

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

April 1, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson

Sara Burley

Oscar Cedano

Anthony Cravalho

Mary Elam

Dave Fleurant

Rita Gage

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

Maureen Harwood

T.J. Hatfield-Bauer

Kaleene Lamb

Amanda Lofgren

Lanny Mommsen

Lizette Stiehr

Staff:

Brittney Howell

Patrick Reinhart

Rich Sanders

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**

Brittney Howell announced that the Governor’s Council, the DD Committee, and AHFC are co-sponsoring a training on fair housing accessibility standards, aimed at people involved in designing and constructing housing. The training will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>, and a flyer is available for distribution to appropriate people.

Kaleene Lamb announced that April 1<sup>st</sup> is her birthday.

Lizette Stiehr commented that the newspaper contained good news about the Anchorage Police apologizing to the Sudanese immigrants whose vehicles had been recently vandalized and admitting that they had handled the situation poorly. Lizette said that the outpouring of support from the community made her proud to live here.

Brittney Howell noted that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, people are asked to wear blue in recognition of child abuse, and to wear a cape for superhero day to identify people who are superheroes for kids in the community. STAR and the Alaska Children’s Trust request photos of people dressed in blue and in capes that they can post to their websites. Also, April 2<sup>nd</sup> is “Light It Up,” with monuments and offices all over the country illuminated by blue lights.

Mary Elam announced that the Autism Awareness Walk will be on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Dome off Minnesota Boulevard behind ChangePoint Church. There will be activities for kids and people will walk around the track in the indoor sports facility.

**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 were not formally approved.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Brittney Howell stated that the only correspondence was the letter of comment on AHFC's strategic consolidated five-year plan included in the meeting packet and under New Business on the agenda.

## **REPORTS**

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

Art Delaune was not present to give a report at this meeting.

### ***Key Coalition***

No one from Key Coalition reported at this meeting.

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

Maureen Harwood announced that the Autism Society of Alaska would be forming and photographing a human blue ribbon for autism at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Maureen stated that this is always a high-volume time for Senior and Disability Services, but with new staff, they are staying within their regulatory time frame. They continue to do draws from the developmental disabilities registration and review each month, and currently there are 706 people on the wait list.

Maureen said that the Department continues to work with large groups of people on the conflict-free case management issue, and there will be another community meeting in Fairbanks on April 15<sup>th</sup>. SDS is meeting regularly with the Harmony group, which is working on automating the waiver and PCA process. There are also some changes on the horizon for those who request applied behavioral analysis, with new licensure, standards, and developing Medicaid billing practices.

Ric Nelson asked Maureen whether the transition plan had been submitted yet and if committee members could see what was submitted. Maureen replied that she would send it to the Council.

## **AADD**

Lizette Stiehr said that AADD is in the process of negotiating with Steve Lesko to write a white paper on why Alaska does not want to go back to ICF/MRs and ICF/IDs. Parents have asked Duane Mayes about this issue repeatedly in public forums, and Lizette noted that Governor Walker used to live in Valdez and worked as a guardian ad litem for recipients that lived at Harborview, so he is very cognizant that that is not the way the state wants to go. The white paper will be a tool to use in explaining this to people.

Lizette stated that conflict-free case management is going forward, and the report on how it will be implemented has identified four options. This report is posted on the AADD website and the Governor's Council website. The state is coming out in favor of the first option, which is market-based in combination with four entities, and some communities are proactively considering what kind of entities might be able to take on the role of care coordination without providing direct services. Lizette noted that in the I/DD and CCMC sphere, over 80 percent of waivers are completed by people in agencies that are currently providing services and are therefore considered conflicted.

Lizette said that Key Coalition had decided on Thursday and Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, for their 2016 Key Campaign, and AADD would have their face-to-face in Juneau on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> prior to Key.

Lizette added that the AADD teleconference would be at 11 o'clock on the second Thursday of the month. They are also reactivating the CFO group, facilitated by Susan Garner, the chief finance officer at Mat-Su Services, and their meeting will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>. On the fourth Thursday of the month, AADD hosts a Hot Topics teleconference, and this month it will again focus on conflict-free case management.

Finally, Lizette said that AADD's newsletter for March had just been released, and she would gladly share copies with anyone who wanted one.

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

Ric Nelson reported that the Executive Committee met the previous week to plan for the May Council meeting, which will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Special Olympics building. Because this includes the first Wednesday of the month, the DD Committee's next teleconference will be in June.

Ric noted that the Council had hired Rich Sanders as the new planner.

Patrick Reinhart explained that the May meeting had been shortened from three days to two as a cost-saving measure, and the public forum would be on the evening of the first day from 6 to 7:30. The focus will be on all the Medicaid issues, but people are welcome to talk about anything they want to. Ric Nelson added that the Executive Committee had done a resolution on reforming Medicaid expansion.

Patrick Reinhart noted that Marilee Rivas, who worked for the Governor's Council in the past but has been working for SDS for the past few years, is coming back to take the place of Michelle Jenkins, who is retiring.

### ***Peer Power***

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power had a board meeting last week and will have a general membership meeting on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8. Also, they are working on the EPIC grant, and in May Ric, Tracy, and probably Patrick will travel to Seattle to have a face-to-face conference with others who are on the grant to talk about future plans.

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

Brittney Howell stated that she has replaced Christie as the staff person for the FASD Work Group, and they are reformatting the way they hold meetings to have more partners give updates and start on some new work priorities. The next teleconference will be on April 7 from 3 to 4:30, and Brittney said that if anyone is interested in getting involved, to let her know and she would add them to the mailing list.

