

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date  
August 5, 2015  
1:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus - chair  
Alex Gimarc  
Kaleene Lamb  
Ric Nelson  
Don Enoch  
Dave Fleurant  
Lizette Stiehr  
Maureen Harwood  
Caroline Hogan  
Oscar Cedano  
P.J. Hatfield-Bauer  
Colleen Gabriel  
Ken Helander

**Staff:**

Britteny Howell

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**  
**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS**

Ric Nelson, acting chair, welcomed the committee members to the meeting. No announcements or good news was reported.

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

The approval of the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting were tabled due to a lack of quorum.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**REPORTS**

***Chair's Report***

There was no chair's report at this meeting.

***Key Coalition***

Lizette Stiehr reported that the next Key Coalition meeting is a face-to-face meeting scheduled for September 11, 2015 at which time John Cannon will be stepping down as president and election of new officers will be held. Ric Nelson added that they will set their priorities for the next year, and the dates for Key Campaign are set for February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

***I/DD Unit***

Maureen Harwood reported that the grants have gone out and that most of the grants were held to a current level of funding.

Maureen Harwood reported that the DD application form and policies have

been updated, and comments and input regarding the changes would be appreciated. She noted that Jetta Whittaker is the contact person for any questions people have.

Maureen Harwood reported that the Division has found it necessary to move towards reducing the number of people drawn each year from the Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review for this fiscal year from 200 people to 50 people a year. The announcement of the reduction will be put out to inform the public and receive public comment.

Maureen Harwood reported on the current wait list data. There are 746 people on the wait list as of July 29, 2015, and the score range was 0 to 114. The individuals with a score of 0 was 23 percent. The age range is 0 to 67. The majority of individuals were under the age of 21; 188 individuals were between the ages of 22 and 40; 42 were between the ages of 41 and 65; and 42 percent of the population is in the Anchorage region. Maureen noted that they receive 42 new eligibilities a month; 71 percent are approved, 19 percent are denied, and 9 percent come in with insufficient information to make a determination.

Dave Fleurant commented on the readability of the draft policy on DD determination that is out for public comment. Upon his review of the materials, he found that after converting the document from a pdf, the reading ease was significantly low. He reported that it is recommended that materials for public consumption be produced at a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade level. He asked that as the unit goes through these processes, they keep in mind the audience that the materials are being disseminated to.

## **AADD**

Lizette Stiehr reported that the next AADD teleconference is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lizette Stiehr reported that the national organization, ANCOR, is scheduled to hold their state executive retreat this summer in Homer, Alaska. Lizette noted that because providers were not allowed to attend the retreat, Diane McComb, who is the liaison at ANCOR, has agreed to do an open national trends presentation on Wednesday, August 19 at 2:00 at the Hope Training Center, and the presentation will be available through video conferencing.

Lizette Stiehr reported that SDS has requested to use AADD's hot topics teleconference in August to do a presentation on complex behavioral solutions.

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD has been involved in discussions regarding ICF/IDDs in Alaska. AADD hired Steve Lesko to do a report on the history and background of ICF/IDDs in Alaska and produce a white paper. AADD has just approved the release of the report for dissemination, and Lizette will be sharing it with the DD Committee.

Lizette Stiehr informed the DD Committee about the leadership consortium training taking place the last week in September. The application deadline is August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lizette Stiehr passed on the information regarding the waiver market. Currently there are 30 Alaskan care coordinators on the market. She encouraged the members to go to the website [waivermarket.com](http://waivermarket.com) and look at the services.

Lizette Stiehr spoke briefly regarding the conflict-free case management work group that is meeting every other week to look at the large issues related to conflict-free case management. The issue currently being discussed is service definitions and conditions of participation.

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

Brittney Howell reported that the Executive Committee will be reviewing the draft policy and procedures manual and preparing it to go to a vote at the October meeting.

### ***Peer Power***

Peer Power has not met since the last DD Committee meeting.

