

**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

**June 3, 2015
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Art Delaune – chair
Alex Gimarc
Ric Nelson
Christine King
Mary Elam
Maureen Harwood
Oscar Cedano
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Mallory Hamilton
PJ Hatfield
Cassidy Jones
Lizette Stiehr
Anthony Cravalho

Staff:

Rich Sanders
Brittney Howell
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Art Delaune welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Patrick Reinhart announced that the Department of Health & Social Services has been declared an essential service should the state of Alaska experience a government shutdown.

Alex Gimarc reported that his family has successfully navigated acquiring a new care coordinator.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ric Nelson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Alex Gimarc. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported at the meeting.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Art Delaune reported that he attended the AADD teleconference where the hot topic was conflict-free case management. Art stated that some of the independent living centers in Alaska are considering taking on conflict-free case management.

Art Delaune expressed his concerns regarding the budgetary situation pending for the state and how it has made it difficult to go in any specific direction because of the uncertainty.

Key Coalition

A Key Coalition report was not available for the meeting.

I/DD Unit

Maureen Harwood reported that an e-alert was sent out regarding the amendments to the regulations that were published July 2013. She explained the report was a result of the regulatory process that has gone on since 2013, such as integrating pieces of public comment, and filtering the regulations through regulators and legal. They will conduct two trainings, June 16th and June 23rd, and they will also conduct internal training.

Maureen Harwood reported that the I/DD Unit will be eliminating two long-term staff, one assessor and one position in the reviews section. She stated that there are 1,965 people on the I/DD waiver, and the unit is obligated to read 100 percent of the plans between three readers, and they will earnestly try to do what they can to make sure they are timely. There are 667 people actively on the list, and 60 cases that need to be reviewed.

Ric Nelson had a question regarding CMS's response to the transition plans. Maureen Harwood indicated she would inquire on the status of that. Ric noted that the Council would like to see the document that was submitted to CMS.

Patrick Reinhart asked Maureen Harwood to confirm that Angela Salerno has tendered her resignation, and Maureen stated that was true, and Angela was expected resign in the fall. Patrick Reinhart expressed the Council's sincere and upmost appreciation for Angela's years of service, and stated that she has been wonderful to work with.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD has a request into the Department for

Angela Salerno to speak regarding the transition plan and conflict-free case management at their next AADD teleconference.

Lizette Stiehr reported that thanks to the Trust, AADD hired a facilitator to look at the short and long-term goals of the plan that was developed and looking at how to implement the goals. The main focus is on the short-term goals, because those have to be in place when the waiver amendment goes to CMS from the State of Alaska. She noted that it is clear that the State is looking more broadly at how to implement conflict-free case management.

Lizette Stiehr reported that the next step will be focused on exemptions. She stated that a solicitation will go out from the State to case managers, care coordinators, and agencies doing any kind of care coordination in the state asking them to look at the plan and provide feedback.

Lizette Stiehr stated that the Trust funded Rider Consulting to look at the cost of care coordination as it pertains to case management, and Rider Consulting is expect to have a rough idea of costs to the Office of Rate Review by the 15th of June.

Lizette Stiehr shared the disappointing news that nursing home, hospital associations, and home and community-based waivers did not receive their inflationary increase this year.

Lizette Stiehr announced the new director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has been named. John Cannon will begin the new position as director August 3rd. She noted that John has been an advocate and is very knowledgeable about the implications of policy.

The next AADD teleconference is scheduled for June 25th, and it will be focused on challenging behaviors.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council is struggling with being able to complete the FY16 budget. The Council will be looking at cost-saving measures with regards to travel and will be looking at technology as a means to facilitate Council and committee business.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Britteny Howell, Rich Sanders, and Amy Simpson are slated to attend the NACDD Conference in July. The Council is preparing to develop the Five-Year State Plan, and the NACDD Conference's training and networking is helpful in that endeavor.

Patrick Reinhart reported that Amy Simpson has been elected as the new chair of the Council and Lucy Odden was elected as vice-chair. Art Delaune was appointed as the Legislative Committee chair. Patrick stated that the Council has a number of vacancies, and they are actively recruiting for the various positions.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power has not met since April. He stated that he attended the EPIC Conference in Seattle, Washington in May. Ric reported that Peer Power is interested in using technology to reach self-advocates in the rural communities.

Ric Nelson reported that they have submitted proposals to present at two conferences, NACDD and TASH, focused on the self-advocacy movement. Ric noted that Peer Power will not meet again until August and will be focusing on job clubs this summer.

Workgroup on FASD

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus reported that the workgroup has been working on defining the relationship between the workgroup and the FASD Partnership by clarifying roles and ways to track action items.