The FASD Work Group helped write some new regulations for the Department of Education and Early Development to define a physician who

can sign off on “other health impairment” for IEPs for children affected by FASD. Britteny said that the group wrote some new regulations, sent them to DEED, and responded to clarifying questions, and this material should be written into the regulations soon.

## ***Housing***

Oscar Cedano stated that the evaluation of Karluk Manor, which is being done by UAA on the Housing First model, is out in draft form, and once it is final, copies will be made available. Also, AHFC did an analysis of impediments to fair housing, and soon they will meet with Britteny to review it.

Oscar Cedano added that the state manages a program called SRA, or sponsor-based rental assistance, for homeless people with developmental disabilities, and they are having issues with some documentation of disabilities being unclear. Oscar said that AHFC would request the Council’s assistance in understanding the definitions of different disabilities and the qualifications of those who diagnose them.

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

Amanda Lofgren stated that in response to concerns that there might not be enough seats available for the CinemAbility movie in May, the Trust has added a matinee show on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The movie is about how people with disabilities have been portrayed by Hollywood, and will be playing at the Tikahtnu Theater on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Amanda reported that under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, DVR is now required to allocate 15 percent of their budget for transition-age youth. DVR issued an RFP and has awarded funding to six agencies in various communities to provide pre-employment transition services to youths.

Amanda Lofgren also explained that there is a work group on complex behaviors that has been meeting for about four months to look at how to better serve individuals with complex needs. They are working on identifying what additional infrastructure and capacity is needed to serve these people in Alaska and understanding what training is needed by

agencies to be able to do behavioral assessments, to train families and providers on the plans that are developed, and to work out a mechanism for funding that. Also, work is being done on rebasing acuity rates and surveying assisted living homes on the levels of services they offer according to the four tiers identified in the Myers and Stauffer acuity report, which came out two years ago and is posted on the AADD website.

Amanda Lofgren announced that Mike Barton and Laraine Derr, who have been Trustees for eight years or more, will be leaving, and the Trust is awaiting confirmation of two new Trustees.

## **ASPEN**

Lanny Mommsen explained that ASPEN stands for Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network, a statewide partnership invested in helping community partners provide better services to people with disabilities who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Lanny reported that she, Karen Heath from the Center for Human Development, and Ariel Herman from the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault have visited the FY15 focus community to deliver their needs assessment report and offer advice on how to improve services. They held a strategic planning session and presented a list of training opportunities that might help, of which the focus community selected a couple they were interested in trying. After a memorandum of understanding and a strategic plan are finalized, that community will proceed on their own.

Lanny said that the ASPEN coordinators have also identified several potential communities for the FY 16 project, and will soon be approaching agencies to explain the project and find out whether their first choice community would like to participate or if they should approach the next one on the list. The names of the communities identified are confidential.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Brittney Howell noted that Oscar had already talked about the analysis of impediments to fair housing, and that Mary Elam's LEND project is interviewing people about their specific barriers to finding housing. Mary Elam explained that her interviews have revealed more issues relating to family concerns than related to the availability of suitable housing for people with disabilities. Mary will present her findings to LEND at the end of April and at the May Council meeting.

Oscar Cedano thanked the Governor's Council for the feedback on AHFC's plan and requested access to Mary's findings as well so that AHFC could benefit from the input. Oscar added that AHFC uses a Housing Quality Standards (HQS) report to confirm that housing offered under federal programs meets requirements, and they have recently learned that in many cases, the HQS is not required. Oscar advised people working with agencies that do HQS inspections to make sure it's required so people don't wait for housing unnecessarily because of it. Oscar also stated that it is hard to get training to do HQS inspections, and AHFC will be having training on it this summer.

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

Amanda Lofgren reported on the current state of legislation on Medicaid reform and expansion, and noted that more will be known in the next few weeks. Amanda thanked everyone who sent in personal letters and did memorandums of agreement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***DD Committee Priorities for May Council Meeting***

Patrick Reinhart explained that the work plan included in the packet was updated last September, and noted that it is the fifth year of the Council's five-year plan. The five-year planning process will start anew next year, so committee members were asked to look at what the DD Committee needs to focus on in FY 16 and come up with activities that fit the objectives on

the existing plan. Patrick requested that people look over the work plan and send in their suggestions by e-mail. Britteny will update the plan using that feedback and send out the new draft, then the group will discuss it at the May meeting and decide on their priorities for FY 16.

### ***Comment on AHFC Strategic Consolidated Five-Year Plan***

Britteny Howell explained that the last item in this month's meeting packet is a three-page letter drafted in response to AHFC's consolidated housing and community development plan. Comment is due on April 13<sup>th</sup>, so Britteny requested that if people have anything to add, they send it to her soon.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

- FASD Work Group, April 7, 3 p.m.
- Alaska FASD Partnership, April 8, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- AADD teleconference, April 9, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Legislative Committee, April 9, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- Executive Committee, April 15, 1- 2:30 p.m.
- Education Committee, April 16, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
- Conference on Mothers, Infants, and Families with Substance Dependence, April 15, Millennium Hotel
- Full Lives Conference, April 16 – 17
- Autism Awareness Walk, April 25, 2 – 4 p.m., The Dome, 6501 Changepoint Drive
- Fair Housing Training, April 29
- May Council Meeting, May 5 and 6, Special Olympics Building

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

The next DD Committee meeting will be on June 3rd from 1 to 3 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.