

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  
September 10, 2014  
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair  
Annette Blanas  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Mallory Hamilton  
Maureen Harwood  
Susan Kaplan  
Christine King  
Kaleene Lamb  
Sharon Miranda  
Mark Romick  
Lizette Stier

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart  
Brittney Howell

Guests:

Breanna James

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order –1:02 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

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

Patrick Reinhart announced that Mallory Hamilton is a new Council member.

Annette Blanas of the Center for Human Development introduced herself and a guest, Creighton University student Breanna James, who is involved in the LEND program.

Art Delaune noted that September 9 was FASD Awareness Day, in honor of which Senator Pete Kelly’s staff and the FASD diagnostic team coordinator had made a presentation to the United Way/Chamber of Commerce lunch in Fairbanks.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Susan Kaplan **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

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

Sharon Miranda **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the July 2nd, 2014 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Patrick Reinhart stated that there was no correspondence other than what would be covered under other items on the agenda.

**REPORTS**

***Chair’s Report***

Art Delaune reported that he had met several times with Senator Kelly’s chief of staff, Heather Shattuck, and they are working on a lot of new things in the realm of FASD prevention.

Art noted that last year the DD Committee was working on HB 232 to help protect people with hidden disabilities. The bill didn't pass last year, but it has been revised in a joint effort between Wall Busters and the Alaska Police Standards Council, with the assistance of Senator Thompson's chief of staff Jane Pearson. The new bill addresses training for peace officers to learn how to recognize hidden disabilities such as autism or brain injury. Art stated that he hopes the rough draft will be ready to discuss at the full Council meeting in October.

### ***Intellectual/Developmental Disability Unit***

Maureen Harwood stated that there are currently 718 people on the DD registration and review, and they are making progress toward their target of drawing 200 people per year.

Maureen reported that the regulations package that went out for public comment is now being rewritten. Also, SDS has been holding community forums on the new home and community-based services regulations. These forums are not public comment yet, and next the agencies will do a self-assessment of how integrated their services are as part of a five-year process.

### ***AADD***

Lizette Stier has replaced Kim Champney as the executive director of AADD. Lizette noted that the week of this meeting was Direct Service Provider Week, and she regretted that agencies and groups did not act to get a Governor's proclamation recognizing it.

Lizette Stier stated that the AADD has obtained a grant from the Mental Health Trust to look at the Enterprise site and payment claims reimbursement since it went into effect in October of 2013. Lizette stated that they have seen a rough draft of a report, and it should be ready to release within a month or so.

Lizette also noted that AADD and Key Coalition had held a joint meeting to discuss the history, mission similarities, and overlap of the two organizations and how they could financially collaborate.

Lizette announced that AADD will be meeting the week after the Governor's Council, on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in the Special Olympics building.

### ***Key Coalition***

Patrick Reinhart stated that Key Campaign will be February 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>, with the 18<sup>th</sup> as the arrival day and the meeting the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be "Nothing about us without us". Patrick noted that the Governor's Council has \$5,000 set aside to help people with travel expenses, and the application deadline is November 14<sup>th</sup>, about a month earlier this year than in the past. Patrick noted that housing is a new focus area this year of both Key Coalition and the Governor's Council.

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

Patrick Reinhart announced that an agenda has been prepared for the full Council meeting October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and public testimony will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with a focus on housing.

### ***Peer Power***

Patrick Reinhart stated that Peer Power has not met all summer, but they are starting back up with a meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. Patrick noted that they are still recruiting new members.

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

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the FASD work group had met recently, but there weren't a lot of people in attendance. Jeanne announced that The Arc of Anchorage had agreed to be the parent organization for Self-Advocates with FASD In Action, or SAFA.

Jeanne stated that there have been some valuable online trainings for educators and others on how to effectively work with people with FASD, including a good one by Dr. David Gerry called "Living With FASD". Jeanne noted that she is going to be on an advisory panel with the Center for Circumpolar Studies about placing FASD prevention materials in bars. Also, the SESA work group is developing a survey on what is being done currently to train teachers in the field of FASD.