Britteny Howell reported that the FASD workgroup has created a work plan that includes one of their major initiatives, making sure that FASD is listed as a population of interest as they further explore 1915(i) and 1915(k) State Plan Medicaid options. Britteny stated that Christie Reinhardt is giving testimony at the State Board of Education and is including a piece of the workgroup's efforts to make sure that FASD diagnoses are accepted by schools districts when they are made by an advanced nurse practitioner.

Britteny Howell stated that the work group is starting to plan for FASD

Awareness Day, which is September 9th.

Housing

Oscar Cedano reported that the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) plan has been submitted to HUD, and it includes the impediments to fair housing choice. It has not been approved as of this meeting.

Oscar Cedano reported that AHFC received an award of \$40,000 related to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOFPA) program for reverse ID, which allows for planning for the purpose of including this population. Oscar related that AHFC is looking for input on the potential use of those funds.

Brittney Howell reported that she and Rich Sanders have been meeting with the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), who has been working with the State Department of Behavioral Health on creating their own supportive housing plan. TAC has been meeting with local stakeholders to learn about the service delivery system and what kinds of supportive housing are available for people with various types of disabilities.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Alaska Legal Services was awarded a grant to perform fair housing testing, in which they will send people with varied degrees of disabilities and minorities out into the rental marketplace posing as renters to gauge the presence or level of discrimination.

Mental Health Trust Authority

An update from the Mental Health Trust Authority was not available for the meeting.

ASPEN

Patrick Reinhart briefly reported that the ASPEN project received news that a non-perm position has been approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation on Housing Barriers Project

Mary Elam stated that regarding her LEND project, her focus began as housing barriers facing transition-aged youth. When she started, she had made the assumption that she would find that location, accessibility, affordability, and discrimination would be the barriers related to housing for transition-aged youth. After performing a literature review and conducting informal interviews with a variety of stakeholders, she discovered that youth were facing barriers long before they were seeking housing, and that a good portion of youth were not accessing independent housing because of these other barriers. The other barriers included:

- Parents/caregivers were not supportive of independent housing.
- Lack of planning for independent living.
- Parent/caregiver concerns about safety, poor health choices, lack of consistency, routine, medications, and medical appointments.

Mary Elam stated that this is not where she thought her research project would end up, and although the expected barriers were there, a lot of conversation was generated about planning and what transition planning really means and when it should start. A lot of parents felt the planning should start at a very young age and progress throughout with the eventual goal being whatever the family or individual chose.

Britteny Howell reported that she is working on a report called the Housing Barriers Report, which will include information from this and other reports from AHFC and the Municipality of Anchorage to articulate in a comprehensive way specific barriers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes

Patrick Reinhart briefly informed the committee that Medicaid expansion is on hold in light of the legislature's focus on budgetary concerns. Patrick noted that SDS will soon be putting out a RFP related to Medicaid 1915(i) and 1915(k) looking at developing a design for moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

May Council Meeting Update

Art Delaune reported that the May Council meeting went well and finished sooner than expected. The main focus of the meeting was to vote on priorities for each committee. Art Delaune reviewed the eight priorities for the DD Committee that were approved by the Council.

Nominations and Discussion on New DD Committee Chair

Brittney Howell related that the DD Committee was asked to submit two names to the Council chair for consideration as the new committee chair. Ric Nelson nominated Alex Gimarc, seconded by Christine King. Alex Gimarc accepted the nomination. Brittney will send an e-mail to the remaining committee members asking for nominations.

New Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee

Rich Sanders reported that the Council voted to form a Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee, and currently there is interest from five Council members to be on the committee. Rich has gathered the information from the other committees relating to their research on telepractice. The committee's first meeting will take place in August.

Direct Service Providers Living Wage Initiative

Rich Sanders reported that he is in the beginning stages of developing a plan to research and collect historical data relating to a living wage for direct service providers.

Passing of HB161 – Durable Medical Equipment Reuse/Recycle

Patrick Reinhart reported that he attended the signing of HB161 at the Senior Center in Wasilla. Patrick noted that the Council intends to drive this initiative as he believes that the devil is in the details of this project. He stated that in the fall the Council will call together a group of stakeholders and figure out where it needs to go and get into the details of how to best practice reuse and recycling durable medical equipment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

June 4-5	State Board of Education, Fairbanks
June 5	SESA Board Meeting
June 10	Statewide FASD Partnership teleconference, 3-4 p.m.
June 11	AADD teleconference, 11-12 p.m.
June 11	Legislative Committee meeting, 12-1p.m.
June 15	PIP meeting SSG, 5-7 p.m.
June 16	E&T Committee meeting, 1-3:00 p.m.
June 18	Education Committee meeting, 1:30-3 p.m.
June 21-24	APSE Conference, Philadelphia
June 26	Executive Committee meeting, 12-1:30 p.m.
July 7	FASD Workgroup meeting, 3-4:30 p.m.
July 21-23	NACDD Conference, Nevada

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Alex Gimarc. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.