

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  
February 5, 2014  
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair  
Kim Champney  
Mary Elam  
Dave Fleurant  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Alex Gimarc  
Maureen Harwood  
Kaleene Lamb  
Steve Lesko  
Ric Nelson  
Sean O'Brien  
Mark Romick  
Steve Williams

Guests:

Nancy Burke  
Jesse Hill

Staff:

Carrie Predeger  
Patrick Reinhart

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order –1:04 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**  
**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS**

Carrie Predeger announced that Michelle Jenkins is back from her leave and everyone is glad to have her in the office again.

Patrick Reinhart announced that Amanda Cooper, who has been the health program manager, is moving to the Division of Public Health to take over Laura Andersen's position, so the Council will soon be advertising that job opening.

Ric Nelson noted that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting with Access Alaska on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 8th, 2014 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Carrie Predeger stated that the only correspondence was the registry report that Duane Mayes handed out at the January Council meeting, and some I/DD waiver information that will be discussed later on the agenda.

**REPORTS**

***Chair's Report***

Art Delaune stated that Senator Pete Kelly of Fairbanks has declared war on FASD and has made a videotape focusing on prevention. Art noted that he and Teresa and Ric would be presenting at the AADD face-to-face

meeting about what the Council and the DD Committee are doing. Art stated that they have also been working to gather information on HB 232, the disability ID bill, to pass on to everyone who has requested it.

### ***FASD Work Group***

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that she had also seen the videotape about preventing FASD. Jeanne mentioned some concerns about the terminology used in the video and its non-use of person-first language.

Jeanne stated that at the FASD work group meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, they had discussed trying to put their goals into a bullet list and defining their message to maintain consistency. The next meeting of the work group will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

Steve Williams inquired as to whether Jeanne's group was working with the group that Teri Tibbett is coordinating. Jeanne replied that she had informed Teri of the group's meetings, and that Jeanne and Art are both on the steering committee for the FASD Partnership meetings headed by Teri.

### ***Developmental Disabilities Program***

Maureen Harwood noted that Duane Mayes had spoken to the Governor's Council at the January meeting and answered some of their questions. Maureen reported that there are currently 696 people on the DD registry, and SDS is doing a draw of 24 this month. Maureen briefly described how they do the draw and discussed ways that people might transition off of the wait list.

### ***AADD***

Kim Champney reported that the MMIS billing system is still having significant problems, and the state has been providing cash advances to keep provider agencies solvent. Kim mentioned that Duane Mayes had presented to the House Finance Committee comparing the cost of waiver services in Alaska with Outside institutional services, and showing that the local services cost significantly less. Kim said that Duane has expressed that he is feeling pressure to explain the rising cost of waiver services.

Kim Champney stated that a recent new federal ruling on home and community based services focuses on eliminating institutional care, and states have one year to submit a plan for how they will cooperate.

### ***Key Coalition***

Steve Lesko reminded everyone that Key Campaign is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Juneau, with the AADD meeting the day before, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Steve reiterated Maureen Harwood's comments on the importance of solving the problems with the MMIS system, as providers are currently being reimbursed for only about 40 percent of bills. Steve reviewed Key's platform for this year, and noted that Dave Parrish has replaced Clark Gruening as Key's lobbyist. Steve Lesko also mentioned that Key is trying to get legislators to sponsor a task force to study direct service workers' wages and benefits.

### ***Council and Executive Committee Update***

Ric Nelson reported that the Executive Committee discussed the January meeting and retreat, and agreed that it went well. Patrick Reinhart added that the Legislative Committee is working hard to keep track of the bills that are of interest to the Governor's Council, and the Legislative Committee meeting has been moved up to Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Peer Power***

Ric Nelson said that Peer Power had a board meeting just before the January Council meeting, and they discussed upcoming job fairs, the first of which is Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, in Anchorage. Peer Power's next board meeting will be on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and the general membership meeting will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Housing***

Mark Romick reported that the Municipality of Anchorage is drafting a new ordinance to replace the current ordinance relating to housing for people with severe alcohol dependence. Mark also announced that the awards for their senior accessibility modification program went to RurALCAP, the

Anchorage Community Development Corporation, and the Interior Regional Housing Authority.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***I/DD Registration Review (Waitlist Work Group)***

Carrie Predeger stated that Teresa Holt is still trying to set a date for a work group on the waitlist to meet in March. Carrie said that she is going to send out an e-mail requesting feedback on things that are working and are not working with the DD registration and review process currently, and asked DD Committee members to respond with input.

### ***Rising Cost of I/DD Waiver***

Carrie Predeger noted that Maureen Harwood had discussed this issue in her report, and a colored graph about I/DD waiver recipients was included in the meeting PDF. Committee members discussed examples of how waiver costs can vary widely so that it's hard to generalize about costs, but institutional care in almost every case would cost more. Duane Mayes has been comparing costs of home and community based services to institutional care in aggregate in his presentations, but committee members agreed that some good stories with pictures of Alaskans who receive DD waiver services would help legislators understand the issue better.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Trust Housing Funds/AT in Homes***

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Governor's Council has some funding to look at assistive technology applications in homes that has not yet been used. Patrick said that Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) has been doing a project called Home MAP, which analyzes people's homes to determine what modifications would be helpful, and SAIL will probably be submitting a proposal soon about incorporating assistive technology into this project. The plan will probably include trainings to spread the information around the state. Patrick noted that the funding needs to be expended by next June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Burke of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority joined the meeting and expressed her enthusiasm about participating in vetting proposals in this area. A plan was made to form a work group to establish some criteria for judging proposals.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The AADD face-to-face meeting will be in Juneau on February 10th, followed by Key Campaign on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next DD Committee meeting will be on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.