

**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**

**February 10, 2016  
1:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Art Delaune  
Alex Gimarc  
Christine King  
Mary Elam  
Lizette Stiehr  
Maureen Harwood  
Oscar Cedano  
Cathy Colwell  
Dave Fleurant

**Staff:**

Rich Sanders  
Brittney Howell  
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 1:01 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**

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked for the addition of an update from the Community First Council under reports. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

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

Alex Gimarc **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January meeting, **SECONDED** by Art Delaune. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December meeting, **SECONDED** by Alex Gimarc. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was reported at the meeting.

**REPORTS**

***Chair's Report***  
***Workgroup on FASD***

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Workgroup met, and the discussions were focused on the potential implications of the Department of Education's new regulations related to the OHI definition of physician and the need to increase awareness and training for school district staff.

## ***I/DD Unit***

Maureen Harwood reported that the proposed reduction in the number of individuals added to the I/DD waiver each year was submitted in the form of an amendment and was approved by CMS. She noted that they are managing the DD Registry to the best and most effective level possible. Currently, there are 613 individuals on the Registry ranging in age from 0 to 69, with the majority of individuals under 21 years old.

Maureen Harwood reported that they continue to work on projects related to conflict-free care coordination. They are working feverishly on the second phase of their transition plan and settings rules. They are also working on the changes to the waiver applications. She noted that they are trying to be responsive to how they assess individuals, the quality of services, and workforce needs. She stated that they are committed to the idea of community-based services, but in some cases that can be costly, so they are looking to work with agencies to find reasonable solutions to serve individuals who need access to services.

Maureen Harwood reported that they are making headway towards the automated system, which will help with the automation of plans and also streamline gathering data.

Patrick Reinhart questioned the significant decrease of the number of individuals on the waitlist from last month. Maureen Harwood stated that the reduction was related to the regular draw, to individuals not responding or updating their profiles, and individuals not being eligible for DD services. Maureen directed the committee members' attention to the 2015 annual registry report on the SDS website for a breakdown of data related to the registry.

Brittney Howell asked when the DD/RR Waitlist Ad Hoc Committee may be reinstated, and Maureen Harwood stated that the committee was a collaboration between SDS and the Governor's Council, and she noted that the Council was the lead on that collaboration and they may want to reconvene the committee.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus requested data from SDS regarding how many people who are drawn get waiver services. Maureen Harwood will provide

that information at the next meeting.

## **AADD**

Lizette Stiehr highlighted the following events:

- A community celebration event has been planned for February 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at Access Alaska for Jim Beck, who is transitioning from Access Alaska to the Mat-Su Foundation.
- The AADD face-to-face meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in Juneau in conjunction with Key Campaign.
- The next AADD annual meeting has been scheduled for the end of the first week in November where they will have Lynne Seagle executing a training.

Lizette Stiehr expressed her appreciation to Maureen Harwood and the staff at SDS for appearing at their last teleconference to present information regarding the STAR grant. Lizette also reported that HCBS has developed a toolkit on the settings rule. The toolkit will be published on AADD's website.

## **Housing**

Oscar Cedano reported that the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Five-Year Plan and Annual Action Plan for the State of Alaska is scheduled for public comment February 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the plan will be available for public comment for 30 days after that.

He reported that Alaska receives approximately \$5 million annually for three programs: the HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME), the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG). In order to maintain eligibility for these, the State must develop a Five-Year Housing and Community Development Plan (HCD Plan). Alaska receives two streams of formula funding for the programs to cover two jurisdictions; the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska. The Municipality of Anchorage is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of its own HCD Plan. The State of Alaska's HCD Plan covers all areas of Alaska outside of the Municipality of Anchorage. Oscar noted that the Plan also contains

background information and action plans related to the National Housing Trust Fund allocation.

Oscar Cedano reported that Alaska Housing is soliciting comments for changes to the current GOAL Program allocation plan. The plan currently covers the allocation of three funding sources; the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the HOME Investment Partnership Act, and the Senior citizens Housing Development Fund. The GOAL Program is designed to provide affordable housing for lower income households, seniors, and special needs populations. Public comment is due March 4, 2016.

