

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

February 4, 2015
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair
Mallory Hamilton
Susan Kaplan
Kaleene Lamb
Carrie Nash
Ric Nelson
Lizette Stiehr
Sara Burley
Corina Castillo-Shepard
Clarissa Moon
Deb Taylor
P.K. Wilson

Guests:

Jason Haas
Mary Ann Hiller

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff

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

Art Delaune congratulated Ric Nelson on being named one of the Top 40 Under 40 in Alaska.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was not a quorum at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

REPORTS

Division of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Deb Taylor, P.K. Wilson, and Clarissa Moon reported for DHCS. P.K. Wilson described the Alaska Medicaid Coordinated Care Initiative (AMCCI), a new voluntary program which is aimed at helping patients utilize Medicaid benefits more efficiently. The program is funded by a National Governors Association grant specifically intended to alleviate the problems of “superutilizers” of health care through individualized case management. Alaska has a two-year contract, with an optional third year, with MedExpert, a California company that describes itself as a medical concierge, to address these issues and provide services to improve outcomes in complex cases.

MedExpert representatives Mary Ann Hiller and Jason Haas gave a presentation about their company and the services that it provides. MedExpert guides members through the health care system and uses its engineered system to generate reports on current best practices based on an individual’s specific diagnoses. MedExpert has doctors and nurses on

its staff who will communicate peer to peer with a member's physicians to help determine the best course of treatment.

Ms. Hiller reported that as of the date of this meeting, MedExpert had been in contact with over 1,000 AMCCI members. Overall, the company has worked with over 340,000 individuals in the past 2 ½ years, and independent evaluations following these members have shown reductions in emergency room utilization and hospital admissions and readmissions. Ms. Hiller and Ms. Wilson emphasized that MedExpert's services are available to all Medicaid members, and people can get self-referral forms on the DHCS website.

Chair's Report

Art Delaune reported that he thought the Juneau Council meeting went well, and legislators were supportive of what the Council advocated for, though most noted that funding is nonexistent this year. Art said that legislators particularly liked the Council's ideas for saving money on Medicaid services through recycling of durable medical equipment and other means.

Kristin Vandagriff added that many legislators wanted more information about Medicaid, and that Britteny Howell has created a nice single-page fact sheet comparing Medicaid 1915(c), (k), and (i) state plans on one side and what other states are doing on the other side. Kristin said that this document will soon be sent out to legislators and Council members.

Intellectual/Developmental Disability Unit

Corina Castillo-Shepard welcomed Deb Etheridge, the new deputy director of SDS. Corina stated that there will soon be other new names and faces joining the I/DD unit.

Corina Castillo-Shepard reported that they had drawn 17 participants last month and would be doing the February draw by the end of next week. Currently there are 705 individuals on the wait list, and a lot of new eligibilities and renewals. Corina added that the DDDR report to the legislators should be complete by mid-February.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD is still grappling with the newly required conflict-free case management rules, and stakeholders were planning to meet the day after this meeting to form a plan. The next waiver plan is due to CMS in July of 2016, and a draft must be submitted by March of 2016. Providers have realized that they don't have years to make the transition, but are expected to be doing conflict-free case management already.

Lizette Stiehr noted that she was on a teleconference earlier in the morning, which a thousand people attended, on what the new CMS rules about integrated settings mean for supported employment. There will be another meeting on the last Friday in February and another opportunity to provide public comment on the transition plan.

Lizette reminded board members of AADD's face-to-face meeting coming up on February 18th, and requested RSVPs from any Council members planning to attend. AADD is also currently working on the issue of complex behavioral solutions for Alaskans who are currently being served Outside because their needs are so complex.

Key Coalition

There was no representative from Key Coalition at this meeting, but Lizette Stiehr noted that Key Campaign would be in Juneau on Thursday and Friday, February 19th and 20th. Kristin Vandagriff added that she, Patrick Reinhart, Britteny Howell, and Johanna Richter, the new legislative intern, would be going to Key, as well as several Council members and people who were given stipends to attend, including a Project SEARCH student.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Ric Nelson reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the January Council meeting in Juneau.

FASD Work Group

Kristin Vandagriff reported that at the time of this meeting, Britteny Howell was at the FASD Into Action Forum in Juneau, and Britteny will be the primary staff person on that issue from now on.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson stated that Peer Power didn't meet last month, but they are meeting on February 11th, and they have two job fairs coming up on February 13th and March 11th. Also, Ric announced that Peer Power got the IRS paperwork back and is now officially a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Housing

Kristin Vandagriff read a report on six items from Mark Romick of AHFC:

1. The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the Special Needs Housing Grant program was issued, and the application deadline has been extended until March 31. Also, a special program for projects located within the Municipality of Anchorage has registration open from January 29th to February 13th.
2. The fair housing survey is underway and the response rate is good so far. The McDowell Group should have an analysis ready in about two weeks.
3. The Moving Home program, which partners with DHSS to provide housing vouchers for people with disabilities, is currently taking applications in Fairbanks.
4. AHFC has opened voucher waiting lists in Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Soldotna, Valdez, and Wrangell.
5. The FY 16 AHFC capital budget has been released by the Governor's Office and is posted on the OMB website.
6. The first public hearing on the state housing and community development plan is scheduled for February 24th. When the notice is released, Council staff will forward it to committee members.

Mental Health Trust Authority

Lizette Stiehr shared the news that the Trust has authorized a grant for Effective Health Design to look at acuity rates for individuals and assisted living facilities based on the four-tier scale of difficulty that Myers and Stauffer put out last summer. Lizette commented that such rapid movement on this issue is owing to the help of the Mental Health Trust Authority.

ASPEN

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

OLD BUSINESS

Telepractice Initiatives

There was no report on telepractice initiatives at this meeting.

Update on Housing Barriers Project for People with Disabilities

As reported under Housing, the fair housing survey is underway and results should be compiled soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes

Kristin Vandagriff stated that Amanda Lofgren has a good brochure on Medicaid expansion. Kristin will try to forward a copy to committee members soon.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- FASD Forum and Training, Juneau, February 3 - 6
- Early Intervention Committee, February 11, 10 a.m.
- Legislative Committee, February 12, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- AADD meeting in Juneau, February 18, 11 a.m.
- Key Campaign in Juneau, February 19 - 20

- Education Committee, February 19, 1:30 p.m.
- Executive Committee, February 25, 1- 2:30 p.m.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.