

**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

**October 14, 2015
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Art Delaune
Anthony Cravalho
P.J. Hatfield-Bauer
Dave Fleurant
Christine King
Mallory Hamilton
Mary Elam
Lizette Stiehr
Caroline Hogan
Amanda Lofgren
Oscar Cedano
Duane Mayes
Roy Scheller

Staff:

Britteny 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

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda with the addition of using people first language in the Chair's report. The motion was **SECONDED** by Christine King. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was reported at this meeting.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that she has been involved in many meeting including the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee meeting and the Governor's Council meeting. She stated that her region is preparing for the Governor's Council's community forum, which is scheduled for October 21st and 22nd. Jeanne noted that she is looking forward to working on the DD Committee objectives for the work plan in the future months, and she is counting on input from the committee members.

I/DD Unit

Duane Mayes addressed the committee to present key updates of the

Division. With regards to conflict-free care coordination, the Division has plans to meet with CMS and Medicaid Services to propose the idea of using the rural service definition as the exception clause because of the challenges of providing services and care coordination in rural Alaska.

Duane Mayes stated that with respect to ILP, which is housed with OCS, the Division has developed a white paper to submit to the commissioner, which consists of a high-level overview to gauge whether or not the commissioner would support moving the ILP components to SDS. Should the commissioner support the proposal, the Division will then reach out to the Early Intervention Committee as the I/CC and AILPA to begin conversations, take input, and seek their recommendations.

Duane Mayes described the heavy lift for the Division is related to Medicaid in terms of the 1915(i) and (k). In October, the Division will be in Juneau meeting with the steering committee and providers and then will make their way to Anchorage to hold their first Community First Choice Council meeting on October 28th. Duane commented that the Council has a good balance in terms of interests, including DD, TBI, ADRD, and FASD. On October 29th, the Division plans to have four different focus groups meet with providers, and on the evening of the 29th at The Arc of Anchorage from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., they will meet with families and recipients in a community forum setting. Duane stated that from there they will be traveling to nine locations around the state to hold community forums to gather input from families, providers, and stakeholders.

Duane Mayes reported that he will be doing a comprehensive presentation on the DD/RR at the Special Olympics building October 23rd. He described his presentation as starting with details on the decisions the Division is making, and then a discussion regarding the budget now and in the future. Duane commented that he is looking forward to having an open and transparent conversation regarding the Division's activities.

Patrick Reinhart brought up the topic of durable medical equipment and asked if the DHSS had any movement on HB 161. Duane Mayes stated that the timing to move forward on the implementation of HB 161 is perfect, because many of the comments, suggestions, and recommendations they have received related to other issues have touched on the durable medical equipment program and the potential cost savings related to the

implementation of HB 161.

Caroline Hogan reported that the number of people currently on the registry is 763. She added that they have developed FAQ sheets as a result of the comments they received on the registry decision that will be coming out next week, and she will send it to the Council to distribute to their committees. Britteny Howell announced that this is Caroline's last DD Committee meeting, and the committee members expressed their appreciation of Caroline's efforts and her participation on the committee.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr reported that the National Leadership Consortium was beyond fabulous, and she walked away with a vision for the field that made her think about quality of life, which would involve where you live, where you work, and who you love. She commented that they have spent a lot of time in the past focusing on compliance and safety, and this is a new lens in which to view the work they do.

Lizette Stiehr reported the good news that the Trust is willing to support bringing up Lynne Segal, from Hope House Foundation, in March to present to the providers in the Kenai/Soldotna area on how she implemented a quality of life focus in her organization in Virginia. Lizette commented that Virginia has the second lowest expenditure on people with disabilities in the country.

Lizette Stiehr shared that the AADD face-to-face meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Access Alaska in Anchorage from 8:30 to 5:00. They plan to convene their hot topics teleconference on the 22nd, and the focus is on Medicaid reform. Lizette commented that the last hot topics teleconference on conflict-free case coordination yielded questions from providers regarding how long providers are willing to continue to provide services without authorization and the ability to bill. AADD plans to have a conversation with Duane Mayes regarding re-implementing extensions of waivers under those circumstances.

Lizette Stiehr expressed her appreciation to Duane Mayes and the Division for their willingness to present an update on the Division's decisions on October 23rd. She thinks it will be very helpful for people to understand

how the decisions were made.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Governor's Council meeting was held at last week at the Special Olympics building. The Council is down to 18 members, and Patrick received an e-mail from Boards and Commissions reporting that they have finished their vetting process and have sent a list to the Governor's office for approval for new Council members.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Governor's Council is fully staffed for the first time since he's become executive director.

With regards to the committees, the Education Committee has a vacancy in the chair's position. Patrick Reinhart noted that the Early Intervention Committee will be involved in the ILP move as the Interagency Coordinating Council.

Lizette Stiehr commended the Council members and staff for the amount of work that has been done to keep everything moving forward through the shortage of staff and members.

Peer Power and Key Campaign

There was no report from Peer Power available for this meeting.
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Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Brittney Howell reported that the ad hoc committee is meeting regularly, and they have been operating as a workgroup working on specific tasks between meetings. They have been gathering stakeholder input related to the various changes coming from SDS with regards to Medicaid in order to prepare Council comments.

