

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

December 5, 2011
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Kelly Donnelly
Emily Ennis
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
Sean O'Brien
Missy Williams
Steve Williams

Guests:

Bryan Knight

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger
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

None to report.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kelly Donnelly **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Kaleene Lamb **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 7th, 2011 meeting. The motion was later seconded by Sean O'Brien and **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt mentioned that 42 pages of new regulations have been released for comment. Carrie Predeger sent out an e-mail with a link to register for information sharing sessions on December 13th and 20th, then in January there will be three public testimony sessions: in Juneau January 10th, in Fairbanks January 12th, and in Anchorage January 13th. Written comments are due January 23rd. Discussion ensued about when the committee could meet to prepare written comments about the new regulations. Carrie will send out a Doodle to find a time to meet after the public comment sessions and after AADD prepares their comments. Meanwhile, if anyone notices any big issues, please notify Carrie.

Teresa Holt also stated that the Council's Five-Year Plan was approved with some suggestions for changes.

Teresa Holt noted that the University of Alaska Southeast has asked the committee/Council to write a letter of support for their four-year special

education teacher program.

Teresa also noted that the Super Committee did not reach a consensus, but what that will mean is not yet known.

Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that the Council write a letter to SDS requesting regular semi-annual meetings to promote better working relationships between the Council, providers, and SDS. Steve Lesko **MOVED** that the Council should write the letter. The motion **PASSED**.

WORK PLAN

Rate Review

Kathy Fitzgerald noted that the rate review regulations were released and asked if anyone had heard anything about the acuity regulations. Teresa Holt said that she would go through all the regulations to find that. Kathy asked everyone to review the new regulations and consider how it will impact their family, community, agency, etc.

DSP Living Wage

Teresa Holt said that Tom Chard had sent an e-mail explaining that the Trust is building a team to conduct the study of how to increase direct service workers' wages. The project will start in January and take about six months to complete, and the committee has been asked for a list of names of people who might help: providers, consumers, and people who have information about costs, recruitment, retention, wages, benefits, reimbursement rates, Medicaid billing, etc. Team members would review materials and participate in teleconferences and e-mail exchanges. Kathy suggested that Hope, AADD, and the foster care association should all be represented. Suggestions of other names should be sent to Teresa.

Autism Insurance: Midwest Academy

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Autism Society of America is going to hire a lobbyist to help the Council. Also, Shelley Hendrix, who is the national grass roots organizer, is coming to the January Council meeting to help come up with some good ideas for Alaska to draw attention to the issue.

Kathy Fitzgerald also explained that a holiday card campaign is being organized, and everyone would be receiving a request to send cards including a personal story and photo to their legislators and to Wes Keller. Committee members are also asked to spread the word about the card campaign to anyone they know who is affected by autism.

Alaska Comprehensive Behavior Collaborative

Kathy Fitzgerald noted that the Mental Health Trust Authority Advocacy Summit is in January right after the Council meeting in Juneau. Steve Williams said that the Division of Behavioral Health is currently developing and implementing provider agreements outlining the expectations for participating providers and consultants in the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Steve said that they are still trying to make the Hub operational by January, and he anticipates that up to 20 people may be served in this fiscal year.

Supporting Self-Advocacy Organizations

The Peer Power meeting is in Fairbanks on December 10th. Josie Boggs stated that the purpose of the meeting is to reform the statewide advocacy group and to focus on employment, with the goal of doubling the employment of people with developmental disabilities who are in paid integrated settings by 2014.

Teresa Holt commented that the Alliance for Full Participation national conference was last week, and Cheryl Walsh and Art Arnold both attended.

Housing

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that President Obama had signed a \$700-million-plus package for housing for people with disabilities and low income. Kathy said that she had e-mailed Nancy Burke asking if she knew how that would impact Alaska, but had not received a reply.

Teresa Holt stated that at the TASH conference, the Fair Housing Act was discussed, and some initiatives have been passed in other states and communities requiring every new home that is built to be “visitability

accessible". Teresa brought back a lot of information on how those initiatives were passed in other states.

Kathy Fitzgerald added that the Council should continue to push for intentional communities and smart home technology.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Emergency Preparedness

Teresa Holt reported that she brought back some great "information in plain language" from California, and she will e-mail examples to everyone. Kathy Fitzgerald commented that the Council will be using some of the information on voting and how things work in I Vote, I Count.

Face-to-Face Meeting Days to Avoid

Teresa Holt stated that the meeting will be in April, and she will send a Doodle to select dates.

NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Carrie Predeger reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc committee met last Monday and discussed what they were going to do and how they would run the meetings. Carrie is researching state and federal Medicaid regulations, and committee members will be asking people what they see as superfluous costs in Medicaid. Kathy Fitzgerald noted that the purpose of the committee was to find ways to reduce Medicaid costs, and questions should be sent to Carrie Predeger or Ric Nelson, the committee chair.

Kathy also described an interesting study reviewing waiver costs that they looked at in that meeting, and requested that Carrie send that out to DD Committee members.

Preferred Drug List

Carrie Predeger said that she viewed the new regulations and mostly just

expiration dates were changed. Kathy Fitzgerald added that many major drugs will be generic now.

Reports

Disability Program Updates

Missy Williams asked what the questions for her were from the last meeting. Teresa Holt said that one was about nursing oversight and the other was about intensive active treatment. Kathy Fitzgerald added that the DD Committee is especially concerned about ongoing IAT for people with developmental disabilities and inappropriate sexual behaviors, as behavioral IAT significantly reduces the recidivism rate for them.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked about ages of people coming off the wait list, and Missy Williams replied that many more young people are coming onto the waitlist, and they are wondering why. Missy added that the youngest on the last draw was 3. Kathy requested that Missy bring some demographic information to the meeting in January.

AADD

Emily Ennis stated that the new regulations have been the main concern; those came out today and everyone is anxious to look at them. She did hear that nursing oversight rates had been extended.

Emily Ennis reported that AADD is communicating with SDS about ICAP and CCMC waivers to explain how delays in these processes impact care. They are also going to discuss the gap plan to extend plans of care, and APA payments being denied to people in assisted living homes. Also, some changes have occurred in MediTrack billing that they need to discuss. AADD has requested that SDS have representatives from different areas to attend their monthly teleconference this Thursday to discuss these issues.

Emily Ennis also noted that AADD is looking forward to their February meeting in Juneau on Monday, February 20th, Presidents' Day, to provide training for providers and help them prepare to complete the cost survey with information from this fiscal year.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated the Key Coalition will have a face-to-face meeting Friday as a state board of directors. They will finish their platform and organize Key 25, their 25th anniversary celebration.

Executive Committee Update

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the Five-Year State Plan was approved only for the first year, but it was the same for all states, and may have to do with collecting data to demonstrate to Congress the effectiveness of councils.

Council

Teresa Holt stated that Council staff is working on finishing the Annual Performance Review by Friday, December 16th.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Steve Williams reported that two exciting things are the Complex Behavior Collaborative and the Trust Advocacy Summit in January. Kathy Fitzgerald noted that the Council is focusing on transportation for the summit.

Upcoming Meetings

- Peer Power
December 10th, Fairbanks
- Governor's Council Meeting
January 24th - 26th, Juneau

Carrie Predeger also noted that the RFP for the community grant is coming out soon, and there will be an open conversation teleconference with providers and families on December 12th at 1:30. She will send out the information to committee members.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee teleconference is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th, 2012, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.