

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 2, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair

Kim Champney

Dave Fleurant

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

Alex Gimarc

Maureen Harwood

Steve Lesko

Ric Nelson

Mark Romick

Guests:

Anna Spoker

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

Patrick Reinhart announced that House Bill 211, the Employment First bill, had been sent to the governor for signature.

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 March 5th, 2014 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that there was no correspondence this month.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Art Delaune commented that not a lot has been going on, but he has been following the legislation that is of interest to the Council and has been called in a couple of times to testify on bills.

Developmental Disabilities Program

Maureen Harwood noted that the DDDR report for FY 13 had been posted on their website, and Carrie had sent a link to everyone. Maureen reported that the Division has been working on automating their systems, and it is a cumbersome process but should make them more efficient.

Maureen reported that there are currently 700 individuals on the wait list, and they have done 161 draws so far this year; there will be another draw

next week, which will keep them on track to do between 200 and 240 in the year.

Maureen Harwood mentioned an audio conference that had taken place the day before the DD Committee meeting regarding the new 2014 home and community-based rules that CMS recently put out. Maureen noted that The Arc national policy unit has a helpful guide to the new rules on their website called “Federal Home and Community-Based Regulations: What You Need to Know” that she recommends everyone read.

AADD

Kim Champney reported that AADD has hired Lizette Stiehr as the new executive director, and she will start June 1st.

Kim stated that the MMIS system is still not working properly, and they have frequent webinars to address problems.

Kim Champney also discussed some of the changes in the regulations issued by CMS, and said that the discussion of the high cost of some waivers is still ongoing with SDS and the Office of Rate Review.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko reported that he has been busy providing testimony and public messages regarding legislation. Steve also said that Key’s goal of forming a task force to study direct service professionals’ wages and benefits is beginning to coalesce, and the Governor had offered one of his special assistants to participate in the work group.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Art Delaune reported that the Executive Committee had met the previous day and spent most of the time discussing the upcoming Council meeting in Anchorage.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power recently did five job fairs, three in Anchorage, one in Mat-Su, and one in Kenai. They also did a workshop with Rider Consulting, and they will be presenting at Full Lives on April 17th. Peer Power's next board meeting is scheduled on April 8 at 5:15 p.m.

FASD Work Group

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the work group had met the previous day, and their new meeting time is now set for the first Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m. Anna Attla discussed starting a chapter of SAFA, Self Advocates with FASD in Action, in Alaska, and talked about the importance of having FASD-informed substance abuse treatment. Jeanne said that the group also continued discussing their purpose and role in relation to other groups.

Housing

Mark Romick stated that the Municipality of Anchorage is now planning to repeal the whole ordinance on severely alcohol dependent housing as a result of a lawsuit, and he does not know what the consequences will be.

Mark Romick also reported that HUD recently announced notice of funding availability for the Section 811 program, which is housing specifically for people with disabilities. AHFC is going to apply, and Mark thinks they have a good chance of receiving the funding, which they would use for rental assistance.

Mark also mentioned a focus group survey being conducted by the Center for Human Development seeking information from people with disabilities about barriers to receiving healthcare services. Participants will receive a Fred Meyer gift card, and Mark asked everyone to pass the news along. Carrie noted that she had sent the information out to the listserv, and it is posted on the Governor's Council Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

I/DD Registration Review (Waitlist Work Group)

The waitlist work group is a long-term item on the DD Committee's agenda, and was discussed briefly during Maureen Harwood's Developmental Disabilities Program report.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Recommendations for FY 15 Priorities

The committee reviewed and revised the recommendations for next year's priorities, which will be presented to the full Council at the meeting later this month.

Upcoming Meetings

- Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., April 7 – 9
- Health and Disability Committee meeting, 2 to 3 p.m., April 9
- Full Lives Conference, Anchorage, April 17 – 18
- Trust Planning Committee, Anchorage, April 23
- Governor's Council meeting, April 28 – 30
 - Executive Committee, April 28, 4 – 5:30
 - Public Testimony, April 28, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Trust board meeting, Fairbanks, May 7
- Durable Medical Equipment Reuse and Recycle Partnership, May 14, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee meeting will be on May 7th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.