

**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 7, 2016  
1:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Anthony Cravalho  
Mallory Hamilton  
Lizette Stiehr  
Maureen Harwood  
Oscar Cedano  
Brittney Howell  
Caitlyn Rogers  
Elizabeth Donnelly

**Staff:**

Ric Nelson

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

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

Lizette Stiehr volunteered to become a voting member of this committee, if at all possible, to increase the committee's ability to achieve a quorum. The committee can take action on this at the next meeting if a quorum is convened to vote on it. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that Britteny Howell would also like to become a voting member.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no declared conflicts of interest at the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Britteny Howell reminded committee members that the ASPEN update will only be given three times a year for this committee, and the agenda should reflect that.

A quorum was not convened, and approval of the agenda was tabled.

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

A quorum was not convened, and approval of the previous meeting minutes was tabled.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ric Nelson reported that the letter to Valerie Davidson regarding durable medical equipment has been submitted.

**REPORTS**

**Chair's Report and FASD Workgroup Update**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that FASD Awareness Day is on

September 9<sup>th</sup>, and Anchorage has planned things regarding justice issues.

Jeanne also reported that she is working with the steering committee for the FASD Partnership that is looking at training for therapeutic foster parents. They are also looking into Medicaid coverage for individuals who turn 18 and age out in the foster care system.

## **Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS)**

Maureen Harwood reported on some recent restructuring within SDS whereby DD services and ILP are now within one arm of SDS, and she is the chief of this section. She will also become more intimately involved with SDS's training unit.

Other current activities of SDS involve the settings rules, changes in Medicaid, and looking at results-based outcomes for people supported within this system. SDS recently had a consultant come up from the National Association of State Directors to help them look into supporting more of their complex individuals. They have also been working with the Trust on integrating supported employment into the continuum of supports.

Another big mandate for SDS has been person-centered planning and raising the level of professionalism in the field related to that. Working with the Trust and other partners, they have been looking at tools that will enhance this aspect of how they conduct their business.

Caitlyn Rogers provided the DRRR report as follows:

- Total of roughly 540 people
- 28 percent scoring a zero
- Age range is from zero through the 70's
- 20 individuals are ages zero to 3.

Caitlyn reported that they recently did a draw, and it appears to have captured everyone with the most need, and those that remained on the DRRR scored significantly lower. They are hoping to see this trend continue. With the reduced draw, they are now drawing approximately four people off the DRRR per month.

Caitlyn Rogers reported that SDS is in the beginning stages where they are changing some of the level of care processes for determining level of care through an annual review process. It is a very comprehensive file review in conjunction with reviewing past ICAPs, and they are doing it for a population of people that are 22 or older that have previously had an initial intake assessment. There are some specific criteria they will look at, and there might be a small population that SDS would need to continue to assess; however, a large portion of people should be able to go through the process where the ICAP won't have to be continually administered. She also noted, however, that it is a requirement of CMS to have the qualifying diagnostic certificate completed by medical personnel yearly.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked if SDS tracked those people that get pulled for a waiver and actually complete the process to receiving services. Caitlyn stated that there are a variety of factors that play into why someone might not actualize onto the waiver. She stated that although she doesn't have the information at her fingertips right now, it might be an interesting comparison to look at as they are narrowing the draw to see if the actualization is a higher percentage.

### **Mental Health Trust Authority**

Due to a Trust meeting conflict, no one was available from the Trust to provide a report.

### **ASPEN**

This agenda item will be reported on three times a year.

### **AADD**

Lizette Stiehr reported that the Trust very generously funded AADD this year to do some work around Medicaid reform from the perspective of a national presence. She and Michael Bailey just attended the Home and Community-Based NASUAD Conference in Washington, D.C. Alaskan representatives did a presentation on the collaborative way in which Alaska has established rates for their services, and people in the audience really liked the collaboration and wished to see more presentations like this.

Lizette reported that the AADD teleconference will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>. They will also be doing a hot-topic teleconference this month on after-school programs.

Brittney Howell stated that she is on the steering committee for the Aging and Disability Conference, which will be held October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Special Olympics in Anchorage. This year they will have a medical doctor coming to speak about primary care challenges that physicians face when treating individuals aging with developmental disabilities. Many medical professionals will be invited to attend as well as Ken Helander from AARP and Teresa Holt, the long-term care ombudsman.

