

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

June 4, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair

Nancy Burke

Kim Champney

Dave Fleurant

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

Alex Gimarc

Maureen Harwood

Susan Kaplan

Christine King

Kaleene Lamb

Steve Lesko

Ric Nelson

Mark Romick

Lizette Stiehr

Staff:

Carrie Predeger

Patrick Reinhart

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:03 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Carrie Predeger announced that she is leaving the Governor’s Council to work for the Trust. Patrick Reinhart remarked that Carrie’s position as a Research Analyst III is now being advertised on Workplace Alaska, and added that the Council will miss Carrie.

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 April 2nd, 2014 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that there was no correspondence this month.

REPORTS

Chair’s Report

Art Delaune reported that he has been busy with many non-Council-related things, and he has also been working his way through the changes in regulations on Medicaid coverage. Art also noted that the group for reviewing the I/DD regulations and waitlist met yesterday, and they’ll report more as they go along.

Intellectual/Developmental Disability Unit

Maureen Harwood mentioned that the new regulations are out for comment, and Carrie has done a nice job of informing everyone about the public meeting.

Maureen explained that as the Department moves toward automation, they are accepting input on potential improvements to the I/DD registration and review process, such as from the group that Art mentioned. They are also considering ways to prepare families to understand the DD system, and Dave Fleurant from Disability Law Center recently contributed a letter about training that will be included in an information packet for families.

Maureen Harwood said that she had not prepared a report this month on the registration and review, but there are currently 674 people on the waitlist; the number is holding steady and they are on target for the fiscal year.

AADD

Kim Champney noted that Lizette Stiehr, the new executive director, started her job this week and will probably do the report on AADD in future meetings.

Kim reported on the ongoing problems with Enterprise, the new Medicaid billing system; Kim stated that AADD is advocating that Xerox should be pressed to help the State of Alaska meet financial obligations incurred by advancing funds to providers.

Kim stated that in mid-May a meeting was held with the Community Care Coalition, the Office of Rate Review, and SDS to look at reimbursement rates for DD providers and how they are determined. Also, Kim reported that Lizette will be heading up AADD's look at the proposed regulation changes.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko reported that some people at Key are working to get a wage and benefits study done about direct support professionals to establish a living wage and to prepare the state for increased demand for workers in this field as the Baby Boomers age. Steve stated that Governor Parnell designated an assistant to work with Key and other groups on the possibility of putting together that study. The Trust has been helping coordinate the effort, and the groups are currently collecting data and past

studies. During the summer, Key Coalition is completing a work plan and preparing a document to be ready for the 2015 legislative session.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Ric Nelson commented that the Council meeting at the end of April went well, and they are preparing for a full-day Executive Committee meeting on June 25th.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power held their most recent board meeting in May, and the next meeting is in September. Ric commented that he was upset to learn recently that Peer Power still does not have 501(c)(3) status, and there are still a lot of documents to file with the IRS to achieve that.

FASD Work Group

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the work group had a meeting scheduled immediately after this meeting. Jeanne mentioned that last month at the meeting of the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Alaska Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Kotzebue, she was able to share information about the work group. Jeanne said she was especially happy to get to speak with Teri Tibbett and with somebody from Corrections.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus added that she is leaving care coordination to be a STAR (short-term assistance and referral) coordinator, in which capacity she will be able to work on eligibility for people whose primary disability is FASD. Jeanne also said that she had done an Into Action training at UAA with Eric Boyer, and there she met a young person who is interested in starting a youth chapter of SAFA.

Housing

Mark Romick stated that the Public Housing Division has started issuing vouchers again under a two-year budget. Mark also explained that AHFC and DHSS are working together to centralize the rental assistance under different disability set-asides under one umbrella program called Journey

Home, which would include children aging out of foster care and people from the prisoner re-entry program.

Mark stated that there was a meeting of the Alaska Council on Homeless on May 20th, and people who are interested could look at the minutes on AHFC's website. Mark added that the next meeting of the Governor's Council will be in the middle of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homeless meeting in Juneau in late September, and there should be webstreaming by KTOO.

Rural Issues and Telepractice

Carrie Predeger reported that there was no news in this area.

FY 15 Work Plan Review

Carrie Predeger stated that she thinks it would be beneficial to review the work plan at every meeting, so she decided to put it under Reports.

ASPEN

Reports on ASPEN will be quarterly, but Christine King noted that the FY 14 community was very happy with their experience with the project, and ASPEN is now in the process of recruiting a new community for next year's project.

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 and during Art Delaune's Chair's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 15 Priorities and Work Plan Discussion

Carrie Predeger explained that she had drafted a new work plan that focuses only on things that are solely the DD Committee's responsibility, excluding items that the committee just reviews or supports. Carrie led a discussion of the work plan priorities in which committee members suggested activities for each priority. It was decided that there are a few items that warrant reinstating the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee; Ric and Patrick will start planning for that, and Alex Gimarc volunteered to participate.

Proposed Changes to Regulations

Carrie Predeger informed the committee that the verbal public comment period on the proposed changes to the regulations will be on June 11th at 1:00 p.m. A small work group will meet after that to review the comments that were made and prepare written comments on behalf of the Council to be submitted by the June 30th deadline.

Upcoming Meetings

- Durable Medical Equipment Reuse and Recycle Partnership: To be determined.
- SESA Board: June 5-6
- Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee: June 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Executive Committee: June 25, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Special Olympics Building
- APSE Conference: Long Beach, California, July 1 – 3
- NACDD/ITACC Conference: Washington, D.C., July 7 - 10

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee meeting will be on July 2nd from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.