

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
April 4, 2011

Attendees:

Art Delaune
Emily Ennis
Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Steve Lesko
Ric Nelson, Chair
Sean O'Brien
Steve Williams
Missy Williams

Staff:

Carrie Predeger
Teresa Holt

Guests:

Bryan Knight

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Bryan Knight announced that he moved into his new condo a few days ago, and he is very happy. He is also excited that he does not have a roommate.

Teresa Holt announced that Jennifer Jones has been hired to staff the Rural Ad Hoc, Education, and Early Intervention committees.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that the Council wrote a letter to the State of Alaska Medicaid Task Force about the proposed options for cost savings.

Carrie stated that they will also write a letter of support for Parks for All, which is trying to gather funds to build an accessible park at Cuddy Park in Anchorage.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they are getting ready for the May Council meeting and developing the five-year plan.

Kathy stated that she attended the legislative hearing on the autism insurance bill. It is sitting in Labor and Commerce right now.

Teresa Holt added that she heard that the legislature voted for an extended

session next year.

Developmental Disability Program

Missy Williams stated that they will be drawing 52 people today for the waiver.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked Missy for an updated version of the report for the Council similar to what Marcy Rein used to do. Missy stated that she can get that to the committee the first week of May. Teresa Holt asked if she could get it done for their meeting about the five-year plan because she needs that information. Missy stated that she would do that. Kathy also asked Missy for the waitlist annual report to the legislature.

In response to Ric Nelson's questions, Missy Williams stated that they sent in the applications for the waivers last Friday. She also stated that there are no new regulations out on specialized medical equipment, and she noted that anything that might possibly go into the regulations will go out for public comment first.

Emily Ennis asked Missy Williams for an explanation of why waiver renewals for supported employment services were denied for people who had reached the age of 64. Missy stated that they are looking for clarification on that.

AADD

Emily Ennis stated that AADD has been following the legislative session. In addition, they have been focusing on the draft service standards, which are policies that SDS has been involved in developing as part of the corrective action plan. She stated that the standards have a few conflicts, and another review session has been scheduled to answer providers' questions.

Emily stated that the biggest concern they saw was a requirement for a number of services that direct service staff would need six months' experience in providing similar services or very closely related work. She stated that in theory it would be wonderful, but it just hasn't been possible.

Another concern was limiting day habilitation to locations outside a home or residential setting in rural areas. There was also some confusing language about management or supervisory staff on site, in some cases 20 hours a week or more in places such as supported living residences.

Executive Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Executive Committee has been focused on the upcoming May Council meeting.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that Key Coalition had a teleconference and they brainstormed strategies for the remainder of the legislative session.

NEW BUSINESS

Review FY'11 Work Plan and Recommended Priorities for FY'12 Work Plan

Goal 1 - DSP Living Wage

Long-Term Goal: Increase direct service workers to a living wage.

Short-Term Goal: Raise awareness and educate policy makers and the community on the need for increased wages for DSPs.

Committee members agreed to keep this goal for the FY'12 work plan and move it to the second priority.

Suggestions for activities:

- Increase or update the data regarding workforce projection and shortage studies as well as the wages and benefits study.
- Committee members should forward any studies or data they find to Carrie Predeger.
- Emily Ennis will gather data from ANCOR.
- Do a Midwest Academy plan after the May Council meeting.
- Gather minutes and information from the wage and benefit subcommittee from Kathy Craft.

Goal 2 - Autism

Long-Term Goal: Create and implement a comprehensive system of care for individuals with autism in Alaska.

Short-Term Goal: Develop a payment source through insurance and Medicaid for autism services.

Committee members agreed to keep this goal for the FY'12 work plan and move it to the fourth priority.

Goal 3 - Housing

Long-Term Goal: Establish a housing work group to look at affordable housing options for people with developmental disabilities.

Short-Term Goal: Review housing statistics and focus on accessibility.

Committee members agreed to keep this goal on the FY'12 work plan and move it to the sixth priority.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that there is no more funding for Section 8 vouchers, and she isn't sure how that will impact all the beneficiary groups.

Teresa Holt added that eight slots for people with disabilities were cut from Chugach Manor, but she also understood that many of the folks with disabilities didn't want to live in a senior community anyway. They would rather wait for low-income housing.

Suggestions for activities:

- Advocate for not losing any disabled housing slots.
- Rewrite the goals. Carrie and Teresa will draft new goals and send it to committee members for their review prior to proposing the goal at the May Council meeting.

Goal 4 - Complex Behaviors Collaborative

Long-Term Goal: Alaska has a flexible, responsive and effective system in place to support individuals with cognitive disability and complex behaviors.

Short-Term Goal: Establish and implement in FY'11 and '12 the Hub component to the Alaska Complex Behaviors Collaborative.

Committee members agreed to keep this goal on the FY'12 work plan and move it up to the third priority.

Suggestions for activities:

- Review the other two components of the WICHE study and endorse them or suggest some kind of alternatives to them.

Goal 5 - Rate Methodology

Long-Term Goal: Implement a state rate methodology in statute for

community disability programs, equivalent to the existing process that governs hospitals and nursing homes.

Short-Term Goal: Introduce legislation that parallels and encapsulates the scope and intent of SB 32.

Committee members agreed to keep this goal on the FY'12 work plan and move it up to the first priority.

Suggestions for activities:

- Rewrite the goals. Carrie and Teresa will draft new goals and send it to committee members for their review prior to proposing the goal at the May Council meeting.

Goal 6 – Self-Advocacy

Teresa Holt stated that the DD Committee needs to have a goal around self-advocacy that addresses the following:

- Establish or strengthen a program for direct funding for a state self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.
- Support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

This goal will be the fifth priority on the FY'12 work plan.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee teleconference is scheduled for June 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The DD Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.