## ***Housing***

Mark Romick reported that AHFC has been opening and closing their waiting lists for housing recently, and people can get on the notification list for these openings by visiting the AHFC website. Mark also stated that AHFC has an MOU with SDS to consolidate all of the vouchers statewide that are set aside for people with disabilities so that more agencies can refer clients for vouchers, since some vouchers have been going unused.

Mark Romick noted that AHFC is working with the Division of Behavioral Health to develop a notice of funding availability for ACT teams, which are like SWAT teams for people with mental health or behavioral health needs. They are also trying to coordinate the ACT team program with the Special Needs Housing Grant program, which is a capital project to help developers build or renovate housing to accommodate people with special needs.

Mark Romick stated that Alaska Housing is currently working on their update to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, which they are required to submit to HUD every five years. Mark said that he would make sure the Governor's Council receives notices pertaining to this survey, since the Council is focusing on housing this year. Mark noted that AHFC does this analysis for the state of Alaska outside of Anchorage, and the Municipality of Anchorage does its own, which is also currently underway. Mark urged Council members and other interested parties to comment on these five-year plans.

## ***Rural Issues and Telepractice***

Brittney Howell explained that she has been doing some research on the issues of using telepractice to provide services for people with developmental disabilities, and Alaska is one of 23 states that has regulations against reimbursing telemedicine services for HCBS specifically. However, SDS is doing a pilot project to test doing their yearly functional reassessments by telepractice. Discussion ensued about the use of telepractice by various agencies, and about progress and barriers in this field.

## ***DSP Living Wages***

Brittney Howell directed committee members to a paper included in the meeting packet titled “Family Living Wage 2020: Direct Service Professionals.” Patrick Reinhart went on to explain that the Key Coalition is still working to get the Governor’s office to appoint a task force to examine wages and workforce development for direct service professionals. Key Coalition has developed this white paper explaining what they want the task force to do, and it will soon be submitted to the Governor’s office.

Brittney also discussed the final rule from the U.S. Department of Labor requiring that domestic help working over 40 hours a week must be paid overtime pay. A three-page summary of this rule was included in the meeting packet. Brittney noted that this ruling has caused an uproar in some agencies, who claim that it will cost them too much. However, exemptions are still available for family members who are employed as caregivers and live-in help.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Maureen Harwood stated that there was nothing new to add about the waitlist work group.

### ***Proposed Changes to Regulations***

Patrick Reinhart stated that the regulations are now in the rewriting stage, and the Council will review them again when they come out. Brittney Howell noted that there is a PowerPoint document attached to the meeting materials that explains the changes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Letter of Support for Reuse and Recycle Program under Medicaid***

Patrick Reinhart explained that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee had made progress toward getting the state Medicaid office to consider allowing Medicaid funds to purchase used durable medical equipment, and some

recommendations were put out. However, providers of durable medical equipment resisted. The Medicaid office still wants to develop some new regulations in this area, and they have asked the Governor's Council to write a letter of support to the Commissioner. Patrick advised committee members to watch for a draft of that letter in the next couple of weeks.

### ***Upcoming Meetings and Conferences***

- AADD Teleconference, September 11 at 11 a.m.
- CMS HCBS Conference, September 17 – 20, Virginia (Ric)
- Medicaid Reform Advisory Group, September 17, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., AARP Frontier Building (Patrick and Britteny)
- ADRC Advisory Board, September 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Patrick)
- Trust Beneficiary Employment and Engagement full-day meeting, September 26, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Teresa, Rich)
- Statewide Homeless Coalition Conference, September 29 – October 1, Juneau (no staff attending)
- Statewide Transit Conference, September 30 – October 2, Anchorage (Patrick)
- **Full Council meeting**, October 1 – 2, Anchorage, Special Olympics Building; community forum on housing, October 1
- FASD Work Group, October 7, 3 – 4:30 p.m. (Christie)
- AADD, October 8 – 9, Anchorage, Special Olympics Building
- Medicaid Advisory Board Meeting, October 29, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Anchorage Crime Lab (Patrick and Britteny)

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

The next DD Committee meeting will be on November 5th from 1 to 3 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.