporting the provision of services, and our communities,
- Until a time when we have a system without barriers, we pledge to think creatively and look for outside-the-box solutions that allow people to live lives with meaning as described in the Shared Vision.

Roy Scheller stated that at Hope Community Resources, they created a peer advocate position that is intended to reinforce self-directed services. Travis Noah is the peer advocate who attends every leadership meeting that occurs within Hope. Hope has also eliminated the word “disability” from their logo and tag lines associated with the agency. Their tag line is now, “Bridges to Meaningful Lives.” They are also working to eliminate any reference to disability within the agency. They have modified all of their philosophy support documents so that each one now speaks to the issue of a meaningful life. They have modified their new hire and extended new hire orientation tools to enhance learning about meaningful lives, integrity, ethics, family, and self-directed processes. Every employee at Hope has signed an integrity agreement regarding the provision of supports, and they have centralized their thinking that they serve the entire family, not just their child. They have also centralized all services to families and children under one team that operates independently from all other programs.

Roy Scheller stated that Hope has also reworded all DSP job descriptions and created multiple internal DSP career paths. There are now five separate career paths that a DSP can take at Hope

and continue and get advanced pay and promotions. They have also designed new wage and salary protocols that compensate DSPs for prior experience and education. Hope is also utilizing a technique called “My Story” where people who receive supports are able to identify who they want working with them and what things are meaningful to them that they want to have honored in a relationship with paid staff.

Roy Scheller stated that the Hope board of directors is reviewing and will accept and ratify the collaborative Vision and the Call to Action Pledge. The Pledge will become the cover page to all new hire orientation manuals, the human resource employee manual, and the philosophy of supports manual. They are working with Travis Noah to develop a video that shows a self-directed life.

Kim Champney stated that they took the Pledge to AADD last week, and they are asking providers to adopt it similarly to Hope. **Chair Winston** added that from the standpoint of an individual receiving services, Roy Scheller and Hope are great examples of the kind of leadership they are expecting through implementation of the Vision.

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)

Michael Bailey, president of AADD, reported that Lizette Stiehr couldn't be with the Council today because she is accepting an award for Excellence in Public Policy in Washington, D.C.

Activities that AADD has been involved in with partners include:

- SDS companion services
- Enabling technology
- Transition costs
- Family habilitation services
- Reaching out to work with Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) to strengthen partnerships
- Shared Vision.

Michael Bailey stated that in an effort to participate in a unified voice, AADD will be moving their February meeting to create better synchronization of the Governor's Council and Key Campaign efforts in Juneau.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)

Daniel Delfino and Cathy Stone from AHFC presented to the Council on the following:

Planning and Program Development

Daniel Delfino stated that AHFC and its partners committed to a production goal of a little over 400 units for supported housing over a five-year period. They have incentives for homeless and incentives for housing that will serve Alaskans with disabilities, and there are usually incentives that go along with support services that accompany these units. They are in year four, and they have developed just under 800 units across the state, 364 of those units fully equipped for people

with sensory and mobility impairments. These units are not isolated complexes, but are in an integrated setting. Approximately 34 percent of the units that are funded have some support service provision or case management for the homeless, mobility access, and van transports.

811 Program

Daniel Delfino stated that this is a federal program, and although it's been slow to get started, they have a couple of units in different properties that are now on line. This is a partnership between AHFC and the Division of Behavioral Health to bring people that are inappropriately housed in an institutional setting into an integrated housing environment with support. There is a referral process through the Division of Behavioral Health and SDS to get people into these placements. They are working with a couple of other landlords around Anchorage, and they expect to have this ramped up pretty quickly and move up to about 25 percent capacity within the next couple of weeks. They have funding through HUD to house up to 200 Alaskans experiencing disabilities throughout the state, and they want to use all 200 of those vouchers. As a result, they are putting together approximately \$8 million worth of capital development resources together for a statewide allocation. They are hoping to get two developments at the very minimum in two different communities across the state. The application round closes on October 5th, and they have had a lot of interest in it. They expect to announce the awards around Thanksgiving.

