

**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

**September 16, 2015
1:03 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus - chair
Art Delaune
Alex Gimarc
Ric Nelson
Christine King
Mary Elam
Maureen Harwood
Caroline Hogan
Mallory Hamilton
Anthony Cravalho
Kim Champney
Mark Romick

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:03 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Patrick Reinhart announced that Ric Nelson has been hired by the Governor's Council to work on public outreach and employment-related matters. Patrick reported that the Council also hired an administrative assistant who will be starting October 7th.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June meeting as written. The motion was **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus reported that the Council sent an e-mail reminder stating that on September 17th, the State Board of Education will be accepting public testimony related to the request to expand the definition of who can diagnose FASD for educational purposes. The Council is going to provide formal comments in support of the expansion, and Jeanne encouraged committee members to call in and give testimony.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus reported that this time of year has been very busy

for people who are involved with Medicaid expansion, the changes in the waivers, the DD eligibility, and FASD Awareness Day. She will have a formal report at the next meeting.

I/DD Unit

Maureen Harwood reported that the I/DD Unit will be reviewing the public comments related to the eligibility policy. They will also be accepting public comment related to the DDDR until September 17th.

Maureen Harwood reported that each state had to submit a transition plan to CMS in March. Many states, including Alaska, made it through the Level 1 review. Alaska was not successful in the Level 2 review, and the plan was sent back for more scrutiny on the internal processes relating to assurances and compliance of the settings regulations.

Maureen Harwood reported that the Division has been very open that the application to provide waiver services expires July 2016, and the new application has to be in 90 days prior to be considered. There are stages for review that include considering the application itself with the new guidance related to it, review of the service definitions, and making assurances to CMS around timelines and financial accountability. If substantial changes are made, it will have to go out for public comment.

Maureen Harwood reported that with regards to staffing, the unit lost two positions earlier in the year, and recently gained back the two positions. They have hired an assessor, which makes for eight assessors, and they have an open position for another reviewer, which when filled will make for three full-time reviewers.

Maureen Harwood stated that they are looking forward to taking part in the Alaska Leadership Consortium, which is focused on leadership within the field of developmental disabilities. She noted that there are a lot of challenges for the Division as they move forward in this fiscal period that they will not only have to manage their growth, but their output and quality as well.

AADD

Kim Champney reported that AADD has been active in the ongoing process of shaping conflict-free care coordination. A work group has been formed called PC3 with the intent to clearly define what care coordination is going to look like as an independent provider, from the qualifications of care coordinators and ongoing education, and the plan of care process. PC3 is working towards finalizing their work product, which is primarily centered on the conditions of participation. Kim reported that the next Hot Topics teleconference will be focused on conflict-free care coordination with an opportunity for providers to ask questions and raise concerns as care coordination separates itself from the provider world.

Kim Champney reported that AADD is finalizing their comments on SDS's wait list draw reductions. AADD has also been involved in conversations related to building capacity in the state of Alaska around complex behaviors. The focus of those conversations is shifting to include bringing individual situations to the conversation to look at the real challenges in a particular person's life and how to build capacity around real scenarios.

Kim Champney stated that AADD is a co-sponsor of the Alaska Leadership Consortium. There will be 26 participants from a broad spectrum of representatives, including Kristin Vandagriff from the Governor's Council. There will be an advocacy panel and also an Alaska leader's panel that will be looking at the future for the state of Alaska.

Kim Champney noted that AADD has been working with the Governor's office on a proclamation for National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.

The next AADD face-to-face meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2015.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Patrick Reinhart reported that with regards to the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee's activities, the committee plans to meet again to do a second review of SDS's revised transition plan.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the makeup of the Council committees has

changed. The chair of the Council appoints the chair of the committees with the exception of the Legislative Committee, which is voted on by the whole Council.

Outside of the regular business of the Council, the Council staff has been planning for the October 7th & 8th Council meeting, as well as planning for the community forums around the state to gather input for the Five-Year State Plan. Patrick Reinhart stated that the October Council meeting will be done differently this year and will be a work session focused on the State Plan.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power met in September, and the focus of the meeting was a discussion on what method of rural outreach Peer Power wants to do with their EPIC Grant. Ric reported that there has been a resolution regarding the outstanding funds of People First, and the funds were transferred to the Peer Power bank account. Ric noted that Peer Power's 2014 federal tax return has been filed.

Work Group on FASD

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus reported that the FASD workgroup will have a guest speaker at their next meeting who will be speaking about some of the issues in working with transitioning individuals from incarceration into the community and the different ways in which people can be excluded from programs.

