

**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 8, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Chair
Art Delaune
Christine King
Mallory Hamilton
Mary Elam
Lizette Stiehr
Oscar Cedano
P.J. Hatfield-Bauer
Elizabeth Joseph
Britteny Howell

Staff:

Ric Nelson
Patrick Reinhart

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that in order to run the meeting effectively, members of the DD Committee should ask to be recognized by the chair before speaking.

Patrick Reinhart announced that Anna Attla has been reappointed to the Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declared at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

There was no correspondence to report.

REPORTS

Chair’s Report/FASD Workgroup Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the DD Committee work plan was presented to the full Council at the Juneau meeting.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus also reported that the FASD Workgroup will be meeting on February 14th where Duane Mayes or an SDS representative

will be sharing some information regarding FASD. Currently the workgroup has been trying to review what has been done in the field and move forward from there.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that she participated in presenting to the HSS Committee of the legislature on some recent data on the FASD population, which may now be estimated to be anywhere from 24 to 48 percent of the population. They were also able to provide basic information about FASD and the diagnostic process as well as what kind of services are needed for this population. Patrick Reinhart pointed out that the legislature had many questions about FASD, which is unusual because they typically don't ask that many questions to presenters.

I/DD Unit

Maureen Harwood was not present to provide a report from the I/DD Unit.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Amanda Lofgren was not present to provide a report from the Trust.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD's next meeting will be March 1st, to coincide with Key Campaign.

Lizette Stiehr also reported that AADD has been very involved in the visioning statement for disability services that has driven and informed the infographic that was created. They are working with Kim Champney of Champney Consulting to compile the information gathered in focus groups and town hall meetings related to this vision and the five priorities that were developed.

Lizette Stiehr stated that AADD's last hot topics meeting was about guardianship. She noted that providers are struggling with increasing the number of individuals who want to live independently, primarily because of guardians not being receptive to the concept. AADD plans to pull together a group to address this issue.

Housing

Oscar Cedano reported that a notice of funding availability (NOFA) has been released for the Senior Access Program. This is a grant agencies can apply for and distribute among their beneficiaries for things such as home modifications and handrails. The deadline for the application is February 28th. Patrick Reinhart noted that there is another NOFA out right now from the Department of Health and Social Services for home modifications for people with disabilities. DHSS also has another one out for essential equipment grants for various disability-related organizations. Patrick suggested collecting the information on these various funding options and putting it out on the Council's listserv.

Oscar Cedano also reported that AHFC is partnering with NeighborWorks Alaska to create a pilot program to implement the 811 Program. All of the clients that will benefit from the 811 Program could potentially start moving into houses next month.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus suggested the DD Committee compile a list of relevant resource links. Patrick Reinhardt stated that they could include this list on the agendas, the minutes, or both.

Executive Committee/Complex Behavior Solutions

Patrick Reinhart reported that the meetings of the Executive Committee have been focused on planning for the Juneau Council meeting.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Complex Behavior Solutions Workgroup has not met since last spring, but SDS has been working with Hope Community Resources on their plan to open up a transitional living home for people coming out of API.

Key Coalition/Key Campaign

Ric Nelson stated Key Campaign will be March 2nd and 3rd. The Council awaiting approval of the stipend awards from the Commissioner. Patrick Reinhart added that there will be a big dedication for Steve Lesko at Key Campaign this year. Lizette Stiehr reported that the Bottom Dollars documentary will be shown at REACH during Key Campaign.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she spoke to Millie Ryan about providing more opportunities to people statewide to contribute to the development of Key Coalition's priorities.

Medicaid Update

Patrick Reinhart encouraged members of the DD Committee to receive webinar updates DHSS puts out about Medicaid and each of the items from SB 74. He stated that there are a lot of questions regarding what will happen with Medicaid Reform because of the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act. He stated they are hoping to get more answers when they attend the National Disability Policy Seminar in March.

OLD BUSINESS

2017 – 2018 DD Work Plan

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reiterated that the work plan was presented to the full Council at the Juneau meeting. She asked Ric Nelson to send out the finished product to the members of the committee.

Durable Medical Equipment

Patrick Reinhart stated that the comment period closed regarding the regulations for durable medical equipment reuse. The regulations looked really good, and the Council had no comments. He noted that there is a \$400,000 fiscal note attached to this.