Programs Available Through Alaska Housing

Daniel Delfino stated that there are about eight programs AHFC has on a federal and state level for operating support and about five programs for capital development. They have set up a website as a one-stop shop for easier navigation to view their funding opportunities.

Public Housing

Cathy Stone reported the following from the Public Housing Division of AHFC:

1. Public Housing Units

- AHFC owns, manages, and maintains 1,600 units in 13 locations throughout Alaska.
- Qualifying renters must be low income and pass criminal screening criteria, landlord references, and have no debt owed to AHFC or any other housing authority nationwide.
- Paxton Manor, Sitka – 24 units.
- South Hall, Fairbanks – 40 units.
- Glacier View, Seward – 30 units.
- Bethel Heights, Bethel – 115 units.

2. Housing Choice Vouchers

- 4,450 vouchers in 12 locations.
- Renters find a private rental unit and move in with financial assistance.

- Renters must be income qualified and meet less stringent screening criteria, although a fundamental criminal screening is done as well as must have a positive history with other HUD-funded programs.
3. Rent Reform Program
 - For individuals who are able to work.
 - Five-year time limit.
 - Income based the first time and then rents step up for the next four years.
 4. Senior and Disabled Housing
 - Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.
 - Service coordinators to help people navigate life issues.
 5. Set-Aside Programs

Moving Home Program

- Program for people with disabilities that needed a voucher right away.
- Waiting list in Anchorage is closed.

Cathy Stone and Daniel Delfino fielded questions from Council members and concluded their presentation. **Patrick Reinhart** suggested partnering with AHFC to provide a detailed webinar about opportunities for housing for people with disabilities across the state.

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA)

Mystie Rail, director of ATLA, stated that for an individual to receive services through ATLA, the criteria are that they are in the state of Alaska, must have a need, and be alive. Their number one mission is to help Alaskans through the use of any kind of technology possible when someone has a barrier. She noted that ATLA turns 25 this year, and they will be holding a gala at the Marriott Hotel on May 9th.

Mystie Rail highlighted ATLA’s programs as follows:

Federal Assistive Technology Act

- Provide public awareness and device demonstrations
- Provide short-term loans for people to try out technology
- Assist through the process of acquisition and reutilization and state financing
- Provide services to people of all ages statewide

Alaska Relay

- For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired.
- TTYs, CapTel phones, and other alerting devices.
- iPad pilot project for individuals who are speech impaired.
- The passage of SB 80 allows ATLA to move away from being landline centric into other mobile devices.

akCanConnect

- For individuals who are deaf-blind or who have progressive vision and progressive hearing loss.
- ATLA provides a full assessment and can purchase any equipment needed as long as the individual is able to access telecommunications in any form.

Alaska Center for Accessible Media

- K through 12 resource center for any curricula that is either digital or print that students are not able to access or are low readers because of a learning disability.
- ATLA goes out to school districts and provides intensive technical assistance with a goal to have a written policy in place and a stable system that ensures the system will be ongoing.

Mystie Rail and Council members engaged in a discussion about some of the uses of new technology, and Mystie concluded her report.

Women's Children's & Family Health (WCFH)

Rebecca Morisse, the section chief of WCFH, reported to the Council as follows:

- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant (ECCS) has traditionally been administered out of the Office of Children's Services, but this work has been shifted to Title V Maternal Child Health over the past year. The focus of the current grant cycle is increasing the use of evidenced-based developmental screening in three place-based communities of Norton Sound, Mat-Su, and Kodiak. Help Me Grow Alaska was launched in these three communities.
- Help Me Grow Alaska is a system that connects children and families with services that they need. Help Me Grow houses a call center that staffs care coordinators who can answer questions about child development and connect with families. Help Me Grow and ECCS are collaborating to increase the use of evidence-based developmental screening in the state. They have also been working with the Council's Developmental Screening Task Force on creating branding to promote screening.
- Pediatric Clinics:
 - ◆ Autism/Neurodevelopmental – WCFH continues to partner with CHD and will sponsor 12 clinical days of services around the state. Ptarmigan Connections now offers assessments and diagnosis in the Mat-Su. Dr. Bill Walker and Dr. Beth Ellen Davis continue to provide services for this screening and diagnostic clinic.
 - ◆ Metabolic Genetics – Dr. David Koeller from Oregon Health Sciences University continues to provide medical services for children and adults with metabolic conditions. This clinic is held three times a year in Anchorage and Fairbanks.
- Autism/Neurodevelopmental
 - ◆ Project ECHO – Continue to fund an Autism/Neurodevelopmental ECHO.

