

**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

October 17, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Don Enoch
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Taylor Gregg, Chair
Heidi Haas
Margaret Kossler

Community Members and Guests:

Art Arnold
Charity Cuning
Patrick Pillai
Christie Reinhardt

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by:

Patrick Reinhart

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Taylor Gregg, Chair at 1:33 pm. Teresa Holt took roll call and introduced guests.

Reading of the Council Mission

Taylor Gregg, Chair read the Council mission:
“Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities”

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements or Good News

- ❖ Teresa announced that Millie Ryan is retiring from the GCDSE at the end of November and is going to work for REACH in Juneau. We will miss her and staff will host an official retirement party in Anchorage on Nov. 29, from 3:30-5:30 in room 860 of the Frontier building. The Council will also do something in her honor at their June 22-24 meeting in Juneau.
- ❖ In addition, Jennifer Jones has also recently resigned for medical reasons. We wish her well.
- ❖ Patrick Reinhart said that he and Terese Kashi sat in on the selection process for the ASSEC conference in February and there were many more proposals than time slots for the conference. He believes everyone will be pleased by the quality of the presentations selected and that the conference looks to be a good one. A change from previous years is that it will be at the Anchorage Hilton this year.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Art Arnold **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Margaret Kossler seconded the motion. The motion **PASSED**.

Art Arnold **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2012 meeting. Margaret Kossler seconded the motion. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Although there was no direct correspondence for the Education Committee,

Patrick Reinhart talked about the new Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (IEI) grant from the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The goals of the grant are to create greater opportunities for employment for youth with I/DD. Activities include expanding Project SEARCH, entrepreneurships, identifying more Employment Networks, get Employment First legislation passed and more. There will be an advisory board for the grant that includes youth with disabilities and our partners, which include the Center for Human Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Senior and Disability Services, and the Disability Law Center.

Discussion on Restraint and Seclusion

Teresa Holt talked about the various resources available on the whole issue of Restraint and Seclusion (R&S). She talked about federal legislation or guidelines, or lack thereof, and that for the most part the issue has been pushed down to the state and local school districts to handle. Don Enoch talked about what was in the new handbook, which includes some basic principles and guidelines, and that some districts have adopted the handbook as their de facto policies, and therefore have adopted policies around R&S. Don was asked if he could find out which districts have in fact done this, or perhaps the GCDSE and DEED could do a survey of all districts to find out what each has done, or not done, around R&S policies. The Council will work with EED to send out this survey in December.

There was further discussion about a data system for districts so the state can keep track of incidences of restraint and seclusion. Also, there was discussion on what we could do together to provide training or promote best practices around Restraint and Seclusion. Matsu was brought up as a good example of policy and training.

Report from SESA

- Patrick Pillai (executive director) met with the Commissioner of Education and Early Development, Mike Hanley, on October 11, 2012 to discuss the topic of SESA funding. The Commissioner understands the value of SESA services and is fully aware of the assistance provided by the agency to school districts. He views increased funding as being the responsibility of the legislature. The department of education is fully supportive of SESA's need for increased funding.

- On October 16, 2012 the Alaska Legislative Budget and Audit Committee presented, at their second hearing, the findings of their sunset review process. SESA was found to be an efficient organization providing a valuable and unduplicated service. The report may be viewed at:
<http://www.legaudit.state.ak.us/pages/digests/2012/20073dig.htm>
- The audit report did document the calculation of a 36% inflationary impact on SESA funding since 1998 (the last time SESA received a funding increase).
- Patrick Pillai attended the superintendent's conference in Valdez and Stephanie George attended the Principals conference in Anchorage. Information on SESA was shared with attendees at both conferences.
- Three SESA specialists participated in the STAR training (Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research and collected resources to share with school districts they work with.
- Two specialists Lyon Jonson and Patricia McDaid have been invited to present at national conferences (PBIS and Autism).
- SESA has reduced printing costs by moving some of their printing needs to ASSETS.
- SESA in-house training will occur on November 7-9, 2012 and the board meeting on December 13 and 14, 2012

Report from EED

Don Enoch's section just completed or was working on the following:

- **Meetings/Trainings Participation**
GCDSE Ed Committee Teleconference 9/19/12
SESA Board Meeting in Anchorage 9/24/12
GAINS Meeting in Anchorage 9/26/12
GCDSE Ed Committee Teleconference 9/27/12

Special Education Directors/Coordinators Training in Anchorage 9/27-28/12

Hearing Officers Training in Anchorage 9/29/12

Complaint Investigators Training in Anchorage 9/29/12

WRRC Meeting in Seattle 10/2-4/12

GCDSE Meeting in Anchorage 10/2-5/12

GCDSE Ed Committee Teleconference 10/17/12

Intensive Funding Webinar 10/24/12

- **Compliance Monitoring**

Completed: AK Gateway, NW Arctic, Nome, Aleutian Region, Tanana, Nenana, Yukon Flats, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Veldez, Craig, Klawock and Mt. Edgecumbe

Pending: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su

- **Projects**

Standards Roll Out project (ongoing)

Intensive Funding Reviews (throughout the month of November)

Special Education Handbook corrections and clarifications – Ongoing until December

Web Survey from the Special Education Directors/Coordinators training

CrEAG Fiscal Report to OSEP (due 10/15/12)

- **Planning**

GCDSE Autism teleconference 11/1/12

DEB Meeting in Anchorage 11/16/12

Cognitive Coach Training in Anchorage 12/3-6/12

Standards Roll Out Team Meeting in Juneau 12/10/12

- **Other**

GCDSE is expected to review the Special Education Handbook before December for a reissuance

ASSEC presentations will be conducted by state special education staff (Feb)

Discretionary Grant Announcement let regarding FY14 Focus on Graduation, Dropout and Transition

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

- State Board EED meeting in Anchorage on 12/6-12/7
- Next Council Meeting is 1/22-1/24 in Juneau

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be **Thursday, Nov. 15, from 1:30-3:00 pm**

Adjournment

Margaret Kossler moved to adjourn. Don Enoch seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

DRAFT