Oscar Cedano reported that Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance funding that the CoC applied for is waiting for more information and decisions regarding jurisdictional issues and restrictions. He noted that they are also waiting for a comprehensive agreement from HUD with regards to the 811 PRA Program.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus called for volunteers to hold a meeting to review the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Five-Year Plan and Annual Action Plan for the State of Alaska and develop comments.

***Peer Power & Key Campaign  
Mental Health Trust Authority  
Council and Executive/Legislative Committee Update***

Reports were not available from Peer Power/Key Campaign, Mental Health Trust Authority, and the Council's Executive/Legislative Committees.

***Community First Council Update***

Art Delaune reported that the council met February 5<sup>th</sup> to review the public comment and the activities that have taken place over the last several months. There was a discussion related to the seriously mentally ill (SMI) population and how that population may not be a good fit for 1915 (i) and perhaps moving it to a different waiver, the 1115 waiver. Art noted that there was not a lot of information at the meeting, but he expects more discussion on it in the future. The majority of the time was spent reviewing data and costs of the different waivers.

Art Delaune stated that there was a long discussion towards the end of the meeting regarding the council's concern that there has not been the transparency that was promised at the beginning, and the council members were under the impression that they would take a more active role in developing the project. Art noted that what seems to be happening is that things are being developed and plans are being made behind the scenes and then just run in front the council for approval. An example of this was related to the assessment tools. The contractor reported that they looked at approximately seven potential assessment tools and brought two forward they thought would be best for the state. Council members felt that they should have been able to look at every option and give input into the decision as to the final ones that were voted on.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Council Comment Letter on Proposed Changes to Background Check/Criminal Regulations in Assisted Living Facilities***

Lizette Stiehr stated that AADD reviewed the 50-page proposed changes document and there were three primary areas of concern:

- The deletion of language related to firearms in a licensed setting that had five or more individuals, which defaulted to assisted living homes including family habilitation homes.
- Renewal of criminal background check every five years.
- Background check notification process is unclear.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus called for volunteers to form a workgroup to review the proposed changes and develop comments. Rich Sanders will be taking the lead and will contact committee members with further information.

### ***Create Two-Year DD Committee Work Plan From Objectives***

The committee members began the process of creating specific strategic activities for the objectives in the work plan. The two-year committee plan is scheduled to begin in 2017.

The first recommendation made was to combine Objectives 1 and 2. Other

recommendations from the committee were as follows:

- a. *Advocating to ensure these populations are included in Medicaid Reform.*

**Change to:**

- a. *Advocating for the inclusion of these populations in Medicaid Reform.*

**Recommendations for activities:**

- Public outreach, marketing, public relations, disseminate information.
- Agenda item for update on related activities at meetings.
- Create position papers on issues that arise that affect these populations.
- Participate in Key Coalition.
- Work in collaboration with other advisory boards and community workgroups.

- b. *Advocating to ensure these populations can acquire services based upon needs*

**Recommendations for activities:**

- Working with families to identify cost neutrality or cost beneficial savings to support higher draws from the DDDR.
- Activity related to the ABLE Act.

Rich Sanders stated that he will send a two-year plan template along with the work plan to the committee members as a starting point for continuing the discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Council Comments on Changes to Create a GR Waitlist***

Brittney Howell reported that the Council comments on changes to create a General Relief waitlist have been submitted.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

### February 8 – 12

ASSEC Conference  
(Inclusive Practice Award  
February 9, 11:30 a.m.)

### February 10

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
Alaska FASD Partnership  
Steering Committee

### February 11

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
AIEI Management Meeting

### February 12 – 13

Stone Soup Group Parent  
Conference

### February 16

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**  
Employment & Transportation  
Committee

### February 18

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**  
Education Committee

### February 17

AADD Face-to-Face  
Juneau

### February 18 – 19

Key Campaign  
Juneau

### February 23

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
AIEI Policy Meeting

### February 23

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
Council on Housing and  
Homelessness

### March 2

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

### March 8

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
Executive Committee

### March 10

**11:00 – 12:00 p.m.**  
AADD Meeting

### March 10

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
AIEI Management Team

## TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING/ ADJOURNMENT

The next DD Committee is scheduled for March 2, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Art Delaune. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.