

**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

**April 6, 2016
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Christine King
Mallory Hamilton
Anthony Cravalho
Maggie Winston
Duane Mayes
Lizette Stiehr
Maureen Harwood
Amanda Lofgren
Mark Romick
Caitlyn Rogers

Staff:

Brittney Howell
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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended to include a Trust update report, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 2016 meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

SDS & Medicaid Updates

Duane Mayes reported that SDS has been involved with the legislative activities related to Medicaid reform. He reported that SB 74 has passed through Senate Finance and is going to the floor for a vote. The House companion bill is currently in House Finance where they will be reviewing the amendments. Duane noted that he spent a substantial amount of time speaking with the House Finance Committee giving the committee members the most up-to-date and correct information with regards to 1915 (i) and (k). Duane reported that the fiscal note specific to SDS for SB 74 included three permanent positions to manage the volume of assessments that SDS anticipates with the implementation of the (i) option. Duane stated that he met with Amanda Lofgren, from the Trust, who indicated that SDS may not have the resources to be able to make the transition to (i) and (k) successfully, and the Trust, in the fiscal note on the House side, added funding for four additional non-perm positions that will attend to the critical components within the Division specific to (i) and (k).

Duane Mayes reported that with regards to the assessment tools, based on feedback from the stakeholder engagements held throughout the state, the Trust is anticipating forwarding \$2.7 million for the funding of a new assessment tool. Duane stated the Inclusive Community Choices Council was provided a copy of the presentation of the analysis of the assessment tools they are recommending as well as information specific to outreach to other states regarding implementation of (i) and (k). The report has been included in the committee packet for review. Duane noted that Sara Kveum and Art Delaune are on this council as representatives for the Governor's Council and the population the Council serves.

Duane reported that the assessment piece will be implemented as a pilot project, and they would pilot a sample of approximately 627 individuals in both urban and rural Alaska.

Duane Mayes reported that at the end of the session, the Department anticipates an unallocated reduction to the Medicaid program and the home and community-based services of approximately \$26 million. Duane noted that there will most likely be reductions within their DD grants of anywhere from 2.5 percent to 5 percent. The administrative reductions will result in the loss of four to six positions for SDS. Duane shared that in an effort to work in collaboration with stakeholders, the Division has formed an external workgroup consisting of key stakeholders to forward recommendations on areas for budget reductions. Internally, the Division has formed a workgroup that will vet all of the recommendations that are brought forward from the external workgroup, and communicate back the findings.

Chair Report and FASD Workgroup Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus had no update for this meeting.

I/DD Unit

Maureen Harwood reported that the I/DD Unit continues to move forward in terms of moving individuals who are seeking supports either through the grants or through the waivers, and they are processing DD eligibility at the same rate. Currently, there are 583 individuals on the DDDR, and the score range remains the same, 0 to 150, with 27 percent of those

individuals having a score of 0. Maureen noted that by the end of the fiscal year, they will likely draw approximately 190 individuals, and then next year move to 50.

Maureen reported that the STAR proposals were up for review, and there was a PEC formed to evaluate the proposals.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD submitted their comments related to regulations on the non-urban/rural exception for care coordination. Lizette reported that the AADD monthly teleconference has been scheduled for Thursday, April 14th at 11:00 a.m. They will also be hosting a Hot Topics teleconference on April 24th where they will be discussing the agency perspective of working with independent care coordinators.

Lizette Stiehr reported that the Department of Labor (DOL) has released a ruling that is moving through the channels that is looking at the possible implementation of changing the exempt employee status threshold from \$23,660 to \$50,440 in the first year and to \$75,000 in the next year. Lizette explained the effect that ruling would have on agencies financially, citing that for an agency such as Hope, it could incur additional costs upwards of \$300,000 to implement that ruling. She noted that AADD's national organization is very active on this front at the national level.

Housing

Mark Romick reported that the vast majority of AHFC's funding is federal, so they are sheltered a little bit from the changes in the state general funds, which will allow for some consistency in Alaska Housing. Some of the areas that are not federally funded will probably see some minor changes. Mark stated that the rebate program that provided homeowners with rebates on the work they do to make their house more energy efficient has been suspended as of March 25th due to declining funds. The weatherization program that provides free weatherization for families and individuals at 100 percent of the median and below is still available, and under that program, there is a priority for people with disabilities, families with children, and the elderly.