- ◆ Partnering with CHD to start a Family ECHO.
 - ◆ Family Navigation – Continue to partner with CHD on implementing training for family navigation.
 - ◆ Regular meetings of neurodevelopmental clinics to coordinate services. Focus right now is instituting a tiered approach to screening and better coordinating referrals.
- Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN)
 - ◆ New staff – Joanne Singleton and Jessie Doherty. Christie Reinhardt will now be taking on the role of CYSHCN director for Alaska.
 - ◆ Revisited Alaska’s State Plan for CYSHCN and made priorities for the upcoming year.
 - ◆ Focusing on school-based health practice, medical transitions, and care coordination.
 - ◆ Partnered with SSG to update oral health educational information for CYSHCN.
- Home Visiting
 - ◆ Providence Nurse-Family Partnership – continue to serve low-income, first-time mothers with nurse home visitation services during pregnancy and until the child is age two. There are slots open in this program for Anchorage and Mat-Su.
 - ◆ Parents as Teachers – Three grantees, RuralCap, AEYC, and Kids Corp, Inc.
- Newborn Bloodspot Screening. WCFH is now contracting with an outside lab that is open seven days a week. This has allowed for a much quicker turnaround in getting results. WCFH also worked to change regulations that allowed WCFH to set up a courier system for hospitals to ship to the lab. This has been a success.
- Newborn Hearing Screening. This program is working with CHD to do family surveys related to the experience of and barriers to receiving screening, diagnosis, and early intervention services for children with hearing loss.
- Family Voice. WCFH has formalized a position in their section with John Cartwright to be the family engagement leader.

Northwest ADA Center

David Barton with the Northwest ADA Center stated that he works for a state regional office that covers Alaska, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. They specialize in providing technical assistance and guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act primarily. They are in place for people with disabilities as well as business owners and state and local government entities to provide guidance. He stated that they are there to answer questions, and he noted that he receives many questions from employers, typically about service animals.

David Barton stated that he is also a board member for the Alaska Human Rights Commission. He noted that the Alaska Human Rights law in some ways covers or provides greater protection for people with disabilities than the federal ADA law does. He noted that the Human Rights

Commission worked over the summer on modernizing their service animal laws and upgrading that regulation in terms of what would be covered. The newer regulation will define what service animals are and what they aren't.

David Barton stated that the Northwest ADA Center has created tools and fact sheets, and they also have available fact sheets from the National ADA Network.

David Barton fielded questions from the Council and concluded his presentation.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Heidi Frost, executive director of the SILC, stated that the SILC is a federally mandated council appointed by the Governor, but they are different than other councils and boards in that they are also a non-profit.

Heidi Frost stated that they are working on their next three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), which guides the state of Alaska on their independent living issues surrounding people with disabilities, especially when it refers to Centers for Independent Living. They are currently engaged in focus groups, and they have a survey out. They hope to plan a group meeting with their partners to determine what big issues are rising to the top that they can partner with the SILC on and not duplicate efforts.

Heidi Frost shared the following activities of the SILC:

- Emergency preparedness.
- Home Accessibility and Enabling Technology grant. Project for 12 individuals to do home accessibility studies and provide them with enabling technology such as assistive technology, medication management and telehealth.
- Service animals – make it illegal to have fake service animals, and have fines/penalties for fake service animals that injure real service animals. Would like to partner with the Council to do outreach to communities on this issue and to empower business owners as to what their rights are.
- Working with the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE). An Alaska chapter has been formed and needs to become more active and grow with new members.