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

Brittney Howell reported that the FASD Workgroup has voted on their mission statement and will be releasing it to the group on August 11<sup>th</sup> for

comment. They have also been involved with organizing this year's Anchorage FASD Awareness Day, which is on September 9<sup>th</sup>. There is an event planned at the Anchorage School District's atrium from 4:30 to 7:30, and Britteny Howell encouraged the committee members to pass on the flyer she will be sending to their peers and make arrangements to attend the event.

## ***Housing***

Oscar Cedano reported that the Alaska Coalition of Housing and Homeless Conference is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, which coincides with the Governor's Council on Housing and Homeless on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Oscar Cedano announced that the Anchorage voucher list closed July 31<sup>st</sup>. He noted that it was open for approximately a month, and they received 1,300 applications.

Oscar Cedano reported that the Thomas Building conversion is underway. The building is a commercial site that is being converted a community housing project. Oscar offered a flyer on the conversion project to committee members.

Oscar Cedano reported that the Public Housing Department at AHFC is making good progress on the voluntary compliance agreement with HUD on the uniform federal standards.

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

No reports were available from the Mental Health Trust Authority or ASPEN.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***May Council Meeting Identified Priorities***

Britteny Howell stated that the priorities that were sent by the committee in May are the same priorities that will be incorporated into the Five-Year

State Plan.

### ***Five-Year State Plan***

Brittney Howell reported that she and Rich Sanders are on the research team for the Five-Year State Plan, and they are in the process of identifying which communities they will conduct community forums in. There are 14 communities identified that they are planning to travel to, and they also plan on conducting surveys and gathering public input in addition to providing a public comment period.

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

Brittney Howell stated that the Governor announced that Medicaid expansion is happening in Alaska September 1<sup>st</sup>, and the expansion amendment is out for public comment. She noted that the RFP for a contractor to help design and implement the move from 1915(c) waivers to 1915(k) and 1915(i) State Plan options, but they have not selected a contractor yet. Brittney Howell noted that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will be discussing the Medicaid expansion and changes at their next meeting if DD Committee members are interested in attending.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***August Council Meeting***

The Council has scheduled a teleconference of the voting members to discuss the goals for the State Plan. Originally, they were going to wait until the October Council meeting, but the timeline has changed, and it has become clear that the voting members of the Council will have to meet in August. Brittney and Rich will be sending notice to Council members with more information regarding this meeting.

### ***Draft Policy and DD Determination for Public Comment Waiver Amendments for Public Comment***

Brittney Howell reported that SDS has released the DD determination and the waiver amendments for public comment. She attached the documents to the meeting packet and asked the committee members to review the

documents and provide feedback. She will be sending out an e-mail with a schedule of teleconferences that will take place in the next two weeks dedicated to discussing the Council's public comment response.

### ***Guest Speaker – AARP***

Ken Helander joined the DD Committee meeting to present information on Senate Bill 72, which addresses support for unpaid caregivers in the state of Alaska. The bill essentially requires hospitals to ask about aftercare at discharge and give the patient the opportunity to name a caregiver. Prior to discharge, the hospital would be required to notify the caregiver and provide them with the opportunity to be educated on the type of aftercare that is prescribed. The bill was introduced in the last session and held over. Ken offered to send the committee members information regarding the legislation along with the background articles and research from AARP.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES**

- **8/7** Stone Soup Family & Community Picnic  
Kincaid Park Chalet, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **8/11** FASD Workgroup, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **8/13** AADD teleconference, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **8/18** Employment & Transportation Committee meeting,  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30p.m.
- **8/19** Full Council meeting, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **8/20** Education Committee, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **8/26** Executive Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **9/2** Early Intervention Committee, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **9/2-3** The Aging Population Summit” – Hope Community Resources,  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **9/9** FASD Awareness Day
- **October** National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- **10/8-9** Fall Council Meeting

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next DD Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.