

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 3, 2014
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair
Anthony Buckner
John Cannon
Mary Elam
Mallory Hamilton
Maureen Harwood
PJ Hatfield-Bauer
Susan Kaplan
Christine King
Amanda Lofgren
Duane Mayes
Suzanne Mittlestadt
Ric Nelson
Mark Romick

Staff:

Britteny Howell
Kristin Vandagriff
Patrick Reinhart

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

Maureen Harwood introduced Suzanne Mittlestadt, the new Intellectual/Developmental Disability grant manager out of Juneau.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was not a quorum at this meeting, so the agenda and previous meeting minutes could not be approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Art Delaune reported that he had been involved with several things. The bill on training for people with disabilities that a group in Fairbanks has been working on is almost done, and Art said that he will send it to Legislative Committee members soon. Also, Art stated that he had met with some legislators, and he has been working with the committee reviewing the Council bylaws, which will come up later on the agenda.

Intellectual/Developmental Disability Unit

Maureen Harwood reported that the I/DD Registry currently has 702 people, and they are in the process of doing their last draw for this calendar year, which will put them at 200 people drawn. Maureen stated that they continue to work on the new CMS rules on conflict-free case management and waiver services for people with autism.

AADD

There was no AADD report at this meeting.

Key Coalition

John Cannon reported that Key 28 will be February 19th and 20th in Juneau. Key has decided on its legislative priorities for this year:

- Continuing to draw at least 200 per year from the I/DD wait list
- Confronting the challenges and expenses associated with the Enterprise system
- Maintaining the integrity of the waiver system
- Developing more support for people affected by autism

John Cannon also said that Key plans to develop some position papers on additional issues, including conflict-free case management, housing, and advocating for a state fiscal plan. Also, Key is continuing to support the Complex Behavior Collaborative.

Senior and Disability Services

Duane Mayes gave an update on SDS, first noting that Valerie Davidson is now the commissioner under the new Governor. Duane remarked that Valerie Davidson is very knowledgeable about Medicaid, and he sees a lot of excitement and enthusiasm over her appointment as commissioner. Duane Mayes noted a number of state managers who had resigned since Monday.

Duane Mayes stated that the big issues the Department is currently working on are the automated service plan, the new rules on settings, and the conflict-free case management regulations. Duane said that a work group has been formed to develop a plan for implementing conflict-free case management, and they had received about \$50,000 from the Trust to hire a contractor to help. Duane suggested that someone from the Governor's Council might want to participate in that group, and Patrick Reinhart requested to be notified of future meetings so that he or staff could attend.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Executive Committee has a meeting the day after this meeting. They will be drafting a letter introducing the Governor's Council to the new Governor and planning for the January Council meeting.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power has three new board members, including a vice-president and two representatives. They will have a table at the Special Olympics bowling event, and they are considering whether they might be able to meet in Juneau after the Governor's Council meeting.

FASD Work Group

Brittney Howell reported that she staffed at the most recent meeting, and one thing the group is working on is to change the regulations so that certified nurse practitioners as well as doctors would be able to sign the diagnostic IEP for students with FASD, as doctors are not always available.

Housing

Mark Romick reported that AHFC is still waiting to find out whether they will receive additional units of vouchers under the 811 program. Outgoing Commissioner Streur signed a memorandum of agreement with Alaska Housing for a program called Moving Home, the vouchers for which include case management services as needed, funded through the Division of Behavioral Health. Mark also discussed programs for people transitioning out of the corrections system or foster care, among others.

Mark noted that there are waiting lists open for public housing in every community, which can be accessed through AHFC's website. Mark urged committee members to encourage people to sign up even if they had heard that public housing is full, because they have to be on the list to have any chance of getting assistance.

Mark Romick added that Brittney Howell has been working with him to add some questions to their analysis of impediments to fair housing. Brittney

asked committee members to review the document that she sent out titled “Fair Housing Impediments Survey Questions for Renters” and send her any feedback so that she could bring it back to AHFC.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Changes to Regulations

Brittney Howell noted that the settings transition plan would probably come out in January, and would need a quick turnaround. Interested committee members can join a work group that will meet several times for two or three hours each time to review the regulations when they come out.

Update on \$50,000 Trust Funding for Assistive Technology in Housing

Amanda Lofgren reported that this project is just awaiting Jeff Jessee’s signature, and it includes three components: Bringing a national expert on assistive technology solutions to Alaska; providing technical assistance and expertise to the Home Map project in Southeast and the Kenai; and purchasing assistive technology for demonstrations and pilot projects. Amanda said that she will send out the documents once they are signed.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Council Bylaws

Brittney Howell reported that she is working with several Council members on proposed amendments to the bylaws. Brittney included excerpts in the meeting packet, and she discussed key points with the committee. Brittney noted that actually making amendments is a long, involved process, and it would not be done at the January meeting.

Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes

Patrick Reinhart stated that whatever comes out will happen rapidly, and the Council needs to be prepared to react. Patrick noted that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee is already keeping abreast of changes as much as possible, and invited other committee members to join them. Committee members discussed possible changes and what they would like to see.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- Executive Committee, December 4, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- ADRC Steering Committee, December 5, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- FASD Work Group, December 9, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Early Intervention Committee, December 10
- AADD Teleconference, December 11, 11 a.m.
- AIEI Management Team, December 11, 1 p.m.
- SDS Medicaid Transition Plan review: Early January
- Legislative Committee Meeting, January 6, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- Council Meeting, Juneau: January 20 - 22
- Key Campaign, Juneau: February 18 - 20

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next DD Committee meeting will be on January 7, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.