

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

March 4, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Art Delaune – Chair  
Anthony Cravalho  
Don Enoch  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Mallory Hamilton  
Kaleene Lamb  
Ric Nelson  
Lizette Stiehr  
Sara Burley  
John Cannon  
Jennifer Glorioso  
Caroline Hogan  
Christine King  
Amanda Lofgren  
Mark Romick

Guests:

Sarah Freeman  
Matthew Hirschfeld

Staff:

Britteny Howell  
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**

There were no announcements or good news at this meeting.

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

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda for today’s meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to accept the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The motion **PASSED**.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Brittney Howell directed committee members to the letter in the meeting packet titled “State Transition Plan for Home and Community-Based Service Settings.” The 16-page letter is the Governor’s Council’s comment on the state transition plan, composed by members of the DD Committee and the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee.

**REPORTS**

***Housing***

Mark Romick’s report was moved up so he could leave for another meeting. Mark said that he had good news: AHFC was notified that their application in conjunction with DHSS under the Section 811 program, which is a set-aside of rental vouchers for people with disabilities, was approved by HUD, which means that they’ll receive about \$7.7 million in rental assistance over the next five years. That will make about 200 more units of housing available, and the funds should be available in early 2016.

Mark noted that this is different from the Moving Home program, which is tenant-based rental assistance. He said that Moving Home has already rolled out with 150 units in Fairbanks, and it's going a bit slowly. Mark encouraged committee members to pass along the word that there is rental assistance available in Fairbanks for people with disabilities, and the contact person is Lisa Rosay at DBH in Anchorage.

Mark added that they hope to receive a draft of the fair housing survey from the contractor this week. They got about 600 responses from renters, and one thing that is notable is that there is a substantial need for education on what constitutes discrimination. Britteny Howell remarked that the survey has tripled its response rate over the one that was done five years ago.

The Special Needs Housing Grant NOFA was extended through the end of March, partly because the Municipality of Anchorage came up with \$1.5 million in matching funds. Mark said that they expect to get a couple of more projects out of this.

Mark told the group that the Housing and Community Development Plan draft should be out in the next couple of weeks, and then the public comment period will start.

### ***Chair's Report***

Art Delaune reported that he went to Juneau for Key Coalition and the AADD meeting. Art said he found it both informative and depressing, with the budget looking bleak but not finished yet.

### ***Key Coalition***

John Cannon stated that he felt the Key Campaign was effective this year, and the strategy of having cost savings as the top priority played well with legislators. Commissioner Davidson said in her address to the Senate HSS Committee that she wants to proceed with the reuse of durable medical equipment, and Senator Stoltze made strong statements acknowledging Key for bringing positive suggestions forward.

John Cannon noted that not all of the legislators who RSVPed actually came to the Unity Dinner, and they are trying to figure out what happened. John discussed the ongoing work on the state budget, and noted that there will no longer be any discretionary funds for the Short Term Assistance and Referral (STAR) programs; \$15,000 in discretionary funds were removed from the annual STAR budget, leaving it at \$70,000.

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

Caroline Hogan reported that they are currently doing a draw for March, and they drew 18 in February. There are now 670 people on the registry, and the scores range between zero and 138, but the monthly draws are helping, and they've been drawing down into the 70s.

Caroline said that the annual registry report was completed and given to Deb Etheridge, the new deputy director, late last week. Ms. Etheridge told Caroline that she hopes to have it posted on the website by the end of the week.

Caroline reported that the I/DD unit has hired a long-term, non-permanent ICAP assessor named Julie White, and they are in the process of interviewing for another waiver reviewer, also a long-term, non-permanent position.

### ***AADD***

Lizette Stiehr started by thanking the Trust and saying that the Key Campaign went very well. Lizette remarked that she was very impressed with the Governor's Council's intern, Johanna, for being so organized.

Lizette Stiehr reported that of greatest concern to AADD right now is that the grant requirements have changed in several different formats, so that the DD grants suddenly must have a 10 percent match. This could be a substantial amount for some large programs. Also, AADD is focused on Medicaid expansion, and they are planning to do both a resolution and a letter. The STAR reduction is their third biggest issue right now, but the budget isn't a done deal yet.

Lizette explained the conflict-free case management rule, which is federally required to be implemented by July of 2016. This mandates that all case managers must be in a conflict-free organization, independent from agencies providing services. Currently, over 80 percent of I/DD and CCMC waivers are done by case managers who work for agencies that also provide services. The Trust has funded a grant, which was awarded to Agnew::Beck and HCB Services, to make a draft plan and have stakeholders meet and review it. The group of stakeholders met on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and developed four options of how the system might look. There will be a meeting in mid-March at The Arc for recipients and families receiving waiver services, and a webinar/teleconference before the end of March that will invite everyone in the state to listen to the plan for having all case managers/care coordinators in a conflict-free entity by July 2016.

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

Ric Nelson reported that the Executive Committee met the previous week and discussed the budget, follow-up on the legislative visits, and letters of support. Patrick Reinhart added that they also talked about next year's Council meeting, and they've decided not to go during the first week of the legislative session. Patrick reminded everyone that the next Council meeting will be in Anchorage at Special Olympics on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Peer Power***

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power met last month and talked about their work plan, which is mostly completed. They had a table at the University Center job fair and will have one at the Mat-Su job fair, as well as a table at the Stone Soup Group parent conference. Peer Power's next board meeting is next Wednesday. Patrick Reinhart added that Peer Power now has over 60 members.