Mallory Hamilton asked if a debit card for families to purchase incontinence supplies at a lower cost is included in these regulations. Patrick Reinhart noted that it is not part of this, but it would be a good future discussion.

Brittney Howell noted that Hope Community Resources is looking into becoming a supplier of the durable medical reuse and recycling program.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Meeting Update

Patrick Reinhart reviewed with the DD Committee members the results of the joint SILC/GCDSE Juneau meeting as follows:

For Future Joint Meetings:

- Rearrange the schedule so the SILC participates in the entire meeting.
- Allow time for members of both councils to get to know each other.
- Ensure SILC members are present for the legislative priority discussions.
- Continue to group the same people together for the legislative visits as it allows group members to establish rapport and routine.

Other Information from the Council Meeting:

- Presented 2 Cents for Transit concept to the Governor, which was well received.
- Governor was also pleased with the DD system vision and will be putting it into a proclamation to be read at Key Campaign. The ultimate goal for the stakeholders is to get the vision into statute.
- Pulled back on supporting SB 10. It's possible that a regulation change could resolve this issue without the need for legislation.

Other Council Updates:

- Research Analyst III position has been filled, and Program Coordinator II position received many applicants and is now closed.

CMS Issues Guidance to States on Community First Choice

This is a monitoring issue, and no new information has been released.

ADRD Home

Brittney Howell presented to the DD Committee that Hope Community Resources is in the process of opening Forest Home, which once the licensing is complete, will be a home to support seniors with Alzheimer's disease and challenging behaviors coming out of API. Staff will be receiving training from Alzheimer's Resource Center of Alaska to provide

supports to this specialized assisted living home. Britteny stated that she will provide more information to this committee as the opening of this home draws nearer.

FASD

Britteny Howell stated that Hope, STAR, and Cook Inlet Tribal Council have written a grant proposal to receive some funding from the Office of Violence Against Women to take on an ASPEN-like project where they would focus on FASD as their disparity population.

Organizational Wellness

Britteny Howell stated that Hope will be presenting at the AADD face-to-face meeting on March 1st regarding interventions for staff that have been assaulted by their clients.

Aging and Disability Coalition

Britteny Howell stated that the Aging and Disability Coalition is hosting an Aging Summit October 13th and 14th, and this year they will be bringing up a national presented to talk about self-determination and supported decision-making. This summit is free to attendees, and committee members were encouraged to attend. She noted that supported decision-making and guardianship is becoming a big issue across the state.

Intentional Neighborhoods

Britteny Howell reported that Hope Community Resources has embarked upon several intentional neighborhoods, and land has been broken on the neighborhood in Soldotna. Mallory Hamilton added that phase 1 is complete, and they will be starting phase 2, the home building, this spring. They hope to have residents living there by late summer, early fall.

Taxicab Service

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Municipality is looking for a non-profit organization that is interested in creating a taxicab service for people with disabilities. He stated that he promised that the Council would try to bring

the commissioner from the Transportation Commission together with one of the DD provider agencies to see if there might be some interest in doing something like that. He noted that Hope expressed some interest in discussing it.

DD Provider Admin Costs

Mallory Hamilton suggested that the DD Committee research the disparity among DD providers and the amount of administrative costs taken by the various providers, thereby leaving less funding for direct services. Ric Nelson stated that he can do some research to see what the regulations address regarding that issue.

DD Committee Structure

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus approached the committee members with the idea of changing the structure of the DD Committee because of the size of the group, inability to make a quorum, and all of the facets this group addresses. After an in-depth discussion among committee members, it was decided that the committee will continue to meet monthly, with every other month being partner presentations and work of the committee that will require a quorum for voting purposes. The other months will be informal work sessions to address topical issues.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- AADD/Key Campaign – March 1 – 3, 2017
- Aging and Disability Summit – October 13 – 14, 2017

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular DD Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mary Elam reported that Wednesday, February 15th at 5:30 Stone Soup Group will be hosting a meeting to discuss barriers to graduation for students receiving special education services. DEED and Christie

Reinhardt from the Council will be participating in the meeting, but families are really encouraged to attend via telephone, GoToMeeting, or in person at Stone Soup Group. Mary will e-mail the information to Ric Nelson for distribution to the DD Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Without a quorum convened, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.