

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
September 20, 2010

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Ric Nelson, Chair
Emily Ennis
Steve Lesko
Kelly Donnelly
Sean O'Brien
Kaleene Lamb
Maureen Harwood

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Duane Mayes
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:34 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

There were no announcements to report at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2010 meeting. The approval of the minutes **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

REPORTS

Executive Committee / Chair's Report

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Executive Committee met to review the upcoming Council meeting agenda.

Kathy stated that she spoke to Dave Fleurant from Disability Law Center regarding the DD Committee's process for reviewing regulations. Mark Regan will be reviewing the regulations and working with Duane and Carrie on them.

Kathy stated that she, Ric and Duane attended the Southcentral community forums for the five year plan. She stated that they learned that there is no local DD provider in Petersburg and noted the lack of information they receive.

Division of Senior and Disability Services

Maureen Harwood stated that Marcy is no longer with the State. They still don't have a DD Program III person yet, but she believes that they are interviewing for that this week.

Maureen stated that there are some program standards that are out and some public meetings for day habilitation and residential habilitation. She noted that there will be public comment the first week in October.

Maureen stated that there will be a waiver draw the first week of October, and they have been working to make sure the wait list is up to date. She also noted that they have been sending notices to people who they haven't heard from since 2007. She noted that the current wait list is at 900. She stated that if people have questions about the wait list, they can contact Caroline Hogan, Summer Ashcraft or Melissa Erickson.

Maureen also noted that they are not going to make the October 1 deadline for the rate regulations that were out for comment.

Maureen also noted that maybe she can ask Leanna Rein to present about the assessments at the next DD Committee meeting.

Steve Lesko asked Maureen to investigate what comprised the \$18 million fiscal note that was attached to last year's SB 32, the rate review. Maureen stated that she will ask.

AADD

Emily Ennis stated that the four topics AADD has been most interested in right now are the Governor's new Medicaid task force, which does not have a seat for a provider; the new Medicaid regulations and following the new rates and rate methodology; the status of the corrective action plan and receiving a copy of the changes that have been made as well as the final version; and the quarterly report narrative and the burden it puts on provider agencies.

Emily stated that they have their face-to-face meeting scheduled for October 28 and 29 at the Alaska Mental Health Trust office.

Council Report

Duane Mayes stated that they are pleased to have Mark Regan with the

Disability Law Center to address the legal components of the draft regulations.

Duane stated that he will be producing a summary of some consolidated housing and community development plans for Alaska draft regulations. He stated that the deadline to respond to it is September 24th. Kathy Fitzgerald added that it would be important for the DD community to be represented at the HUD office for open public comment on this issue. She asked Duane or Carrie to send that information out about the public comment so they can forward it to families and providers.

Duane Mayes stated that they had three community forums in Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka, and they also had some agency visits during their trip. He stated that in the current five-year State Plan, the issues they are working on are workforce development, access to services, self-determination, quality assurance, and appropriate assessment for students in special education. He stated that at the public forums in those communities, they learned that those five should probably be rolled forward into the new five-year State Plan, but they will wait to see what they hear in the other communities around the state.

Duane noted that the next trip for the five-year State Plan will be the Early Intervention Committee in Nome for their face-to-face meeting. The Education Committee will be in Barrow doing the same thing in November.

Duane stated there was a Trust finance committee meeting at the beginning of August and they attended the Trust board meeting in September. He stated that they have heard from the Governor that there are no new increments this year, but the one thing that the Department is planning on addressing is the Center for Excellence for people with challenging behaviors that are sent out of state. Duane also noted that the report from WICHE will be coming out at the end of September and the Council will forward that to members of this committee.

The housing work group met and they were successful in getting \$50,000 for FY'13. The funding is for research of the use of electronic or video monitoring systems through Rest Assured. He also noted that there may be funding available in FY'12 to go to Indiana to look at the Rest Assured model.

Duane stated that there is five acres of Trust land in Eagle River that Nancy Burke mentioned would be a possibility for an intentional community. He stated that he told Nancy that the DD Committee and Hope could play a major

role in a stakeholder group to look at what the design of that could look like.

Duane also noted that the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee has been doing some extensive work and research around the issue of using video conferencing to provide services and training in rural Alaska. The State Library Association recently received about \$5 million to increase their broadband capacity and the Council has been meeting with the State Library Association to discuss how the libraries could be used.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that at their last meeting, they discussed the fundamentals of their platform. The issues that they are bringing forward are the wait list, rate methodology, autism insurance, and the direct service provider increment.

Steve stated that Fairbanks Wall Busters are having a democratic forum on September 24th at FRA. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that Emily Ennis enlist Heidi Haas to give a presentation about the need for autism insurance.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft FY'11 Work Plan

1. Increase direct service workers to a living wage.

Suggested short-term goal: Educate and raise awareness this legislative session.

Suggested activities to support this short-term goal include:

- Create a political strategy that addresses the long-term goal
- Pull together a work group to look at what data is available
- Follow up with the workforce development subcommittee and have a member of the DD Committee sit on that subcommittee
- Build in awareness that this is not a new program, but rather an investment in workforce that would allow people to transition from public benefits
- Have Millie Ryan or Karen Ward present to the DD Committee on where they are and what data they have gathered

- Have the Council staff generate a white paper with information gathered from the Trust and CHD on the three components of the workforce investments, wages and benefits, current data, and future projections so they can create some talking points and begin to educate
- Get data from SDS about how much Medicaid waiver billing did not take place due to lack of DSPs.

Steve Lesko commented that this is information easily gathered from provider agencies. Emily Ennis suggested talking to Steve about developing a survey for providers to determine the reasons for not being able to provide services in a plan of care.

2. Continue to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee on Autism to develop, support and make recommendations to the legislature.

Suggested short-term goal: Create a comprehensive system of care for individuals with autism.

Suggested activities include:

- Reconvene the Autism Ad Hoc Committee
- Evaluate the status of the five autism focus areas
- Address services for adults with autism
- Family coaching model
- Standards and expectations for what families should be receiving from someone with a BCBA certification.

3. Establish a housing work group to look at affordable transitional housing resources for people with developmental disabilities.

Suggested revised long-term goal: Develop and increase housing options for people with developmental disabilities.

Suggested intermediate goal: Research the current housing stock with a focus on accessibility.

Suggested activities include:

- Creating a sub-housing workgroup for the DD Committee.

4. Advocate for the implementation of ISIS.

Suggested short-term goal: Review the draft WICHE report and monitor how the system is implemented.

5. Work with Key Coalition and the AADD to implement and develop a State rate methodology and review process.

Steve Lesko will address the methodology piece of this goal.

6. Ongoing

- D. Ric Nelson volunteered.
- E. Ric Nelson volunteered.
- F. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested taking quality assurance out of the “ongoing” section and making it a new Goal 6. Ric Nelson will be the lead on this goal.
- I. Look at the creation of a subgroup to work on Medicaid issues after they complete their public forums for the five-year State Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Housing and Community Development Plan for Alaska FY 2010

Duane will review the report and report back to the committee on the time for public testimony. He will try to draft some talking points for those who will give public testimony.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next teleconference is scheduled for October 25th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The DD Committee adjourned at 4:22 p.m.