Heidi Frost stated that she is resigning from the SILC effective November 30th. Council members took a moment to appreciate Heidi Frost for her years of service in Alaska.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Cindy Murphy-Fox stated that DVR is designed to help people get and keep employment. They work with individuals as young as 14, and there is no age cutoff on the other side. They now work in two different groupings, regular VR and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Cindy Murphy-Fox shared the following DVR highlights:

- 3,107 individuals received services from the VR program.
- \$3,202,274 was spent on direct client services.
- 1,327 new individuals applied for services; an additional 1,795 individuals received information and referral services.
- 95.5 percent of individuals receiving services were significantly disabled with multiple barriers to employment.
- 406 individuals exited the program employed with an average wage of \$15.25/hour.
 - ⇒ 336 were employed in the private sector
 - ⇒ 61 were employed in federal, state, or local government
 - ⇒ 9 were self-employed.
- 802 students with a disability received Pre-ETS.
- \$1,525,634 was spent on Pre-ETS.
- Military bases are being much more proactive in hiring people that experience disabilities.
- The Provisional Hire Program is still going with the State of Alaska, although it's been challenging to get people interviews in that program. DVR will be providing training on the Provisional Hire Program in all of the supervisor week-long trainings.
- In 2017 DVR's regulations were changed requiring DVR to record 342 data points on every person. Staff have been challenged balancing out the extra paperwork.
- DVR has seen a change this year in the number of people with psychosocial impairments they are serving. That demographic is now upwards of 43 percent of their caseloads.
- Other programs within the state that DVR participates with include Project SEARCH, Tapestry, and BEST.
- Individuals who have concerns about their DVR services can contact herself or DLC's Client Assistance Program (CAP) to help them resolve their issues.

Cindy Murphy-Fox fielded questions from Council members and concluded her report.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust)

Mike Abbott, CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, stated that in September the Trust took action on its FY'20 – '21 annual budgets based on recommendations from the beneficiary boards. The Trust is increasing its spending from \$29 million in the current year to \$32 million next year, which will allow them to grow their programmatic spending by about ten percent.

Mike Abbott stated that the finances of the Trust are very healthy. In addition to the roughly \$400 million of invested corpus of the Permanent Fund, they have \$100 million of operating reserves, which is the result of the Trustees and Trust leadership over the last 25 years.

Mike Abbott stated that the Trust is a perpetual entity with an infinite life span. They are managing the assets of the Trust for the long-term future, particularly when it comes to managing the million acres of lands. Not all of the lands have economic value today, and many of them will not be valuable in the near term. In terms of active management of their resources, they are looking at a perpetual endowment.

Mike Abbott stated that the Permanent Fund Corporation manages most of the Trust's invested assets, and the Department of Natural Resources manages the lands. The Trust's assets are commingled with the larger Alaska Permanent Fund, which has done very well as of late, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Fund has had the same returns as the Permanent Fund.

Mike Abbott stated that in terms of the legislative audit, he will be meeting with members of the Council over the next few weeks to get input on what the Trust should be doing to address concerns that were raised in the audit. He also noted that Jeff Jessee has accepted a small contract to help the Trust with this issue. Allison Biastock has recently joined the Trust as the new chief communications officer, and she will be working with the Trust team on making sure they're sharing information appropriately and ensuring their communications effort complements their programmatic work.

Mike Abbott stated that 2019 will be the 25th anniversary of the Trust Authority, and a celebration event will be planned.

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS)

Deb Etheridge, acting director of SDS, and Caitlin Rogers, IDD Unit manager, presented the SDS report to the Council as follows:

Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW) 1915(c)

