

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  
January 7, 2015  
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair  
Oscar Cedano  
Mary Elam  
Sarah Freeman  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Mallory Hamilton  
Maureen Harwood  
Caroline Hogan  
Susan Kaplan  
Christine King  
Kaleene Lamb  
Amanda Lofgren  
Sharon Miranda  
Carrie Nash  
Sheila Soule  
Lizette Stiehr

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart  
Brittney Howell  
Kristin Vandagriff

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**

There were no announcements at this meeting.

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

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the September 10, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**REPORTS**

***Chair's Report***

Art Delaune discussed some issues that he has been seeing in Fairbanks that are probably statewide, including a lack of emergency and long-term housing for people with disabilities and limited public transportation options. Also, Art mentioned that since Fairbanks Community Mental Health went bankrupt last year, there's been a long wait list for services for people with mental health issues, which includes many in the DD community.

Art noted that the Legislative Committee and others have been working on a bill to have police officers trained in how to communicate with people with non-apparent disabilities. Also, some agencies are developing training for people with disabilities to learn how to interact with law enforcement officers, with the idea of making these interactions safer for both the officers and the people with disabilities.

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

Maureen Harwood reported that currently there are 696 people on the I/DD registration and review, and 91 have been drawn since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Maureen stated that they are in the process of preparing their annual report to be published and sent to the legislature. Maureen noted that they are still working on issues related to Harmony and Xerox.

Maureen Harwood added that her unit has a reviewer position open, and they are in the process of automating Senior and Disability Services, which should make service delivery more efficient.

## ***AADD***

Lizette Stiehr noted that Margaret Brodie would be attending the next AADD teleconference on January 15th to talk about the Medicaid initiative.

Lizette stated that AADD has been working with Amanda Lofgren from the Trust and Sandra Heffern from the Community Care Coalition on a Trust grant on the conflict-free case management issue. The Trust saw that this regulation is difficult for providers, and they are working to develop a system that will meet the needs of providers, care coordinators, and recipients, as well as the state requirement to oversee all of it. A steering committee has been formed, including Angela Salerno, Karl Garber, and Allison Lee, and they have a stakeholder meeting planned for next week, facilitated by Agnew::Beck. A plan should be developed by late February.

Lizette Stiehr added that a group is also working with SDS and Behavioral Health to look at why some individuals with challenging behaviors are being served outside Alaska and what would need to be done in Alaska to serve those people. Lizette stated that this group is meeting monthly and discussing how to put the WICHE report recommendations in place. Another grant is trying to get acuity rates implemented by the end of March so that providers could be reimbursed at different rates for clients who require higher levels of care.

## ***Key Coalition***

There was no report on Key Coalition at this meeting, but it was noted that Key Campaign would be in Juneau on Thursday and Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Patrick Reinhart described the plan for the Governor's Council meeting in Juneau on January 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Most Council members will fly in on Martin Luther King Day, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The public testimony and community forum will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and the Council will meet all day on the 21<sup>st</sup> and half the day on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the rest of the time for meetings with legislators.

Patrick Reinhart noted that the Council's legislative agenda from last year was completed, so they started with a clean slate this year. The Legislative Committee met on January 6 and decided on the legislative priorities and positions for this year, and they are developing the legislative packet for the Juneau meeting. Patrick stated that the agenda for the Juneau meeting has been posted on the website, but may still be subject to revision.

## ***FASD Work Group***

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the SAFA chapter is going to have their first meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> at The Arc of Anchorage. Jeanne also noted that the Family Voice conference will be in Juneau on February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Jeanne and Trish Smith will be presenting Into Action, and families will have the opportunity to visit with legislators at that conference. Finally, Jeanne noted that the FASD family camp that usually happens in February is currently without funding, but Trish Smith is searching for sources of funding and is still hopeful.

Britteny Howell stated that the FASD work group has been working on changing some of the language in the Department of Education regulations to broaden the definition of physicians who are qualified to diagnose FASD.

## ***Peer Power***

There was no report on Peer Power at this meeting.

## ***Housing***

Oscar Cedano, a planner with the AHFC planning division, spoke to the committee about the 2016 to 2020 Five-Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan and the 2016 Annual Action Plan. Oscar discussed various aspects of these reports and informed the committee of public hearings on February 24<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>. Oscar said that the Governor's Council will receive official notice of those public comment sessions as the time approaches, and he encouraged Council members to read the plan on the website and provide comments directly to him.

As part of the plan, the agency is required to do an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, and this time Britteny Howell helped develop survey questions with a focus on the role disabilities play in housing barriers. Oscar reported that the survey will go out to five groups of people, including renters, realtors, builders, property managers, and agencies, and they expect to receive results in February.

## ***ASPEN***

The quarterly report on ASPEN was not scheduled for this meeting.

## ***OLD BUSINESS***

### ***University of Alaska Training Initiatives in Telepractice***

Sheila Soule from the Office of Health Programs Development at University of Alaska Anchorage spoke to the committee about courses the college is offering in the telehealth field. Sheila provided course outlines so committee members could see in detail what is covered. One course is a continuing education course accredited by the American Telemedicine Association, which leads to a certification as a telehealth manager. Another is a graduate-level course called Innovations in Telehealth, and the third is a 200-level three-credit course under a special topics prefix that is a good introductory course for anyone who might work with telehealth in their

future. Sheila Soule noted that the CE course has been held up as a model by the American Telemedicine Association, and it is distance-delivered to students all over the country.

### ***Update on Housing Barriers Project for People with Disabilities***

Britteny Howell pointed out that the meeting packet included some recent survey draft questions for renters and non-profit agencies. Britteny noted that committee members can only participate in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing survey if they are contacted, so the survey cannot be skewed to over-represent the DD population.

Britteny Howell added that the DD Committee is working with Mary Elam of Stone Soup Group, who is a LEND fellow this term and is doing a project on housing, to set up focus groups and interviews of people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities who may or may not have experienced housing barriers. They are starting with transition-age youth, because that is the main component of Mary's LEND project, but they will expand from there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes***

Britteny Howell noted that Chris Ashenbrenner is the new director of Medicaid expansion, and she has been on the record stating that she hopes to roll it out in July. The two main barriers are the eligibility system errors and the problems with Xerox.

Amanda Lofgren added that the Trust has been working with the Department to develop an RFP to hire a consultant to help with the technical side of the Medicaid expansion and consider how it will affect Trust beneficiaries. Britteny Howell said that there is a fact sheet on the Governor's Council website newsfeed about Medicaid changes, and said she would also send it out to committee members.

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

- Legislative Committee, January 6, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- AADD Teleconference, January 8, 11 a.m.
- Early Intervention Committee, January 14, 10 a.m.
- Education Committee, January 15, 1:30 p.m.
- Governor’s Council meeting in Juneau, January 20 - 22
- Executive Committee, January 28, 1 p.m.
- FASD Forum and Training, Juneau, February 3 – 6
- AADD, Juneau, February 18
- Key Campaign, Juneau, February 19 - 20

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

The next DD Committee meeting will be on February 4th from 1 to 3 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.