Mark Romick reported that public comment is open on the Housing Community Development Plan with the National Housing Trust component. Comments are due on or before April 15th. Public comment is open until April 13th on the Moving to Work Program, which is a plan that governs how public housing spends funding on the fiscal property it impounds as well as the voucher program.

Mark Romick reported that HUD has settled on an amount for the National Housing Trust at \$174 million, which means Alaska will receive approximately \$3 million this spring. Those funds are targeted towards the development of rental housing for people whose income is at 30 percent of the median and below. AHFC plans to merge those funds with other programs they have that are already designed for development.

Mark Romick reported the Governor's Council on Homelessness meeting is scheduled for May 19th in Anchorage at the AHFC building, and an agenda will be out for that meeting at the end of April.

Mark Romick reported that there are a number of set-aside programs under the Section 8 voucher program for people with disabilities and other special populations, and it is nice to be able to report that the lease rates on those programs are very good. The Moving Home Program, which is a program specifically for people with disabilities, reports that less than 10 percent have been turned back because people can't find a place to live, which is an awesome rate for the voucher program.

The committee had a brief discussion related to a brochure that outlines all the AHFC programs and the specific eligibility requirements. Mark Romick stated that all the information for AHFC's programs can be found on the website, but it may not be easy to navigate.

Medicaid Update

An update from the Inclusive Community Choices Council was not available for the meeting.

AMHTA Update

Amanda Lofgren reported that the Trust has been working with the Department regarding SB 74 to identify the start-up costs not only in Senior and Disabilities Services, but in Healthcare Services and the Division of Behavioral Health, because there will be a need for staffing resources to be able to achieve the intent of SB 74, which is to significantly reform the Medicaid system and provide cost savings to the State. She stated that the AMHTA Trustees approved \$3.9 million in FY17 to fund various components of SB 74, which include the assessment tool non-perm positions, funding for the ADRCs to expand the pilot project to other regions of the state, best practice site visits, funds to look at Smart Home technology, and travel funds to revisit the communities that held forums at the beginning of the Medicaid reform process after the implementation plan is available.

Amanda Lofgren reported that the Trust is reaching out to the provider associations for them to submit to the Trust a list of their requests such as technical assistance, data collections, site visits, or more national presence and understanding best practices. The Trust intends to meet with the providers in May to review and define costs associated with the requests in order to present at the Trust's two-year budget cycle review.

Amanda Lofgren answered specific questions regarding privatization of facilities, since there is language in SB 74 that tasks the Department to study the feasibility of privatizing API, Pioneer Homes, and other facilities.

Amanda Lofgren stated the AMHTA board meeting is scheduled for May 4 - 6, 2016, and public testimony is May 4th at 4:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Progress on Housing and Barrier Crimes Comment Letter

No update was available on the progress report on housing and barrier crimes comment letters.

Medicaid and Legislative Updates

Patrick Reinhart reported that HB 76 passed and will be going to the Governor for signature.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation passed a resolution to put in three new inclusive playgrounds: Barbara Street Park, Duldida Park, and Kiwanis Fish Creek Park.

Brittney Howell directed the committee members' attention to the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee's update document, which included the comment letters to SDS regarding conflict-free case management; comments on the waiver renewal application; comments on the transition plan, version 3; comments on the General Relief Program; a letter of support for SB 74, Medicaid Reform; and a letter of opposition for HB 315.

Work on Two-Year Work Plan Activities

Due to time constraints, the DD Committee tabled the work on the two-year plan activities until the next meeting, where they will use that meeting exclusively to work on the activities of the two-year plan. Brittney Howell agreed to send the members the prior and current work plan documents in preparation for the work that will need to be completed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Analysis and Recommendation of Assessment Tools

Patrick Reinhart briefly reported that the Council has received a presentation of the analysis and recommendation of the assessment tools, and Patrick recommended that the DD Committee put together a small workgroup after the legislative session is over to look at the presentation and provide feedback through the Inclusive Community Choices Council process.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

April 17, End of Alaska Legislative Session

April 12, 12 - 1:30 p.m., Executive Committee meeting

April 12, 3 - 4:30 p.m., FASD Workgroup
April 13, 3 - 4:30 p.m., Alaska FASD Partnership
April 14, 11 - 12 p.m., AADD teleconference
April 18, 3 - 5 p.m., Rich's Retirement Party
April 21, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Education Committee meeting
April 27, Administrative Professional's Day
May 5, Full Council Meeting (webinar)

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING/ ADJOURNMENT

The next regular DD Committee is scheduled for May 4, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.