

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting

LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Date
August 23, 2010

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Ric Nelson, Chair
Emily Ennis
Marcy Rein
Fred Villa
Kaleene Lamb

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Duane Mayes
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:30 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Kathy Fitzgerald announced that there will be new members to the Council, but they are not official yet.

Duane Mayes announced that the Council newsletter is in draft form right now and is in the process of being finalized.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Duane Mayes added a discussion on reviewing draft regulations under new business.

Fred Villa **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Kaleene Lamb **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2010 meeting. The approval of the minutes **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Duane Mayes stated that there is no correspondence to report on at this time.

REPORTS

Executive Committee / Chair's Report

Ric Nelson stated that the Executive Committee will have their next meeting on September 7th.

Division of Senior and Disability Services

Marcy Rein announced that she is leaving the Division, and her last day will be September 17th. She asked that Carrie Predeger add Kim Poppe-Smart to the e-mail list for the DD Committee in the interim.

Marcy inquired about SDS participation in the DD Committee meetings and whether or not it is more important to have the same representative present or any representative present. She also noted that upon reviewing the minutes from past meetings, there was SDS representation at the last six meetings. Ric Nelson clarified that the committee would prefer to have the same person representing SDS at the meetings. Marcy Rein stated that the health program manager 3 that they are advertising for will be the person that sits on this committee.

Marcy stated that there are other vacancies the Division is recruiting for and these are health program managers that will be doing assessments, waiver reviews, and DD eligibilities.

Marcy Rein stated that she submitted her autism report to Carrie Predeger, which is a snapshot of the people SDS served or is on their radar who experience an autism spectrum diagnosis.

Marcy stated that they are in the process of changing the term mentally retarded to intellectual disabilities in their regulations. She stated that it is complicated, but they are working on it. She stated that they are making the changes during the continual process of rewriting regulations and adopting service standards.

Marcy Rein explained that one of the things they are doing specifically related to the standards is scheduling some stakeholder meetings to find out what people think should be in the standards. The idea is that they will have service standards for each service on the waiver.

Marcy stated that they continue to do corrective action plan work as well as working on remediation of problems they find, because the feds are requiring that they do 100 percent of individual remediation and then track it. They also have to track it on a systems level.

She stated that they are also working on other things like a care coordination status report as a way to make sure SDS's data is correct and communication is happening back and forth. They are also working actively on training activities.

Marcy stated that in order to get the backlog of assessments up to date, the

State hired short-term, non-perm positions, and those positions have all expired. They are trying to prevent another backlog by rescheduling assessments and backing them up and trying to spread them out throughout the year.

Ric Nelson asked if people will lose their waiver services if their assessment isn't completed on time. Marcy replied that they will not. People who are in jeopardy of losing their waiver will be provided plenty of warning before that happens. She stated that if it is the State's fault that an assessment didn't get completed, they will extend the plans of care to make sure none of the recipients suffer.

Dayna McGuire asked about the status of the long-term care stakeholders meeting. Marcy Rein explained that she hasn't heard anything more about it, and she would anticipate a bit of a lag while the decision is made on the director's position. They are also in a budget cycle, which has taken up quite a bit of time as well.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked if there has been any discussion regarding the use of the ICAP and the Supports Intensity Scale. Marcy explained that they have been researching other states and are finding that some states are using a combination of assessment tools because no one tool is strong in all the areas needed. She stated that they are looking at a couple of different things and they did have an all-day brainstorming session about it. She stated that the weakness of the Supports Intensity Scale is the ability to use it as an eligibility determination, so the ICAP will primarily be the eligibility determination tool. She stated that SDS could use the Council's help in researching and providing evidence to support whatever tool the Council recommends.

Duane Mayes asked Marcy what is currently happening around the quality assurance piece. Marcy stated that Jerri Vansandt is the quality assurance manager now. They have moved staff over into that unit and are looking at restructuring it slightly. They are actively working on policy development and redoing the site review criteria. She stated that the data management system will also continue to evolve. Duane suggested inviting Jerri Vansandt to a DD Committee meeting.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked if in this tight budget year Marcy has heard anything about changing the wait list quarterly draw numbers. Marcy stated that she hasn't heard anything to suggest that it would change.

Marcy Rein stated that she has appreciated the experience of working with the DD Committee and has appreciated the people and concluded her report.

AADD

Emily Ennis stated that they are planning their fall face-to-face meeting in Anchorage, October 28th and 29th in the Trust conference room. The agenda is in draft form and she shared it with the committee members.

Emily highlighted that one of their presentations will be from Therap Services. They have an online documentation system that is being used by providers around the country and it is an excellent system for compiling Medicaid documentation, case notes, incident reporting and connecting with billing. She stated that it has been very helpful for providers in the Lower 48 in preparing for Medicaid audits.

Emily Ennis stated that she will be asking committee members to suggest moderators for the break-out sessions of the meeting.

Emily invited the committee members to attend the face-to-face meeting and concluded her report.

Council Report

Duane Mayes stated that they presented their recommendations to the Trust finance committee where they learned that there is no additional money. He stated that Alison Elgee also spoke and noted that the Governor has said to hold the line with the current budgets, no new increments. Duane stated that even with this news, there is strong support for the Center of Excellence Hub, and Alison wants to gather the support of the Trust and the beneficiary boards to hopefully move forward with that recommendation.

Duane stated that in the Key Coalition meeting, they were not happy with some of the information that came out of the draft report from the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, but they were happy with the Center of Excellence Hub.

Key Coalition

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that she, Ric Nelson and Duane Mayes participated in the last meeting. She stated that there was a lot of discussion about the board make up and some of the issues.

Kathy stated that Key Campaign has been set for February 22nd and 23rd. Issues they thought were important include regulations, direct service worker's wages and autism insurance.

Duane Mayes added that Key Coalition did not think that the removal of the HSGQE fits with the Key Coalition and their efforts. Kathy Fitzgerald added that they will support any legislation that comes out, but currently there is nothing for Key to advocate for or against at this point with the HGGQE.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft FY'11 Work Plan

Due to time restrictions, the review of the draft FY'11 work plan was tabled until the next meeting. Kathy Fitzgerald asked committee members to review the draft work plan and e-mail Carrie Predeger with any suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Draft Regulations

Duane Mayes and Carrie Predeger stated that Teresa Holt summarizes new regulations and policy changes that are up for review for the committees that she supports. In the past Teresa has asked for Jackie Hill's input as an attorney to make sense of the regs and put them into a user-friendly format for the laypeople on the committees to understand. Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they should speak to Dave Fleurant to recruit an attorney who would like to sit on the Council. She suggested Mark Regan as a possibility.

Duane stated that he and Carrie will work on summarizing the draft regs and send those out for committee review.

Carrie Predeger stated that one of the regulations coming up for review deals with the dental payment rate. She stated that overall, most of the changes in the regulation are positive.

Carrie explained that the other regulation out for review has do deal with Medicaid compliance with federal law. Duane Mayes stated that he and Carrie will research it further and sent out a summary to the committee.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next teleconference is scheduled for September 20, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The DD Committee adjourned at 4:25 p.m.