

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

November 7, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Kaleene Lamb
Ric Nelson
Sean O'Brien
Art Delaune
Kathi Potter

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger
Millie Ryan
Marcy Rein

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Kathy Fitzgerald recited the Council's mission statement.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Kaleene Lamb announced that she will be the highlighted member in the fall newsletter of the Council.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson suggested a discussion about the proposed service rates. Kathy Fitzgerald added it under Old Business. Teresa Holt noted a correction of the date for the next meeting: December 5th. Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda with changes. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that Carrie Predeger and Teresa Holt worked really hard to get the Council's formal responses to the proposed changes sent out on October 31st, and it was also e-mailed to everyone.

Teresa Holt stated that Eric wrote a letter to the commissioner informing him of our new Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform.

Teresa Holt reported that Millie Ryan and Eric Gebhart followed up and sent the recommendations from the Council meeting for the Medicaid Super Committee to all three congressmen.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that Eric Gebhart sent a letter to Senator Murkowski about the Super Committee.

WORK PLAN

Rate Review

Kathi Potter stated that the rate review proposed regulation changes would be released December 1st.

DSP Living Wage

Teresa Holt said that Carrie Predeger e-mailed a work force fact sheet to Committee members which stated that living wage for a parent with one child is \$18.25, but most direct care workers make \$12 to \$15 an hour. Turnover rate is 40 to 60 percent, and turnover costs can be up to \$8,000. She stated that there is also a wage and benefits advocacy tool kit and the plan from the Trust, but it doesn't really focus on direct care workers.

Kathy Fitzgerald said that Tom Chard is overseeing the work force subcommittee on direct care wages, and he told her that the Trust is going to sponsor a study on how to increase direct service workers' wages in a way that doesn't cause them to lose other benefits such as child care and end up worse off than before. Teresa Holt added that Tom Chard had told her that he could probably come to a committee meeting in January to talk about it.

Autism Insurance: Midwest Academy

Kathy Fitzgerald noted that autism insurance has long been a Council priority. The bill has been previously introduced and failed, and tomorrow they'll be doing a strategic plan for how to make it happen. We have been corresponding with Lorri Unumb and Mike Wasmer from Autism Speaks about strategies that have worked in other states.

Dayna McGuire stated that she and Ric made a PowerPoint presentation on the issue for a class and have presented it to an agency in Anchorage. She offered it for others to show people to gain support for the bill.

Kathy Fitzgerald noted that Lorri Unumb also has a fabulous persuasive presentation.

Alaska Comprehensive Behavior Collaborative

Teresa Holt reported that they completed the advocacy plan for the Hub. She asked for suggestions because Jasmine is currently updating the target activities and they'd like to show more. Ric Nelson asked Teresa Holt to e-mail that to everyone. Kathy Fitzgerald noted that Millie Ryan is still representing the DD Committee on the collaborative planning committee for the Hub, which is now called the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Training and Intervention, a.k.a. the Hub.

Millie Ryan joined the meeting and discussed the Hub planning committee. Millie stated that they are trying to work out the details of an agreement among providers of the service, and the State needs to propose a rate. The program they envision would be only for people whose behavior is putting them at great risk of harm to themselves and others. Providers would develop a real understanding of the person's situation and needs, come up with a plan, help train everyone involved to implement the plan, and provide ongoing support. A meeting was postponed from today until November 14th because of the Bring the Kids Home meeting.

Art Delaune asked what the response time would be once the program was running. Millie Ryan replied that she thinks that within 48 hours the Hub would decide whether or not to get involved, and within two weeks the assessment should be finished. Art Delaune expressed concern over how people with disabilities may be treated if they go to a hospital or a clinic in a crisis, and asked if there is any funding to train emergency care workers on how to deal with people with disabilities. Millie Ryan replied that webinars might work for that.

Kathy Fitzgerald suggested emergency safe houses, apartments that are kept by agencies to be available to a person in crisis until they could find a place to go. Millie Ryan replied that The Arc is doing that again, but for the Hub, that will be a later phase.

Millie Ryan summed up the Hub as consisting of three parts:

- The Hub, now the Complex Behavior Collaborative Consultation and Training
- Short-term stabilization and crisis respite types of service from

various programs around the state

- Intensive group homes for people who need more long-term treatment, with higher quality, trained staff to provide intensive earlier intervention to improve people's behavior and get them out

Millie Ryan noted that of those, only the Hub has funding right now. It should be ready to go the first of January.

Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that a complete medical examination should be one of the first steps in the referral process, since developmentally disabled people often have underlying medical issues. She mentioned the National Association of Dually Diagnosed, an organization which is currently in the certifying process and is focused on this problem.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked who would be in charge of the referral process, and Millie Ryan replied that Behavioral Health has the funding.

Supporting Self-Advocacy Organizations

The Peer Power meeting is in Fairbanks on December 10th. Millie Ryan said that at the meeting December 10th in Fairbanks, self-advocates will get going toward the goal of doubling the number of people working in integrated, competitive employment by 2015.

The Alliance for Full Participation (AFP) is in Washington, D.C. November 17-19. A team of Alaskans will be there; hearing what other states are doing will help in preparing a plan. Topics to be discussed include:

- care mentoring
- mentoring peer-to-peer support services
- helping people get and keep jobs
- policies to work on with SDS, EED, and VR
- policy to practice
- business collaboration

Housing

Teresa Holt stated that she met with Nancy Burke at the Trust a few weeks ago, and Nancy Burke told her that in next fiscal year's budget,

starting in June, there is \$50,000 or \$80,000 specifically for the Council to use. It comes from the housing summit, and it could be used for “smart home” technology. Teresa stated that they need to have a plan by spring.

Ric Nelson inquired that he thought the Council could not hand out money. Kathy Fitzgerald replied that it could be done as a provider’s option pass-through.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the housing summit had two primary focuses: intentional housing or intentional communities, and how to make homes more accessible with technology. Kathy suggested that some of the funds could be used to look at what other states or groups have done in intentional housing. There could also be a fund available for people who want to use technology, but Kathy Fitzgerald cautioned that it should comply with Council recommendations that people be allowed to choose whether to have human assistance or assistive technology.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on IAT Meeting

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that there are recommendations and they’ve had some training and discussion.

Update on Emergency Preparedness

Teresa Holt reported that the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and FEMA visited and asked what Alaska is doing in this area, so she searched and found many different agencies doing different things. There is a statewide emergency preparedness committee for vulnerable populations with no DD representative currently on it. Carrie Predeger will attend a luncheon soon at Muni emergency preparedness. None of these agencies are coordinating with each other.

Teresa Holt discussed some examples of booklets and brochures to help people with a disability know what to do in an emergency. Kathi Potter recalled a card which both first responders and people with disabilities could be trained to use. Teresa stated that in an emergency such as an

earthquake, oxygen supplies in Alaska would run out in less than a week, and oxygen can't be flown in. Teresa Holt also related that the Red Cross shelters have stated that they are not prepared to deal with people with disabilities.

Kathy Fitzgerald said that the committee should gather information and prepare to discuss emergency preparedness at the May Council meeting.

Rates

Ric Nelson stated that he had found the new rates for services that were effective July 1. Many have gone up from the previous rates that were effective from March through June. Kathy Fitzgerald said that the chart and regulations came out with a request for comments, and they did comment.

Reports

Disability Program Updates

Kathi Potter will have Missy Williams send the information to Carrie Predeger so she can get it out this month. Kathi Potter said that they have been exploring ways to expedite and streamline the whole DD process.

AADD

Emily Ennis was unavailable for the meeting, but Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the October meeting was good and the next face-to-face meeting is February 21st, the day before Key Campaign. Kathy Fitzgerald reminded everyone that the Council will send members to Key, and it's a great experience.

Key Coalition

Ric Nelson stated that at the last meeting they talked about priorities. They will celebrate Key's 25th anniversary and talk more about it at the board meeting in December.

Executive Committee Update

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that in a meeting earlier today, they talked about their bylaws and about their agenda for the January Council meeting in Juneau January 24th, 25th, and 26th, which is focused on communicating Council priorities to legislators and hearing updates from SDS, DVR, the Department of Education, etc.

PPR

Teresa Holt stated that Council staff will be busy gathering information and preparing their report to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Teresa Holt also described the newly selected logo of an opening door.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings

- National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities
November 15th-17th, Washington, D.C.
- Alliance for Full Participation
November 17th-19th, Washington, D.C.
- Peer Power
December 10th, Fairbanks
- Governor's Council Meeting
January 24th - 26th, Juneau

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee teleconference is scheduled for December 5th, 2011, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.