

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  
March 7, 2011

Attendees:

Art Delaune  
Kelly Donnelly  
Emily Ennis  
Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair  
Kaleene Lamb  
Steve Lesko  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Lucy Odden  
Missy Williams

Staff:

Carrie Predeger  
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS**

Kathy Fitzgerald introduced Missy Williams, who is the new Health Program Manager III at SDS and is a new member on the committee.

Lucy Odden announced that she is working at her new job as a receptionist and she really likes it.

Ric Nelson announced that Dayna McGuire had her baby. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

There were no objections to the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Carrie Predeger stated that the Council wrote a letter of support for continuation of the LEND, which is run through the Center for Human Development.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that while they were in Juneau, they had met with Mike at the Governor's office and requested information from him. They received an e-mail communication from Mike who informed them that the Hub was not in the Governor's budget but that things may be hopeful for the autism insurance. There was also discussion regarding the domestic violence initiative and how that affects people with disabilities.

**REPORTS**

**Chair's Report**

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that she and Millie Ryan and Ric Nelson attended the disability policy seminar in D.C. They are now in the process of following up on that.

Kathy stated that she spoke with Virginia Smiley in Reggie Joule's office and Virginia will remind him that the Council, in conjunction with Key Coalition, is pushing for the autism bill and the Hub.

## **Developmental Disability Program**

Missy Williams stated that at this time, she does not have the statistical data on the waitlist.

## **AADD**

Emily Ennis stated that they had a great AADD meeting, but it was unfortunately overshadowed by the concerns that providers are facing with the new regulations. She stated that they had a chance to meet with the new commissioner, Duane Mayes, and Jack Nielson to discuss their concerns, particularly with the IAT and nursing oversight. She stated that they are not sure that the transition to the new rates will work.

Emily stated they are also waiting to see how the acuity rates come out

Emily Ennis stated that because providers are going to be using some new cost methodology, AADD wants to assist the providers with any technical help so they can monitor their costs and report them in the way the new methodology requires.

Emily concluded her report by stating that it was a great Key Campaign, and it was good to have so many members of AADD there to participate.

## **Council**

Teresa Holt stated that the Council will be meeting in Seward during the first week of May. This is their year to do the Council's five-year plan. She stated that they had a phenomenal response back on the surveys for the five-year plan. She and Carrie will be researching demographics and pulling together comments, plus public forum comments, and get the plan completed and out to the public some time in June. Teresa noted that there will be more public

forums coming up in Cordova, Mat-Su, Kenai, Homer, Ketchikan, Eagle River, and Anchorage.

Kathy Fitzgerald extended an invitation for the members at large to attend the May meeting in Seward.

### **Executive Committee**

Ric Nelson stated that the Executive Committee has not met and there is nothing to report.

### **Key Coalition**

Steve Lesko stated that it was a really good Key XXIV, and the weather was beautiful. He stated that they made headway with the Lieutenant Governor and his office.

Steve stated that one of the legislators is considering sponsoring a bill similar to SB 32 next year.

Steve stated that they brought really good advocates with them this year that touched the hearts and minds of many legislators. He stated that he believes they did a lot of education this year and set the stage for next year. He also feels that there is a shift back towards partnership within the State departments.

### **Supported Employment**

Jennifer Jones was unavailable to give a report. Kathy Fitzgerald asked to put supported employment on the agenda for next month. She also asked Kelly Donnelly to talk about mini grants at next month's meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **HCBS Waiver Re-Write Update**

Kathy Fitzgerald shared the history of the DD Committee's subcommittee that had made recommendations to SDS for the waiver re-writes. She stated that the recommendations were not included in the waiver re-writes.

Carrie Predeger stated that Millie Ryan met with Angela Salerno. The consensus was that SDS was going to submit what they had done as is, and then meet again with the Council in April to discuss their recommendations and possible amendments.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the CCMC is going forward without much change. The MR/DD waiver is now going forward as the ID/DD waiver with very few changes other than the language change. Kathy stated that there will be a waiver called ID/APD, and people who don't have the ID or DD label will receive their waiver through a combined the APD and Older Alaskans waiver. The Older Alaskan/APD waiver is changing in that the age is going down from 65 to 21. SDS is still looking for a new name for the OA/APD waiver.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SB-86, HB-150, Legislation for Vulnerable Adults**

Teresa Holt stated that this was a bill introduced by the Governor's office as a part of the domestic violence initiative. The purpose of the bills is to strengthen the law against financial exploitation and undue influence of vulnerable adults. She noted that one thing the bills don't do is require financial institutions to report if they suspect something is going on.

### **IAT and Nursing Oversight Draft Policy**

Missy Williams stated that the draft policy is on hold and things are back to where they were before the new regs came out. SDS and the Office of Rate Review are going to work together to determine what rate and conversion plan will work, and they are going to be asking providers to provide data to them. SDS and ORR will use that data to determine how they need to move forward with the policy.

### **FY'12 President's Proposed Budget**

Carrie Predeger reviewed the President's proposed FY'12 budget highlights that pertain to disabilities as follows:

- Increases for ombudsman program from \$5 million to \$22 million
- Decrease to Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Flat funding for TBI grants to all the states

- Flat funding for DD councils, \$75 million
- Decrease for projects of national significance from \$14 million to \$8 million
- 35 percent decrease in Section 811 housing for people with disabilities
- Half a million dollar increase to the Department of Health & Human Services Office of Disability
- \$200 million increase for special education
- \$50 million increase for infants and toddlers program
- Level funding of \$8 million for Special Olympics
- \$10 million for life span respite programs (seniors), a 400 percent increase
- \$192 million for the family support caregiver program (seniors).

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that she will write up a report on the disability policy summit she attended, but she stated that in addition to housing being cut, they were also talking about major staffing changes to Social Security. The other major discussion at the summit was around health care. She also noted that there are proposed cuts in funding for the HAVA program as well.

Kathy also noted that the TAPESTRY grant that the Center for Human Development received is now up in the air. It hasn't been cut yet, but it is potentially on the chopping block.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next DD Committee teleconference is scheduled for April 4, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

The DD Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.