

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 4, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune, Chair
Kathy Fitzgerald
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Alex Gimarc
Maureen Harwood
Steve Lesko
Amanda Lofgren
Ric Nelson
Sean O'Brien
Mark Romick
Caroline Hogan
Natasha Pineda
Sharon Miranda
Susan Kaplan

Staff:

Carrie Predeger
Patrick Reinhart

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Art Delaune welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Art Delaune announced that Wall Busters in Fairbanks and Representative Thompson have started the process of drafting a bill to have a voluntary, discreet marker on an ID that would advise law enforcement, first responders, or the court that they are dealing with an individual who has a disability. The bill would include a training component to train people on how to appropriately interact with the individuals.

Patrick Reinhart announced that the Anchorage taxi ordinance passed with a majority of the items senior and disability advocacy groups recommended. He highlighted that there will be a seat on the Transportation Commission for a person representing the disability and/or senior community.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 3rd, 2013 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 6th, 2013 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report at this meeting.

REPORTS

From the Chair

There was no report from the chair at this meeting.

DD Program

Maureen Harwood asked for clarification regarding the questionnaire received from the Governor's Council on November 22nd stating that the questions were complicated and comprehensive, and SDS would need to take some time to answer. She reviewed several of the questions to clarify the information the Council was requesting.

Maureen Harwood stated that with regards to a conversation at the last meeting, SDS was interested in the process used in the past when the Council and SDS partnered to update the DDRR. She noted that the effort would require bringing stakeholders together and forming an ad hoc committee to work specifically on the project. SDS is looking for some guidance from the Council on how to proceed. Ric Nelson recommended that SDS send an official request to the Council, and the Council will look into how to proceed.

Maureen Harwood reported that there was 684 individuals on the wait list; up from last month's 672. She noted that they continue to move on the same track.

AADD

There was no report available for this meeting.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko stated that the Key board of directors finalized their platform, and the priorities are essentially as follows:

- Reduce and eliminate with wait list
- Secure permanent funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC)

- Support both Employment First legislation and restraint and seclusion legislation
- Support a task force to study DSP living wages.

Steve Lesko reported that that steering committee recommended Dave Parish as the new lobbyist replacing Clark Gruening. The board of directors accepted Dave unanimously.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Ric Nelson reported that at the last Executive Committee meeting, members worked on the agenda for the January Council meeting, which is scheduled for January 21st-23rd, 2014. Patrick Reinhart reported that the staff has been working on position papers for the restraint and seclusion legislation, the Employment First legislation, and for the CBC.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that at the last meeting of Peer Power, the board members elected Anna Attla as the new treasurer. He stated that the group had business cards, flyers, and brochures professionally printed.

FASD

Art Delaune reported that they have begun collecting members for the workgroup on FASD, and they are going to schedule a meeting for the near future. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus recommended utilizing various agency's social media and e-mail lists to see if there is there are other people willing to participate.

Housing

Mark Romick commented that at the last meeting when he reported on the reform process, a comment was made about the assumption that people with disabilities couldn't work. He discussed that with the staff who will be meeting with Rich Sanders to talk about making better connections between the public housing division and individuals on the wait list in public housing that have disabilities and employment opportunities.

Mark Romick reported that the Office of Children's Services (OCS) has contributed some general funds money to bring a rental assistance voucher program for children in foster care to the Anchorage area where there are approximately 20 children transitioning out of foster care and living in apartments. The housing voucher system has a varying level of success; however, children in the foster care voucher program are doing substantially better and are having an easier time leasing housing.

Mark Romick reported that they have had to close the voucher program wait list in a number of communities outside of Anchorage because of the backlog.

Mark Romick noted that Kris Duncan is retiring after 25 years of service, and he invited committee members to a get-together scheduled for December 5th at 3:00 at the AHFC office.

Rural Issues

There was no news on rural issues at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation

Patrick Reinhart reported that there were some unintended consequences related to the waiver regulations and transportation, and SDS pulled together a stakeholder group to review those particular aspects of the new regulations. SDS will consider the recommendations that came out of the workgroup for their regulation packet of changes.

Rising Costs of I/DD Waiver

Carrie Predeger reported that questions related to the reason for the rising costs of I/DD waivers are included in the questionnaire submitted to SDS. Maureen Harwood noted that they will be working on the questionnaire and will locate documents to support the data.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, January 21- 23, 2104 in Juneau
- Key Campaign, February 11th and 12th, 2014

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th, 2014' from 1 to 3 p.m.

ADJOURN

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.