- Go live, October 1, 2018.
- Of the 600 individuals pulled from the Registry to be considered for the ISW:
 - ◆ 228 individuals have been determined to meet ICF/IID level of care (LOC).
 - ◆ 8 individuals have been assessed and are in the scoring process for LOC determination.
 - ◆ 18 individuals are in the assessment process.
 - ◆ 9 individuals are awaiting assignment to an assessor.
 - ◆ 20 individuals have submitted an application, but it's not complete for a variety of reasons. The Division is communicating with care coordinators about what needs to be submitted.
 - ◆ 233 individuals have been offered the ISW but have not submitted applications or have not responded at all. These individuals will be sent notices informing them that they need to submit an application to the Division, or they will be closed and their slots made available to others.
 - ◆ 23 individuals have stated that they do not wish to pursue the ISW and were closed.
 - ◆ Three individuals were found to not have a qualifying diagnosis for an ICF/IID and therefore don't qualify for the ISW.
 - ◆ The remaining 50 individuals were referred to other waiver programs such as APDD or IDD.
 - ◆ All individuals who have not responded had received two attempted follow-up contacts. The IDD unit will begin working through an active cleanup process in early October for those who have not responded to the notice to proceed. The

cleanup process will allow vacant slots to be offered to those on the Registry.

Community Developmental Disabilities Grants (CDDG)

- Grant funds awarded at the beginning of FY'19 are available to be used through December 31.
- At this point, there are no additional grant funds that will become available after December 31.
- Individuals should begin transitioning October 1, 2018.

Short-Term Assistance and Referral (STAR)

- STAR program will be conflict free as of July 1, 2019.
- The Division is looking to rebrand the program to better represent its function as the front door to home and community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Division is asking for input from recipients and providers on the new program name.

Safety Net Grant Program

- Safety Net funds are currently being used to provide services to four individuals.
- Two individuals were referred through Omnibus Reconciliation Act, and two were referred from the IDD Unit.
- The funds are managed by Stone Soup Group.

Enabling Technology Grant

- Stakeholder group: SILC, SAIL, Kenai ILC, ATLA, SDS, and HCBS Strategies.
- Entering the final state of completing forms.
- Entering the final stages of operationalizing program structure with regards to assessments, installation, training, and ongoing monitoring.
- SILC will soon be issuing an RFP for a telehealth vendor who will offer ongoing remote monitoring services.

Electronic Visit Verification

- A requirement of the 21st Century Cures Act for all states to implement an electronic tracking of personal care services. Failure to do so results in a decreased amount of federal reimbursement for the personal care program. Senator Murkowski was instrumental in getting Congress to delay the start of this program by one year.
- The State has been involved in an ongoing engagement process statewide.
- Request for information (RFI) will go out soon to gain information about EVV vendors.
- The RFI, in combination with the stakeholder engagement that has been completed, will provide department with information on how the EVV can be implemented in Alaska.
- SDS and Health Care Services are collaborating on this effort.
- A statewide webinar will be held at the end of November, and anyone with questions or concerns about the EVV system can e-mail either Deb Etheridge or Allison Lee.

Transition Services

- The Division has identified transition services as a priority. Transition services may

include:

- ◆ Home assessments for environmental modifications
- ◆ Case management for up to 60 days prior to transition from an institution
- ◆ Transition costs such as:
 - ⇒ Lease/rental security deposits
 - ⇒ First month's rent
 - ⇒ Utility security deposits
 - ⇒ First month's utilities
 - ⇒ Basic household supplies
 - ⇒ Essential furniture
 - ⇒ Moving expenses.

Adult Companion Services

- Non-medical care, supervision, and socialization provided to a person age 18 or older.
- The adult companion service facilitates independence, promotes community inclusion, and prevents isolation.
- The service may also help the person work toward a community integration goal or maintain a habilitation goal contained in his or her support plan.
- The activities may occur in any community setting, including the individual's place of residence.

National Core Indicators: Staff Stability Survey

- This endeavor is a partnership between the Trust, the DD Vision Systems Collaborative, and SDS.
- This survey will collect data on turnover, wages, benefits, and recruitment/retention strategies. This will provide information on the impact of DSP workforce initiatives currently in the planning stages.
- Timeline:
 - ◆ January 2019 –a link will be sent to providers certified for IDD and ISW waiver programs.
 - ◆ June 30, 2019 – deadline to complete the survey.
 - ◆ Fall 2019 – Alaska data will be available.