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

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus said that the biggest update is that the FASD Work Group needs to regroup, and they have a teleconference planned for March 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 4:30. Because of meetings, travel, and changing staff people, they haven't met in quite a while.

Jeanne said that she would send out a link for a fantastic hour-long presentation by Dan Dubovsky on substance abuse training for people with an FASD. Also, she said she had just completed a two-day FASD Into Action training in Kotzebue with Behavioral Health that was very well received.

Jeanne was unable to attend the FASD Family Voice Forum, so Britteny Howell reported on the session with a lawyer about getting FASD to be a qualifier for DD eligibility and defining medical professionals who are qualified to make a diagnosis of FASD. Britteny said that the FASD Work Group has submitted language to the Department of Education and Early Development that defines what a physician is for the purpose of signing IEPs for “other health impairments,” which includes FASD.

### ***Mental Health Trust Authority***

Amanda Lofgren reported that she spent most of January in Juneau, and then through February she was concentrating with Lizette on conflict-free case management, so this week has been her first chance to reflect on all of her trips.

Amanda said that in January, a work group of all the departments and divisions came together to talk about the Trust’s employment initiative. They discussed what data indicators are being tracked, and identified some areas where they would like to measure results, such as increased access to employment services through community services and support; beneficiary training; meaningful activities and community engagement; and social enterprise and microenterprise.

Amanda told the committee that the Trust’s annual stakeholder meeting would be on May 12<sup>th</sup>. On May 11<sup>th</sup> a documentary called CinemAbility will be showing at Tikahtnu Theater, and there will be an event with a panel presentation and some actors and motivational speakers. Three hundred tickets will be available, and Amanda said she would try to get some for committee members.

Amanda Lofgren added that an RFP has come out from the Department to hire a consultant to help with Medicaid expansion and reform and to provide technical assistance on what the system would be like and what

other states are doing. Proposals are due in a couple of weeks, and they hope to have a contractor selected by mid-April. The Trust has provided funding for this RFP and for a 1915(i) implementation plan, but the second one hasn't moved yet because the larger reform, expansion, a technical assistance contract needs to get underway first. Partners including the Governor's Council, the Mental Health Board, the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Commission on Aging will start having discussions with SDS about 1915(i) later in March.

## **ASPEN**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Telepractice Initiatives***

Sarah Freeman from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Dr. Matthew Hirschfeld from the Alaska Native Medical Center gave a presentation on ways that they are using telepractice to see rural patients more often, especially for follow-up visits. They use both live interactive video and asynchronous, "store-and-forward" methods to deliver care. They are moving more toward live videoconferencing because it builds more of a relationship, but the store-and-forward method works well for certain clinical areas like ENT and dermatology, and was particularly important in the past when Alaska's poor connectivity often did not permit live videoconferencing.

Dr. Hirschfeld described how Dr. Rachel Lescher, a pediatric endocrinologist, has been a forerunner in this program and has brought endocrine services to the villages through telemedicine. Pediatric endocrine cases are complex and require lots of follow-up, and this is a big improvement over the old days when doctors would see these patients only twice a year. ANMC also has a team of traveling pediatric speech pathologists, and Sarah and Matthew are working on developing emergency services for telemedicine so that workers in rural hospitals could call and get consultations almost immediately.

Dr. Hirschfeld reviewed data on Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, from the state. The Alaska Pediatric Partnership is launching a couple of pilot programs around the state to try to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences. One is the Positive Parenting Program, which will be in Sitka soon, funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Trust. If it works in Sitka, Dillingham wants to provide the Positive Parenting Program by telemedicine. Coaches would be trained by the program and based in the hub communities to counsel people about parenting skills via telemedicine.

Another project is the Alaska Lactation Program, an effort to increase breastfeeding by providing information and support from lactation consultants. Dr. Hirschfeld discussed how skin-to-skin contact between a baby and its parents promotes bonding and reduces child abuse and neglect. Even men experience a release of oxytocin, promoting bonding, when they hold their baby against their bare skin. Sarah Freeman added that their ultimate goal is to develop a breastfeeding app that people could have on their phone so that a lactation consultant could be reached by the push of a button. Matthew and Sarah also emphasized the increased opportunities for follow-up after birth through telepractice.

Amanda Lofgren noted that Duane Mayes had said that by April 1st, SDS should have the new rural long-term care development coordinator position filled, and telehealth is one of the priority projects of that job.

Committee members thanked Matthew Hirschfeld and Sarah Freeman for their interesting presentation.

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

As reported under Housing, the fair housing survey draft should be received soon, and Britteny will get a copy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Budget Update***

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Governor's original budget had a \$507,000 cut to DD grants, which was still in the budget draft that came out of the House Finance Committee hearing on Friday. The Council also had

\$50,000 cut from its travel budget, which will hinder its ability to participate in Key Campaign and other events in the future. The Mental Health Board also sustained some cuts, as did the adult day care programs.

Patrick and others discussed the fact that Medicaid expansion is evolving into Medicaid reform. Amanda Lofgren said that the Trust had sent out some template letters for people to send to their delegates about Medicaid expansion, and she urged everyone to submit comments at the public testimony periods as well.

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

- Health and Disability Program Meeting, March 4, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Early Intervention Committee, March 11, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Alaska FASD Partnership, March 11, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- AADD teleconference, March 12, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Legislative Committee, March 12, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- Education Committee, March 19, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
- Executive Committee, March 25, 1- 2:30 p.m.

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

The next DD Committee meeting will be on April 1st from 1 to 3 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.