

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

June 6, 2011  
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune  
Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair  
Tara Horton  
Kaleene Lamb  
Steve Lesko  
Ric Nelson, Chair  
Bob Petersen  
Kelly Donnelly  
Bryan Knight

Staff:

Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones  
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS**

Ric Nelson announced that he was elected vice-chair of the Council.

Bryan Knight announced that his parents are coming up for a visit.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Kelly Donnelly **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Carrie Predeger stated that the Council wrote a letter of support to the DLC's Autism Speaks grant for families to transition from ILP to pre-school.

**REPORTS**

*Chair's Report*

Ric Nelson stated that the Council meeting in Seward went really well. They developed the Five-Year State Plan during the meeting.

Teresa Holt added that the Five-Year State Plan is out for comment and is accessible from the Council's website under headlines. She stated that public comment is due by July 15<sup>th</sup> and she encouraged all committee members to provide comment.

Ric Nelson stated that he did a commercial for the "You Know Me" campaign.

## Senior and Disability Services

Carrie Predeger reviewed the waitlist report she received from SDS as follows:

- 895 people on the wait list as of last week
- Scores of people on the wait list range from 0 to 123 with an average of 21, and a median and mode of 0
- Percentage of individuals with a score of 0 is 28 percent
- Average age is 18 and the range is 0 to 73 years old.

Carrie Predeger commented that a helpful score might be the average score of people pulled from the wait list during the most recent draw.

## AADD

There was no report available from AADD. Committee members discussed inviting a replacement from AADD to participate in DD Committee meetings during Emily Ennis's three-month sabbatical, particularly given the current issues regarding Medicaid cost containment. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested Lynn Kenney or John Cannon. Carrie Predeger will contact Lynn Kenney.

## Executive Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Executive Committee met in Seward during the Council meeting. They spent time preparing for a meeting with the Trustees, who wanted to ask questions of the beneficiary boards on how the boards developed their recommendations to the Trust. Kathy felt that the meeting with the Trustees was for relationship building purposes and for the Trustees to get a feel about what is important to the boards and how the Trust could be more responsive to their needs.

## Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that Key will be holding a fundraiser in Anchorage this summer to both raise funds for Key and also to expand their membership. He noted that Fairbanks will probably do a fundraiser as well.

Steve stated that they will also have one planning meeting before fall to begin gearing up for Key 25 and to discuss their legislative platform and priorities.

### Supported Employment

Jennifer Jones stated that in April they hosted a meeting right before Full Lives to pull together and rejuvenate the self-advocate movement in the state. They decided to form their advocacy around employment issues and getting supported employment back up to the level they were at years ago. They are planning a follow-up meeting to that discussion.

Jennifer stated that supported employment has not been high on the agenda at SDS because of the Medicaid reapplication. She stated that now they have formed a collaborative team between SDS and DVR and other folks that can form some changes with regard to supported employment.

Ric Nelson commented that an outside partner agency would be good representation on this collaborative. Jennifer Jones stated that she will bring that up and suggest that they have some advocates at the table.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Approved Priorities for FY'12

1. Rate review: Advocate for the implementation of a state rate methodology in statute for community disability programs equivalent to the existing process that governs hospitals and nursing homes
2. DSP living wage: Advocate for increasing direct service workers to a living wage.
3. Autism Insurance
4. Alaska Comprehensive Behaviors Collaborative (the Hub): Advocate for the establishment and implementation of the Hub component of the Alaska Complex Behaviors Collaborative ensuring that the Hub meets the need of persons with developmental disabilities.
5. Support self-advocacy organization

6. Housing: Support capacity building activities that increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.

### Chugach Manor Designated Housing Plan

Teresa Holt stated that a letter came out from the feds that stated that there is a new plan to designate the 104 units at Chugach Manor for elderly families only. Chugach Manor features 12 wheelchair accessible units and four sight and sound modified units. Teresa further explained that AHFC made assurances to Chugach Manor residents, board of directors and service partner agencies that no tenants currently residing in the complex will be asked to relocate as a result of this designation.

She further read that an on-site property manager will schedule an appointment with residents aged 61 or below, during which time tenants will be made aware of possible relocation options within the Anchorage community including transfer rights to a comparable unit, etc. In the event that a younger disabled resident of Chugach Manor agrees to relocate to comparable housing within the Municipality of Anchorage, AHFC will pay all actual and reasonable moving expenses subject to compliance with lease and family obligations.

Teresa Holt suggested that the committee may want to send a letter to James Gurke at AHFC asking if there are 16 additional disability designated housing units being added elsewhere. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested doing that and inviting him to the next DD Committee meeting to determine what AHFC is going to do to ensure that this change is not at the expense of deleting housing slots from people with disabilities.

### Cost Containment for Waivers and PCA Services

Teresa Holt stated that this is on the agenda because she had heard that the commissioner of Health and Social Services was going to look specifically at cost containment for Medicaid and PCA service programs. She will follow up with Lynn Kenney to get further information about what AADD has learned about this.

### Five-Year State Plan

Teresa Holt reiterated that the Five-Year State Plan is available for comment through the Council website.

### Trust RFR Budget Recommendations

Kathy Fitzgerald reiterated that the Council's budget committee will meet on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Teresa Holt added that the recommendations will likely remain the same from last year because they didn't receive anything that they asked for last year other than some money for the Hub.

### SDS Federal Site Review Listening Session, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Teresa Holt stated that CMS is interested in hearing from stakeholders regarding improvements in the waiver operation recently implemented, what is currently in the process of being improved, and what still needs to be improved.

Teresa explained that people can call in or show up in person to participate. Waiver recipients and advocates can call in between 1:30 and 2:30, and provider organizations can call in from 3:30 to 4:30.

Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson commented that from their perspectives, things have not improved at all and there just seems to be more paperwork and more headaches.

Teresa Holt stated that she prepared comment from the Council based on the recommended changes the Council previously prepared. Carrie Predeger will e-mail committee members a copy of it.

### Other Business for the Good of the Order

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that because there are so many issues out there right now, she would like to see the DD Committee have a meeting with AADD to get their perspective on how things are going for them. She believes that this will make them more prepared to sit down with SDS to talk about the issues in an informed manner.

Kathy stated that she would also like to have a meeting with self-advocates to see how things are working for them.

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The DD Committee teleconference schedule is as follows:

- July 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
- August 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

The committee discussed having their face-to-face meeting September 15 – 16. Possible meeting locations suggested include: Sitka, Fairbanks, Juneau, Delta Junction, and Homer.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.