

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

**Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date**

**April 14, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Julie Broyles, Chair  
Sam Jordan  
Don Enoch  
Taylor Gregg  
Sharon Miranda  
Tonja Updike  
Ernie Manzie  
Fred Villa

**Community Members/Guests:**

Angela Ahrens  
Geri Benshoof  
Janean Butler  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Terese Kashi  
Debbie Kitelinger  
Dean Konopasek  
Patrick Pillai  
Christie Reinhardt

**Staff:**

Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Welcome from the Chair**

**Announcements and Good News**

Teresa Holt announced that Jennifer Jones has been hired to staff the Education Committee and the Early Intervention Committee.

Teresa also announced that two new members have been appointed to the Council, Justine Sheehan from Barrow and David Flynn from Delta/Greely area.

Christie Reinhardt announced that Heidi Haas has also become a parent navigator for Stone Soup Group.

Teresa Holt announced that Heidi Frost will be moving to a new office on the UAA campus to staff the TAPESTRY project.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

*Restraint and Seclusion Letter*

Teresa Holt stated that they presented the restraint and seclusion recommendations to the State Board of Education. They will need to follow up with Esther Cox, the chair, to see if the board is going to take any action.

*Federal Budget*

Teresa Holt stated that she received an e-mail from Karen McCarthy which stated that IDEA Part B funds, Part C funds, and pre-school grant funding will stay the same as FY '10.

Christie Reinhardt clarified that they were able to keep their funding as a

parent information and resource center.

Teresa further reported that independent living services, supported employment state grants, vocational rehabilitation state grants, and client assistance will remain the same as FY '10. She noted that training will be \$5 million less.

### E-Mail regarding ADHD and Advanced Nurse Practitioners

Teresa Holt stated that she will follow up on this item and add it to the next agenda.

### OT/PT Regulations

Teresa reported that these regulations have passed.

### E-Mail from University of Alaska Southeast

Teresa Holt stated that they received an e-mail back from UAS clarifying that the teachers coming out of the new four-year program will be special education endorsed, which means they will not be able to teach regular education unless they go back and take extra classes.

## Legislative Update

- SB 10, HSGQE – **no movement**
- Parents as teachers – **moved to finance**
- SB 73, increase in special education funding
- SB 6 and HB 154, Pre-K program/plan

Teresa Holt noted that none of the bills made it all the way through, and the capital budget has not yet passed.

## Council Priorities (Work Plan)

### Review of Current Priorities

- 1. Increase the graduation rate for students with disabilities. Support a bill to remove the requirement to pass the exit exam in order to receive a diploma and identify alternatives.**

*Send e-mails to State Board of Education or testify in person in support of removing this requirement.*

**2. Advocate for an Alaskan university to create a four-year special education teacher preparation program.**

*University of Alaska Southeast has begun this process.*

**3. Ensure that SESA has adequate, permanent funding.**

*Bills were introduced this year. Need to consider Midwest Academy planning session for supporting this goal next year.*

**4. Advocate for training for regular education teachers on special education and Section 504.**

*Make contact with EED website calendar conference contacts and arrange for people to present at upcoming winter conferences.*

**5. Support statutes and regulations on restraint and seclusion in schools at the state and federal level.**

*A lot of progress was made on this in the past year.*

*Priority Recommendations to the Council*

After discussion, the following work plan priorities were decided:

1. Support bills to remove the requirement to pass the exit exam. Reword the current priority.
2. Continue to work on growing more special education teachers and other service providers. Explore programs that allow TAs from rural areas to get their teaching degree while continuing to staff their school. Dean Konopasek explained a very successful program between Chevak and UAA that is doing this.
3. Ensure that SESA has adequate, permanent funding.
4. Advocate for training for regular education teachers on special education and Section 504.
5. Support statutes or regulations on restraint and seclusion in schools at the state or federal level.

Suggested additional priorities include:

6. Have Education Committee representation on the FASD Partnership's education work group. Debbie Kitelinger volunteered and Jennifer Jones will also participate.

### **Report from the State Board of Education**

Geri Benshoof stated that they have a State Board of Education meeting June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged committee members to e-mail the board or testify publicly in support of removing the HSGQE. She also stated that there are some things coming down from the feds in regards to the reauthorization of some big education programs and bills that the board will need to be considering.

### **Report from SESA**

Patrick Pillai stated they have sought to increase funding for SESA and eliminate the sunset clause. The result is HB 198, which is currently in the House finance committee.

He stated that SESA has two autism vacancies, a vacancy for an ED specialist, and two positive behavioral support vacancies.

Patrick stated that they had a nice grant with the Bering Strait School District where they did positive behavioral supports and were able to pay teachers for the trainings.

SESA was also able to provide an LSCI training in Anchorage and pay for the attendance of a village police officer, a teacher, administrators, and state policymakers. In conclusion of this grant, they are going to be sending a superintendent, the SPED director, a SESA representative and a teacher to the PBIS solutions conference in Seattle.

Patrick concluded his report by noting that he just got back from doing some agency recruiting in Portland.

### **Report from DEED**

Sam Jordan stated that they have been working on the State APR report. He stated that they are working through their clarification period and they will send their final draft on Friday. He believes Washington was pleased, and he believes the results for their state ranking should be back by June.

Sam stated that they are winding up their FY'11 monitoring schedule. He noted that things have gone well, even with the change in staff.

The Department has one program manager position left to fill. He noted that they also have a vendor who is looking at doing a review of the handbook. They are also looking at reformatting the website.

Sam Jordan shared that he had a chance to tour the Project SEARCH program at the Mat-Su Valley hospital and visit with the hospital administration and staff. He stated that students have been tremendously successful, and the staff have really embraced the program.

### **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

- Stone Soup Group Parent Conference – April 25 – 27 in Anchorage
- Council meeting, May 3 – 5, 2011, Seward
- Distinguished Scholars Institute, August 4 – 5, 2011 in Anchorage – focus on improving outcomes for children and youth with emotional behavior disorders.
  
- Suggestions for conferences/trainings next year:
  - OSEP
  - CEC/ACRES

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next teleconference for the Education Committee is scheduled for May 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.