Supported Employment

- In 2016 and 2017 SDS received technical assistance from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services to accomplish supported employment reform. Outcome of the technical assistance:
 - ◆ A thorough review of the employment services offered by the 1915(c) waiver.
 - ◆ A draft version of the supported employment regulations and conditions of participation.
 - ◆ Completed and signed memorandum of understanding between DVR and SDS.
- The next step is the Division review of draft regulations and conditions of participation and seek stakeholder input.
- Memorandum of understanding between DVR and SDS has resulted in:
 - ◆ Quarterly meetings between the two divisions.

- ◆ Training provided to DVR counselors on SDS services and practices.
- ◆ Development of a desk reference tool to be used by both DVR counselors and SDS waiver reviewers.
- The Division continues to partner with DVR to develop the relationship between the two divisions and ensure that any barriers to navigating the services provided by each division are eliminated.
- In May 2018 SDS, in partnership with the Council, attended the National Governors Center for Best Practices Learning Lab.
- Outcome of the learning lab - SDS and the Council developed and presented four main goals to the Governor's office related to employment:
 - ◆ Enhance State as a Model Employer efforts within Alaska state government.
 - ◆ Enhance apprenticeship opportunities for Alaskans with disabilities.
 - ◆ Initiate an Employment First taskforce or commission called "Alaska Work Matters."
 - ◆ Enhance Alaska's re-entry process and system making employment and work experience an area of even stronger focus.
- In November 2018 SDS will partner with the Council to meet with Elizabeth Whitehouse, who is the lead author of The Council of State Governments' policy framework for disability employment entitled "Work Matters."
- The meeting is to discuss the Council's work on disability employment and identify how the policy framework may assist SDS in meeting supported employment service reform goals.

WellSky

- Mediware is now named WellSky.
- The Division does not have a set date for care coordinators to be in the system. The Division must first ensure that records are de-duplicated.
- Currently working on phase 3.

Deb Etheridge and Caitlin Rogers fielded questions from Council members. In response to a question regarding legislation regarding DSP acuity rate of pay, Deb Etheridge stated that in a past session there was a bill introduced specifically to address this issue for individuals with really high needs and that waivers weren't adequate to meet their needs in the community. The bill fell flat. She noted that if legislation does come out this year, they have to ensure they have the fiscal support to make that change, but she agreed that there needs to be more conversation about the need for acuity.

FY'18 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REVIEW (PPR)

Lanny Mommsen passed out hard copies of the PPR surveys for Council members to fill out during the meeting. Electronic copies will be delivered to Council members that requested them.

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Patrick Reinhart engaged Council members in a discussion of potential legislative priorities the Council would like to pursue based on the reports provided at this meeting. Suggestions

included:

- Acuity rate.
- Companion services.
- Human Rights Commission's work on service animals.
- Trust's ability to do investment strategies with their land and assets.
- Request a meeting with the Governor.
- Medicaid budget.
- Alaska Mobility Coalition will again ask for match funding.
- Utilize the neurodevelopmental pediatricians that are now in state instead of physicians making referrals to doctors out of state – Medicaid reimbursement for training in Alaska.
- Reauthorization of SESA.
- Long-acting reversible contraception available to everyone as a method of reducing instances of FASDs. CMS has a bulletin that states it will be covered in the state of Alaska, but the State hasn't done anything with it.
- Advocate for the EMPOWER Act.
- Advocate for the ABLE Act.
- Need to have a voice in the 1115 Behavioral Health demonstration waiver.
- Follow up on the durable medical equipment reuse/recycle program.
- Continued follow up on those individuals who will fall through the cracks without the support of the CDDG, individuals with FASD, TBI, developmental disabilities, dementia and Alzheimer's disease that don't meet level of care for the waiver. These individuals need only limited supports to function well in the communities, and there isn't anything available for them. Typical services needed would include medication reminders, payee services, case management, and crisis intervention when it arises. It could be a possible demonstration project with the Trust and could be combined with technology.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- February 5 – 6, 2019, Juneau with Key Campaign February 7 – 8
- May 6, 7, or 14, Zoom webinar/teleconference
- October 2 – 3, 2019, Anchorage (pre-meeting for Autism or FASD on October 1).

ADJOURN

Anthony Cravalho **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by **Art Delaune**. Hearing no objection, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.