

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 5, 2012
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald, Chair
Ric Nelson, Chair
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
James Wiedle
Jessie Hill
Susan Kaplan
Carleen Hogan
Sharon Miranda
Dave Robertson
Gwen
Noel
Art Delaune
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Sean O'Brien
Eric Gebhart
Caroline
Emily
Nancy Burke

Staff:

Carrie Predeger
Teresa Holt

Barbara Dick
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by:
Sheryl Cobb, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order – 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

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

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Kathy said thank you for the new council additions to the DD committee.

MINUTES

Steve Lesko moved to approve the previous meetings minutes. Ric Nelson seconded.

Correspondence

Carrie received the first quarter report for the DD Mini Grant program. She had just gotten it that morning and was offering to pass it around if anybody wanted a copy of it.

Teresa shared that they had submitted a letter to Curt West concerning regulations and waiver services and appeals.

Kathy shared that the Executive Director's position had been posted and that it was open until Nov. 23.

Kathy shared correspondence about states looking at natural support. The Council has always been a strong proponent of having community and family involved as much as possible.

Steve continued by explaining the Key Coalition of Alaska had become a part of NOE Wait, which an initiative to end the waiting list. Steve said that they have been calling the waiting list the new institution because it imprisons people in the community.

Ric asked what happens when natural support won't be there. Steve replied that nobody had an answer for if you built natural support into the system and it was not available.

AADD asked if Steve could attend their meeting and present the information concerning natural support to their group. He agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Regulations

Ric said that they are having a meeting with SDS for the ICAP review system to see if there is a better tool out there to assess needs.

Steve Lesko asked if we have a list of what is happening state by state as to what each state is using to determine eligibility. Carrie said that she did and she could share that information.

Barbara asked where she could find the Support Intensity Scale. Steve said that it could be found at the AADD website. Kathy also suggested getting together with Carrie for documents with appropriate information.

Steve asked if there is anywhere you can find parental or consumer satisfaction with eligibility tests where a parent or consumer might view that device? Nobody had an answer for him.

REPORTS

We have been focusing on keeping up with proposed regulation changes. Kathy asked about the Support Intensity Scale having previously not been approved for use with children. Carrie said the latest she had heard was Spring of 2013 to be available. Carrie said she would try to confirm an update to that information.

OCS – The Program Manager III position did close. There has not been anybody selected yet. Hopefully they will have somebody selected soon.

As of Friday, there were 619 registrants. They have been trying to keep it updated and as accurate and clean as possible. If people are scoring zeros and they do not want waiver services, they are being removed.

They are doing a pilot of doing a monthly draw. They are hoping it will catch a wide variety of people in need. Ric Nelson asked what the “unknown” category was and it was explained that it was a variety of things that could include listing only a P.O. Box as an address, rather than a physical location.

Emily reported for AADD. The Fall Face-to-Face meeting is happening next week, November 13th and 14 at the UAA. Emily also commented that she is ending her term as the AADD designate to the DD Committee.

Steve Lesko reported on Key Coalition. The state board of directors will be meeting in Anchorage on Nov. 30. They will finalizing their legislative priorities for 2013 and finalize plans for their 26th Key Campaign Feb. 19-21, with the main meeting being on Feb. 20-21. The Mental Health Group will be meeting at the same time as Key Campaign and they are hoping both groups can do some joint activities so that everybody can be involved.

Teresa reminded everybody that the next Council meeting is Jan. 22-24 in Juneau. The Trust Summit will be the next week, on the 28th and 29th. The Trust meeting will then be Jan 30th and 31st.

Patrick mentioned that the Alaska Employment Initiative grant is a 5 year grant that focuses on employment of people with developmental disabilities. Patrick said that he will be looking for 2 dd providers to be on the advisory board. He will also need 4 youth with disabilities, 2 parents

and 2 special education directors. If you can think of anybody who fits these needs, send them Patrick's direction. The other partners are the Council, SDS, the Center for Human Development and the Disability Law Center and the Dept. of Ed, plus DVR.