Jeanne Gerhart-Cyrus shared that the North by Northwest Coalition, which includes Barrow, the Maniilaq service area, and Norton Sound, will be meeting in Nome to look at providing diagnostic services in their rural regions, and there will be an FASD 101 training. Jeanne will also be providing an Into Action training for the Nome School District.

Housing

Mark Romick reported that the Supportive Housing Strategic Plan is still being revised, and the draft should be ready by early October. He stated that the Technical Assistance Collaborative is planning a presentation at the

Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homeless meeting October 13th – 15th.

Mark Romick stated that there has been some confusion with regards to eligibility for the Moving Home Program, and the report from Public Housing is they are working through the communication issues. The miscommunication involves what is and what is not waivable in terms of occupancy issues. There are federal provisions that Alaska Housing can't waive, for example, if someone is on a sex offender's registry or has been convicted of a methamphetamine production crime.

Mark Romick reported that with regards to the Section 811 rental assistance program, HUD has delayed the cooperative agreements, and the program is on hold until those agreements are finalized. They have been doing outreach in the landlord and the service provider communities to get people primed and ready to go when those agreements are realized.

Mark Romick reported that they are planning to issue a statement of qualifications for private landlords or non-profit landlords who want to participate in the program and accept particular vouchers for people with disabilities who are currently living in assisted living under the general relief program.

Mental Health Trust Authority ASPEN

Updates from the Mental Health Trust Authority and ASPEN were not available for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council put together a joint proposal and RFP for an entity to look at Medicaid reform, particularly the 1915(i) and (k), and a contractor has been chosen and work is beginning on stakeholder input on Medicaid reform. Patrick noted that this process will take well over a year, and the contractor is looking for people to serve on the advisory board.

Council Comments on DD Determination, Waiver Performance Measure Changes, and Waitlist Draw Reductions

Patrick Reinhart directed the committee members' attention to the draft comments the Council will be submitting related to the DD determination, waiver performance measure changes, and waitlist draw reductions, and stated that the comments have been compiled from various committee discussions and meetings on the topics. Patrick asked the committee members to review the draft comments and send any further input to him as soon as possible in order to make the comment period deadlines.

NEW BUSINESS

Drafting Public Comment on AHFC 2015 Consolidated Housing & Community Development (HCD)

Patrick Reinhart reported that the draft public comment on AHFC 2015 Consolidated Housing & Community Development, which could be found in the meeting packet, is a very expansive report on housing in the state of Alaska put out by AFHC. He encouraged the committee members to review the portions related to the DD population and forward their comments and feedback to him. The Council will compile the input and submit comments by the due date. Mark Romick stated that the report is a performance report on the activities of last year. The next action plan draft is scheduled to begin soon, and there will be a public comment period in the first quarter of 2016.

Drafting Specific, Measurable, Obtainable Objectives for Five-Year Plan

Patrick Reinhart led the committee through a review of the objectives from the last State Plan. He stated that the DD Committee's goal is to improve service delivery to empower individuals with disabilities to live and thrive in their communities with formal and informal supports and services that promote independence.

After a discussion on the objectives as they relate to the goal, the recommendation from the committee was to group the draft objectives into categories to include advocacy/self-advocacy, policy review and analysis,

workforce development, and housing/life domains

Other

Patrick Reinhart stated that with regards to National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Council made a request to the Governor regarding a proclamation for National Employment Awareness Month. Patrick stated that to kick things the month off, next Friday at the Statewide Human Resource Manager's Conference, which is a gathering of over 300 human resource managers from different companies around the state, Erin Riehle, the director of Project SEARCH, will be delivering the keynote speech about employment of people with disabilities in the workplace. In a joint effort with DVR, employment awards will be given to employers who have been exemplary in hiring people with disabilities. Patrick stated that hopefully they will have the Governor's proclamation to present at the conference.

Kim Champney reminded committee members that the Statewide Vocational Rehabilitation Committee will be meeting in Fairbanks and will be offering a public testimony opportunity relating to DVR services September 22nd.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Patrick Reinhart noted that Council will now list the staff responsible for each meeting or conference so that Council members will have a contact person for information.

- 9/17 Council Community Forum, Sitka (Brittney, Christie)
- 9/19 Council Community Forum, Ketchikan (Brittney, Christie)
- 9/22 Council Community Forum, Fairbanks (Brittney, Kristin)
- 9/23 Education Committee meeting (Christie)
- 9/24 Council Community Forum, Kenai (Patrick)
- 9/28-10/2 Alaska Leadership Consortium (Kristin)
- **October National Disability Employment Awareness Month**
- 10/5 Council Community Forum, Cordova (Brittney, Lanny)
- 10/7 -10/8 Fall Council Meeting

- 10/12-10/14 Governor's Council on Homelessness, Anchorage (Brittney)

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting will be determined after a Doodle poll is conducted.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.