

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 1, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald
Ric Nelson
Kim Champney
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Maureen Harwood
Susan Kaplan
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
Sean O'Brien
Diana Strzok
James Wiedle

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger
Patrick Reinhart
Barbara Dick

Guests:

Dave Fleurant
Teri Tibbett

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 10:04 a.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

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

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Kathy Fitzgerald wished Kaleene Lamb a happy birthday.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that the Alaska Partnership Conference will be next weekend in Anchorage, and the FASD conference will be May 22 through 24.

Ric Nelson announced that he will graduate from college in four weeks.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald added a discussion of long-term care under New Business. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 4th meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that the letter from the Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform was sent to Commissioner Streur on March 11th, and a copy of it is included in the meeting packet.

Carrie Predeger also stated that the Council sent a letter to Representative Costello in support of HB 134, the mediset and drug packaging bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Future of Disabilities Summit

Kathy Fitzgerald discussed the Future of Disabilities Summit, which will be May 9th and 10th, conflicting with the Governor's Council May meeting. Steve Lesko explained that the purpose of the summit is to envision the future of disabilities in many different areas, and the Council's input is very important. Council staff pointed out that the Council's meeting schedule leaves them free to attend the summit on Friday May 10th. The schedule for the Future of Disabilities Summit is not yet available.

NEW BUSINESS

FASD Partnership

Teri Tibbett, the coordinator for the Alaska Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Partnership, joined the meeting and spoke at length about the effects of FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorders) and the services available for people affected by it. Teri explained that people with FASD may have growth deficits, cognitive deficits, and behavioral problems, but they may also be highly intelligent and appear normal. Teri Tibbett noted that FASD is difficult to prove as a diagnosis, and people affected by it often receive treatment under mental and behavioral health services. Because these people do not always present with functional impairments, they may not receive services until they begin to encounter social difficulties in their teens or adulthood.

Teri Tibbett stated that the Division of Behavioral Health held a trauma conference recently at which researchers from Harvard and the University of Michigan showed pictures of brains demonstrating that the visible signs of trauma from traumatic brain injury, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and child abuse all look similar on brain scans.

Teri Tibbett pointed out that with such widely varying symptoms, individualized treatments are essential, but there are not enough services available. Teri suggested that people in behavioral health and those who work with developmental disabilities should collaborate to learn from each

other and figure out how to provide the most effective interventions for people with brain injuries of all types.

Teri Tibbett stated that the Alaska FASD Partnership includes about 110 organizations and individuals as members, and it's guided by a steering committee of about 15-20 people from all over Alaska who have expertise or a personal stake in the field. The partnership has eight work groups:

- Diagnosis and parent navigation
- Family and peer support
- Prevention and treatment for pregnant women
- FASD and the education system
- FASD and the legal system
- Services for adults with FASD
- Youth with FASD
- Professional development

Kathy Fitzgerald responded that FASD and other developmental disabilities share a neurodevelopmental basis, and many of these children should be eligible for the DD waiver. Kathy pointed out that developmental disabilities are based on functional assessments, not on diagnoses, and suggested that service providers should look at the policy barriers that prevent these individuals from getting the appropriate interventions and supports that they need. Teri Tibbett and committee members discussed how the FASD Partnership is beginning to bring together people from different specialties to examine what they have in common, and expressed an interest in following up on this conversation by recommending more people and groups that should be in on it. Teri Tibbett thanked the DD Committee for taking the time to listen to all of this information.

Legislative Update

Teresa Holt stated that the coming week will be the budget conference committee week, and the Governor's Council is striving to educate those that they expect to be on the conference committee. She urged committee members to contact their legislators and ask them to keep the \$450,000 for the Complex Behavior Collaborative in the budget.

Long-term Care Strategic Plan

Teresa Holt reported that she was invited to a statewide long-term care strategic planning meeting last week, and the group went over about five areas in which they wanted specific feedback. Carrie Predeger will send the information and questions to committee members so that the DD Committee can compile its responses and submit them to Agnew::Beck. Teresa explained that the focus of the meeting was how to contain and reduce the costs of long-term care, with one strategy being to encourage private investment, meaning long-term care insurance for seniors. Currently the plan is still being worked out, but in the final phase of the plan, it will be open for public input.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that as far as she knows, the waiver regulations are still in the Department of Law. Kathy also reported that the May Council meeting agenda is almost finished, and it will be sent out to committee members soon.

Committee Reports

Developmental Disability Program

Maureen Harwood reported that 633 people are in the database as of April 1, with an additional 64 submissions yet to be reviewed, some of which will be resubmissions and updates. Maureen added that she should have an answer to Steve Lesko's question from the March meeting about the 149 that did not respond to the DDDR. Maureen explained that they have hired a couple of additional people, which should help them catch up, and they will be doing a draw in the next week or two.

AADD

Kim Champney stated that they have received 19 responses to the survey that Carrie Predeger prepared about the number and type of audits that provider agencies have had to undergo. Kim explained that they are going

to close the survey and summarize the results, and she will report on that at the next meeting.

Kim Champney reported that last week SDS called a work group meeting on respite services, with one topic being family-directed respite, in which families hire their own providers and pay them with funds passed through a service agency. SDS is examining how this service can continue to be viable and helpful in the face of liability issues and logistical challenges. Kim reported that the meeting also discussed alternative options for licensing for occasional overnight respite care, which is burdened with strict regulations.

Kim Champney also explained that SDS is looking into telehealth and possibly doing assessments by videoconference for people in rural areas. Kim concluded by noting that the AADD and SDS are planning an all-day retreat on May 3 to discuss how to partner effectively, and Teresa Holt will be there too.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko reported that Key's board is now meeting every Tuesday by teleconference to review legislative progress with their lobbyist, Clark Gruening. When the legislative session is over, they will start planning what to do during the summer and what their priorities and strategies will be for next year.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Executive Committee meets right after today's DD Committee meeting, and then there will be more to report. The Executive Committee has been preparing the agenda for the May face-to-face meeting.

Peer Power

Barbara Dick reported that Peer Power's bylaws are done and are going to Teresa for final review. They still need some regional advisors, and will soon be hiring someone to work 20 hours a week out of the Council office in Anchorage. Barbara reported that membership is holding steady, but

they need more people to join. Peer Power will have an informational booth at Full Lives in April.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled DD Committee meeting would fall on the day before the full Council meeting, so staff will send out an e-mail to plan something sooner so the committee can prepare a report for the meeting. Documents for the full Council meeting are to be submitted to staff by April 19th, so they will plan something prior to that date.

The June meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 3rd, at 2 p.m. The time has been changed because 10 a.m. does not work for Art DeLaune. Carrie Predeger will confirm this meeting by e-mail later.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.