

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 11, 2012
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Ric Nelson, Chair
Kelly Donnelly
Emily Ennis
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
James Wiedle

Staff:

Josie Boggs
Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by:
Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:07 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

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

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Kathy Fitzgerald introduced James Wiedle as the newest member of the DD Committee. Kathy also announced that at the May meeting of the Governor's Council, Ric Nelson was elected as chair-elect, which means that he will serve as vice-chair again this year and then will be the chair of the Governor's Council for the next two years.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Several items were added to the agenda:

- A celebration party is planned for SB 74, the autism insurance bill.
- Josie Boggs will talk about her work with Peer Power.
- Carrie Predeger will report on the Self-Advocacy Summit in Seattle.

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

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 2nd, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that she wrote a letter of support to the Division of Public Health for the CDC grant to improve the health of people with disabilities through state public health programs.

Teresa Holt reported that Eric Gebhart wrote a letter to the Governor asking him to sign the autism bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on HCBS Proposed Regulations

Committee members concurred that there is no update on the proposed regulations. Carrie Predeger stated that they were still in the legal review stage. Teresa Holt added that the report is due to the State at the end of June, so the committee plans to discuss the new regulations at the July meeting.

Discussion ensued about acuity rates and the appeals process for cases requiring exceptional treatment. Steve Lesko mentioned that he thought Myers & Stauffer had been given the task of coming up with an acuity formula, but he doesn't know where they are in that process. Emily Ennis stated that Duane Mayes is expected to join the AADD conference call on Thursday, and she could ask him about these issues on behalf of the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Peer Power

Josie Boggs stated that she is spending her last month of employment with the Governor's Council getting Peer Power in order. Josie discussed some of the issues she has been trying to resolve, which will be ongoing after her job ends on June 30th. Teresa Holt added that an MSW intern has applied to take over Josie's job. Kathy Fitzgerald added that they will be doing a Midwest Academy on establishing an Employment First policy in Alaska on June 20th at 1 o'clock.

FY 13 Priorities from the Council Meeting

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the following priorities for the DD Committee were adopted at the May meeting of the Governor's Council:

1. Advocate for increasing direct service workers to a living wage to

include workforce development and retention.

2. Advocate for the establishment and implementation of the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative, ensuring that it meets the needs of people with developmental disabilities.
3. Advocate for the implementation of supported employment recommendations, Employment First Initiative, and support Project SEARCH.
4. Support capacity-building activities that increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.
5. Advocate for strengths-based versus deficit-based level of care assessment.
6. Continue working on transportation.

Ongoing activities and issues to monitor include rate review, advocating for implementation of state rate methodology, review of quarterly data for individuals on the wait list, and the expenditures for home and community-based waivers and grant funding.

CFC Information

CFC (Community First Choice) has become ACC (Alaska Community Choice); Kathy Fitzgerald said that it will be kept under old business for monitoring. Steve Lesko stated that ACC has the potential to cause systemic changes, so it is important to monitor its effects on quality of service delivery.

Replacement of the ICAP

The DD Committee worked on suggestions for the replacement of the ICAP in 2010 and sent a long recommendation letter to SDS, but the information has been requested again, so committee members agreed that a face-to-face meeting would be the best way to respond. Kathy Fitzgerald asked

Teresa Holt to arrange a meeting with Duane Mayes and/or Kim Poppe-Smart.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee teleconference is scheduled for Monday, July 23rd, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Autism Insurance Bill

Kathy Fitzgerald invited committee members and other interested people to join a celebration of the passage of the autism insurance bill on June 27th at 6:30 p.m. in Hope's big training area on International Airport Road. They will have music and food, and some legislators will address the group at 7 p.m. Emily Ennis added that they are planning a celebration in Fairbanks, too.

Reports

From the Chair

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the budget committee met, and there will be no new MHTAAR money again this year, but the Trust has told the boards that they can make recommendations for mental health general funds. Teresa Holt listed the recommendations that the Governor's Council plans to make:

- Complex Behavior Collaborative
- Infant Learning Programs
- Council operations
- Rural transition funding
- Developmental disability employment grant

Developmental Disability Program Updates

Carrie Predeger reported that the number of individuals on the wait list for the Development Disability Program stands at 778, with "unknown" still the largest region at 31 percent, followed by Anchorage at 28 percent.

AADD

Emily Ennis reported that AADD is closely following the Alaska First Choice initiative, and they are particularly concerned about the nursing oversight and care management; at least one agency has already notified SDS that it will not accept any new referrals that require nursing services because of the new rates. Emily added that the Office of Rate Review has said that they do not intend a review of the new rates until after the cost survey is completed, which means there would be no changes until at least FY 14. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested arranging a meeting with the Governor's Council, Dave Fleurant, AADD providers, and people who are doing IAT nursing; Kathy will send a Doodle to Emily and Steve to plan a date.

Emily Ennis added that the cost of preparing for audits is a growing concern, and with audits happening three or four times a year, agencies need to start factoring them into the cost of doing business.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that Key Coalition had a teleconference board meeting on June 5th. They discussed the celebration of the autism insurance, which Kathy mentioned, and activities for in between legislative sessions. Steve Lesko added that Hope is also burdened by the cost of audits, which they figure at tens of thousands of dollars; Steve noted that one recent audit recouped a total of \$2.72.

Executive Committee Update

Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson reported no news from the Executive Committee.

Council

Teresa Holt explained that the Council is looking for ways to save money now that the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant is gone, and one of the big changes will be cutbacks in travel. Teresa also requested that committee members come to the office for meetings when possible or call in together, because the Council has to pay for each line that calls in to a teleconference.

Upcoming Meetings

No upcoming meetings were noted.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.