Nancy Burke is visiting with us. One of the Council's priorities is around housing. She brought a Powerpoint presentation with her. She explained that the Powerpoint presentation tells the story of what the housing focus area has been up to.

The first thing that the group saw when they started working on housing was we didn't have a way to finance housing generally for people with disabilities or who needed long term subsidies. That is where they started strongly partnering with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation looking at their special needs housing grant program. We found that we needed to provide more resources in terms of grant funding so that you could have on-site support services. This was a shift of those resources so that instead of funding through traditional grant programs, we started looking at Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to have extra resources available to housing so that people could remain in their housing even if they switched off their grant that they were receiving services from. They spent 3 years restructuring those programs. They went from 5 applicants to 15 last year for that program. We learned that the most important component of housing that we need to provide are matching subsidies and the odd man social service support dollars.

The second thing they looked at in the housing focus area where populations of people were not making it in housing and who were falling into homelessness and the population that we saw who were dying on the street. This is where we started working more strongly with our mental health and alcohol service providers, making sure that we could provide services for those we found dying on the streets. When we first came in, we started with 35 other states with our housing program. We started looking at how we can get people housed and then let's build programs around them as we are able. This is when we started working with Housing First. We now having 100 Housing First units in the state. This includes Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. We are also working with Nome and Bethel for future housing locations.

She said they need affordable housing in general. They need to make sure they are pairing up with our housing partners and then requesting set aside for supported housing.

She wanted to share what she has found on who is being pushed out of the housing market. She said that 7 out of 47 units at Karluk Manor are used by individuals with developmental disabilities.

She also shared about resources to a grant line for IT application homes. This is using adaptive technology to help members stay at home for as long as possible. There is \$50,000 targeted for possible improvements or enhancements for housing in Alaska.

Kathy Fitzgerald mentioned that the Council would be participating in a Midwest Academy Model looking at Anchorage and homelessness and housing.

She is hoping that we will be able to help agencies be able to have access housing. She wanted to know how we can support our providers to have safe places for individuals to either rent or purchase so they can have a place to live. Kathy felt it was time to do another survey within the DD Committee to see where they are with housing.

Steve commented that he is working with a housing program in Kodiak and that the rural areas are a real challenge. He said that you can have an agency that has a vacancy for a supported apartment, a group home, assisted living, but how you get into that, while honoring choice and compatibility is a different story. They were hoping to access an alternate way into vacancies from a waiting list.

Kathy asked if housing was going to be included in the upcoming Trust Advocacy Summit or is that perhaps next session. Teresa did not think that it would be included in this session.

Kathy mentioned a flyer for an event that Carrie distributed sponsored by the Alaska Commission on Aging. She talked about builders needing to look at aging and building homes that will work for folks in the future, not just right now. It is much easier to have a house that is built that way rather than having to go back and modify later on for older or disabled individuals.

Less expensive and a better design. It is our job to make sure the builders know that they have a market.

Teresa mentioned that SDS is putting in a new data system. We are trying to figure out where people who are on the wait list are living currently. Teresa didn't think that question was on current data. It would help us to identify people who are on the wait list of what kind of housing are they currently in. This would be really important information to look at. Kathy added that knowing how many people need single story housing would be important.

Teresa also wanted to invite people, if they are interested, is there is a group of folks doing want is called co-housing. This is not inexpensive. Nov. 15th, they are having an open house. It is some land that is near the equestrian center at the bottom of the hillside and it is an idea of not quite intentional housing. It is a large piece of land (6 acres), you buy a unit and you decide exactly how that unit is going to look, but it has a very small footprint. The individual units are 1,000 sq. ft. or smaller. In the middle of the community, there is a large place that has a communal kitchen, a living room, exercise. The idea is that everyone who lives in this community shares the middle space. It is an interesting idea that the people kind of live together and take care of each other. Teresa said that if anybody was interested, she could send out an email with more information.

NEXT MEETING

Will be December 3, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:33 a.m.