

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

April 2, 2012
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Ric Nelson, Chair
Art Delaune
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
Sean O'Brien
Steve Williams
Missy Williams

Guests:

Bryan Knight
Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Josie Boggs
Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Bryan Knight read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Kathy Fitzgerald announced that Representative Kurt Olson is the 27th cross-sponsor for SB 74, the autism insurance bill.

Kaleene Lamb announced that she is sending her mom to Hawaii for a vacation by herself.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 5th, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt stated that the Council has sent numerous letters in support of various legislation, including allowing FASD as a mitigating factor in criminal sentencing, establishing a permanent FASD day, and the vulnerable adults bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on HCBS Proposed Regulations

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that she and Ric, Carrie, and Teresa have met the past two Fridays with Duane Mayes and Angela Salerno from SDS to discuss comments and concerns on the home and community-based

proposed regulations. Kathy stated that one major concern that was discussed was provider disenrollment of consumers and creating some kind of process to exhaust all alternatives before discharging a person. Next the Department is planning a face-to-face meeting with a small group of providers and sister boards, including AADD, Key, AGENET, the Governor's Council, and others to go over again what the Department is considering, then the regulations will be released for another public comment period.

Teresa Holt added that Jeff Jessee from the Trust has hired an attorney to help review the regulations and look at how they will impact families and individuals who experience disabilities. The attorney did an initial review of the first set of proposed regulations and had a discussion with a group of stakeholders, and will do more work when the regulations are released again. Kathy Fitzgerald noted that the new certification regulations are coming out soon, so everyone should watch for those too.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of proposed priorities for FY 13

Carrie Predeger conducted a review of the DD Committee's work plan priorities from FY 12 and what to keep or change for FY 13. The Committee's recommendations for next year's work plan will be presented and discussed at the meeting of the Governor's Council in May. The 2012 work plan includes seven focus areas, with the outcome of the discussion as follows:

- Rate review: Continue to monitor, and reactivate as needed.
- Direct service professionals living wage: Keep as a priority, and update the activities; follow and assist with the work that Tom Chard at the Alaska Mental Health Board is doing.
- Autism insurance: It is hoped that the goal of autism insurance will be met this year. If SB 74 does not pass, the Council will consider what to do next.
- Alaska Comprehensive Behaviors Collaborative: Keep it on the work

plan, as this year's funding is only a one-time increment and is not yet final.

- Supporting self-advocacy organizations: Supporting self-advocacy is a requirement of the Council's federal funding, so it must stay on the work plan. Peer Power is an emerging self-advocacy group that focuses on leadership and employment.
- Housing: Support capacity-building activities to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people who experience disabilities: This is one of the Trust's focus areas and will remain an ongoing priority of the Governor's Council.
- Ongoing: Review statistics on the number and expenditures of waivers and state grant-funded services.

The DD Committee decided to make employment a separate category instead of keeping it under "ongoing".

Steve Lesko stated that if it is true that the State is looking for a replacement for the ICAP to determine eligibility for services, that should be added to the work plan, to assist the State as requested and required and to monitor the process. Steve Lesko and Kathy Fitzgerald emphasized that any new assessment tool should be strength-based and person-centered. Ric Nelson stated that Duane Mayes had requested the Council's involvement in a conversation they had. Ric Nelson **MOVED** to make assisting in the selection of a new assessment tool a separate category on the work plan. The motion **PASSED**.

Kathy Fitzgerald concluded this portion of the meeting by explaining the process of reviewing the work plan at the May Council meeting. The DD Committee did not have enough time to go through the five-year plan, so Teresa Holt requested that everyone read through it and send any comments by e-mail to Kathy or Teresa for discussion at the May meeting.

Guest speaker Keith Masker on cancer screening and people who experience developmental disabilities

Keith Masker, an MSW student, is doing a practicum with the

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. Keith has done some research that found a disparity in cancer screening rates between people who experience developmental disabilities and people who do not, so he and the Comprehensive Cancer Control Coordinator, Julia Thorsness, are trying to start a committee to increase rates of cancer screening among this population. A Centers for Disease Control grant provides funding to address areas of underserved needs such as this, and anyone who would like to serve on this committee may contact Carrie Predeger.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Governor's Council meets as a whole in Girdwood May 1st through 3rd. The next DD Committee teleconference is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 11th, 2012, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Reports

From the Chair

Kathy Fitzgerald noted that she reported earlier on the meetings with Duane and Angela to discuss the regulations. Also, the Executive Committee just met and went over plans for the May meeting.

Developmental Disability Program Updates

Missy Williams stated that she did not prepare a report because she needs to talk to Teresa Holt about the changes that were requested in her reports. Kathy Fitzgerald requested that Missy send the information on the wait list and the median score to Carrie Predeger so the DD Committee will have it for the May Council meeting.

AADD

Emily Ennis was not present to give a report.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that Key Coalition is following up on their legislative priorities with thank-you cards and tracking the bills. Soon they will be

making summer plans with their new president, John Cannon, to organize for 2013.

Executive Committee Update

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Executive Committee met earlier today and finalized the agenda for the May Council meeting.

Council

Teresa Holt reminded DD Committee members that the Council meets in Girdwood May 1st through 3rd, with public testimony on the 1st. Teresa also noted that the vulnerable adults bill has passed both the House and the Senate and is now on its way to the Governor to be signed.

Peer Power

Josie Boggs reported that Peer Power met on March 14th and used Online With Libraries, which worked really well. Their next meeting is April 11th at 5:15 p.m., and they will have three people from Juneau online for that one.

Upcoming Meetings

- Governor's Council, May 1st through 3rd, Girdwood
- Full Lives, April 18th and 19th
- Disability Policy Seminar, April 23rd through 25th, Washington, D.C.
- The Governor's Council Executive Committee meets June 4th to make budget recommendations to the Trust; a survey will be distributed by e-mail asking what people think the Trust should recommend for FY 14 and 15.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.