Brittney Howell directed the members' attention to the e-alert sent to the Council from SDS, and noted that as soon as the Council receives an e-alert from SDS, she will forward them to the committee.

Workgroup on FASD

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the workgroup met yesterday and received information from Clayton Holland regarding the teacher evaluations being based on student achievement and how teachers may not look favorably on having students with special needs in their classes. Clayton informed the workgroup that the evaluations are based student's progress. The workgroup also had a presentation from the Aware Program, which is a substance abuse program that is being piloted for teens with FASD.

Housing

Oscar Cedano reported that the Council on Housing and Homelessness Annual Meeting is gaining momentum, and good things are projected coming from the meeting. The speakers scheduled to present include Senator Murkowski, Mayor Berkowitz, and Governor Walker. Amanda Lofgren noted that the Governor has prioritized housing, and his community affairs person, Elizabeth Shultz, has been meeting with community members and hearing repetitively about housing. Governor Walker announced that his administration will be hosting a housing summit in January to look specifically at housing solutions and make recommendations that his administration can move forward with.

Oscar Cedano reported that with regards to the Moving Home Program, they receive direct referrals for individuals with disabilities in supported settings through DHSS.

Oscar Cedano reported that the Greater Opportunities for Affordable Living (GOAL) Program is taking applicants that have a development project that want to make use of the 811 Program through a certification process, and the deadline to apply for it is November 10th. Oscar stated that regarding the 811 Program implementation, they are waiting for more guidance from HUD, and they are watching how California is doing with their implementation because California is one of the first states to implement the program.

Mental Health Trust Authority

Amanda Lofgren reported that Nancy Burke, the Trust's Senior Program Officer, left Trust on September 1st. She has taken a position with the Municipality of Anchorage as their Homeless and Housing Coordinator. Natasha Pineda, a Program Officer, is leaving the Trust October 23rd. She has taken a position at the Municipality of Anchorage as the Municipality Health Director.

Amanda Lofgren spoke about the Medicaid redesign and noted that it will be an ongoing, evolving process. With regards to the larger expansion and redesign effort, the contractor will produce a draft report on January 1st, and that will be the first of many renditions.

Amanda Lofgren stated that she will be working with the DHSS on clarifying how long-term services and supports connect with the Medicaid redesign and expansion. One of the requests to the contractor was as the Department starts to narrow in on what options they are looking at, that the contractor produce some specific recommendations or a summary of how long-term services and supports would tie into the options to provide some clarity at that level. She also stated that she is looking for some clarity on the connection to conflict-free care coordination and how that will fit in the redesign and expansion. Amanda encouraged the committee members to participate in the stakeholder meetings.

Amanda Lofgren commented that she attended the Leadership Consortium and found it transformative.

ASPEN

Britteny Howell directed the committee members' attention to the written report from Lanny Mommsen containing the ASPEN update.

OLD BUSINESS

Medicaid Expansion and Other Expected Changes

Amanda Lofgren briefly reported that the expansion number is approaching 2,000. She gave a description of the makeup of the Community First

Choice Council and the steering committee, which is made up of the advisory board directors and department leadership. Mallory Hamilton asked where the opportunity was for stakeholders to provide feedback or input on the recommendations the steering committee develops, and Britteny Howell stated that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee reviews all recommendations related to Medicaid and develops comments.

Medicaid Final Rule Transition Plan on Settings Comments

Britteny Howell directed the members' attention to the draft comments the Council prepared that were included in the meeting packet and asked that the committee members review them, and if they have input, to contact her. She noted that the comments are due at the close of business the next day.

NEW BUSINESS

Hope Community Resources Intentional Communities Presentation

Roy Scheller joined the meeting and presented a PowerPoint introducing intentional communities. The presentation illustrated what the research shows as the benefits of intentional community living, what goes into the decision making throughout the planning process of developing a successful intentional community, and described some of the communities in Alaska, including Rose Wood Estates in the Valley, a Russian community and a Lumber Processing community in Kenai, a Mennonite community in Willow, a Gambian community in Anchorage, and a Russian Orthodox community in Kodiak. Hope itself has been involved with a subsistence home in Bristol Bay, an arts and crafts business home in Anchorage, and a ranch in Willow.

Roy Scheller stated that Hope is involved in the planning process of developing an intentional community the Kenai region, specifically in Sterling. Roy stated that the process takes approximately five years; two years to identify interested parties, and three years developing a common philosophy to proceed. He stated that the outcomes they anticipate include a community with three to six homes serving between six and 12 individuals with a mix of assisted living and supportive living, and they would be a self-directed community with an independent governance committee with links to the local advisory group and Hope's board. It is key

that the community's philosophy and principles are brought into alignment with Hope's values, the State of Alaska's seven service principles, and CMS's settings requirements.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

October 15, 2015

Education Committee
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

October 19, 2015

Alaska Day

October 21, 2015

Community Forum Kotzebue

October 22, 2015

AADD Meeting
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 28, 2015

Community Forum Bethel

October 30, 2015

Council Staff Retreat
Girdwood
All day

November 4, 2015

Early Intervention Committee
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Christine King. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.