Lizette Stiehr continued on in her presentation to note that AADD is bringing Lynn Siegel to Alaska the first week of November to do multiple sessions for families, self-advocates, and board members regarding person-centered practices. Registration will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, and it is recommended to register early.

Lizette stated that next year the Trust is going to fund National Core Indicators to begin to measure how the state is doing in terms of person-centered services, dignity, respect, and choice. Currently 47 states are participating in this program.

## **AHFC**

Oscar Cedano reported that although more information will come forward about this later in the year, there is a proposal for a state-licensed assisted living facility, which will have 52 assisted living beds and 32 memory care beds. There used to be some level of discussion with the senior assistant attorney general about AHFC financing these types of facilities because of them being fairly restrictive in nature. The end result is that there is no prohibition to Alaska Housing funding this type of facility. The entity to apply for this type of financing need not be a non-profit.

Oscar Cedano also reported that in terms of the applications and the funding for rental assistance for disabilities and homelessness, the state has already financed three agencies. AHFC is in the process of putting forward the application for next year.

Oscar stated that there will be more news coming in the months ahead for AHFC and concluded his report.

## **Executive Committee and Complex Behavior Solutions**

In place of Patrick Reinhart, who was attending the Trust meeting, Ric Nelson stated that the Executive Committee is meeting next week to finalize the agenda for the full Council meeting in October, which will be a two-day, face-to-face meeting.

Ric Nelson also reported that the State Plan was submitted on time after the Council received a one-week extension.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus suggested inviting Joni Stumpe from the Complex Behavioral Collaborative to come speak to the DD Committee when she is available, perhaps at the November meeting.

## **Key Coalition/Campaign**

Ric Nelson stated that Key Coalition met last month and talked about setting priorities for next year. Nothing has been decided up to this point yet. Key Campaign will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, right after the AADD face-to-face meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ric Nelson stated that they may also change the Unity Dinner and not hold it at the convention center. The new location will be in close proximity and will be within walking distance for those traveling to Key Campaign.

## **Medicaid Update**

Lizette Stiehr stated that Health Management Associates (HMA) submitted their recommendations to SDS at the beginning of July, and they recommended not going forward with the 1915(i) because it was not cost neutral. The State is instead looking at a 1915(c) mini waiver to refinance current grant-funded services to capture the federal match, and the amounts of the waivers and the services provided would be capped.

HMA strongly recommended the State going forward with the 1915(k) option, and the State is shooting for July 2017 for implementation and

phasing in of PCA services.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Proposed PCA Regulation Changes Letter**

Ric Nelson stated that this letter was drafted and submitted to the State.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Policy and Procedure for DDDR and Telehealth**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus explained that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee proposed comments regarding the DDDR, and they would like the DD Committee to review the comments and provide feedback before it is submitted.

Ric Nelson led committee members through a discussion of the comments provided by the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee. Committee members discussed the contents of the letter and provided their own feedback based on a review of the policy and procedures.

A further comment provided by Lizette Stiehr related to the complexity of the qualifying diagnosis certificate medical providers are required to complete for waiver renewals. Many care coordinators feel this form is unduly complex, and many medical providers are frustrated by it.

### **Questions from Stakeholders**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she would like this agenda topic to be a continuing topic during which they can address questions posed to committee members by the general public.

It was recommended that questions needing to be addressed by SDS should be positioned on the agenda immediately after the SDS report so SDS representatives have the opportunity to respond. It was also suggested that if committee members have any specific questions they would like to ask SDS, put them in writing to Ric Nelson who can pose them to SDS a week prior to the meeting. This will give SDS staff an

opportunity to research the question to provide an educated public response during the DD Committee meeting.

### **Work Plan Discussion**

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus will research to find the latest version of this year's work plan and send it out to DD Committee members for their review. Committee members are asked to review it and e-mail feedback to Ric Nelson.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES**

- September 8, 11:00 – 12:00 AADD teleconference
- September 13, 12:00 – 1:30 Executive Committee
- October 5 – 6, Council Meeting

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

Ric Nelson reported that Patrick Reinhart informed staff that committees are not required to meet if there is no business to conduct so close to a Council meeting.

Based on comments from committee members, it was felt that a DD Committee meeting next month would be productive, and guest speakers could be invited to present.

The next regular DD Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Without a quorum convened, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.