

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

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**January 17, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Julie Broyles
Don Enoch
Sam Jordan
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Taylor Gregg, chair
Heidi Haas
Terese Kashi
Ernie Manzie
Justine Sheehan

Community Members:

Geri Benshoof
Christine Inglet
Conchita McKnight
Patrick Pillai
Tonja Updike

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Taylor Gregg shared the good news that Community Connections has their new building.

Teresa Holt welcomed Christie Reinhardt to the Governor's Council staff.

Review of Council Mission Statement

Don Enoch recited the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Approval of Agenda

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2012 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt had no correspondence to report.

Inclusive Practice Award Update

Christie Reinhardt disclosed that they have received 11 nominations for the Inclusive Practice Awards and they ranged from teacher assistants to entire schools from all across the state. The awards will be presented at the ASSEC Conference luncheon February 5th, 2013 at 12:15 p.m.

Annual Performance Report

Teresa Holt introduced the APR summary report and explained each of the 20 indicators on the summary. Christie Reinhardt and Sam Jordan reported on some of the focus points of discussions at the EED stakeholder's meeting. Sam Jordan reported that the stakeholders represented at this meeting were from a broad range of the special education community. The goal of the stakeholder's meeting was to review each area and try to identify what had caused progress or what needs to happen in order to see progress in unmet areas and setting target goals for new data sets.

Sam Jordan then summarized the timeline for the report. He indicated that they will finalize the reporting and submit it for the federal reporting due date, which is February 15th, 2013. Then in April there is a clarification period where the federal government will notify them on any items that need clarification, and there is a month to respond to those inquiries. A final letter of determination of how Alaska is doing on implementing IDEA will be out in June, and that letter will go to the commissioner.

Teresa Holt reviewed issues the committee has worked on in the past, and she asked each committee member present their opinion on what issues they would like to see the Education Committee focus on either from the list of indicators or other issues not on the summary. Essentially the committee members noted that graduation and dropout rates topped the list, followed by assessments and transition across all thresholds; preschool, post-secondary, and post-school outcomes, and least restrictive environments, which is more focused on rural communities. Other areas of interest included restraint and seclusion, service delivery, the referral process, and training programs post-school.

Report from State Board of EED

Geri Benshoof reported that the board received and read over 800 comments regarding student learning data and teacher evaluations. The regulations were changed taking into consideration the reasonable comments. She reported that the Senate Education Committee had a meeting that discussed the application for a waiver for the No Child Left Behind requirement of 100 percent proficiency in two years. She further explained that in order to get that waiver, they have to include student learning data in teacher evaluations,

and that encompasses more than student SBA scores. She also noted that teacher evaluation programs have to be set up by the local school districts, stating that Alaska believes in local control of their public schools, and so the State has not said what kind of program should be used.

Geri Benshoof informed committee members that the State Board of EED will have a teleconference January 28th, and the agenda will cover legislation, budgeting, residential schools, and safety regulations to name a few, and will be broadcasted through the local LIOs.

Teresa Holt reminded folks that Geri Benshoof's term will be up in the spring, and she will be leaving the board. Teresa Holt invited committee members to forward the names of any persons they thought might be interested in serving on the State Board of EED to either the Office of Boards and Commissions or to her and she will set them up with a link on how to apply to the State Board of Education.

Report from SESA

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA passed the legislative audit, and it is posted online at the Department of Legislative Audits website. They also passed a public audit done by Mikunda Cottrell & Co., Inc.

Patrick Pillai also reported that SESA serves 269 students, and they have increasing referrals from school districts in the areas of multiple disabilities and autism.

Patrick Pillai shared the news that Senator Gary Stevens sponsored SB 17 for the reauthorization of SESA, which is scheduled to sunset June 30th, 2013. He explained that because reauthorization and funding are under two different titles and the strategy was to seek reauthorization and then get an amendment to add a funding increase to that, he will be working on getting another senator to support an amendment for a funding increase.

Report from EED

Don Enoch reported that they are still working on the standards rollout project and are busy with the intensive funding review. He reported that they have a webinar for the Annual Performance Report, and the updated special education handbook is getting ready for the next issuance. He noted that the

special education team at the department will be doing presentations at the ASSEC Conference.

Meetings, Conferences, and Trainings

ASSEC Conference is scheduled for February 4th through February 6th, 2013. The Inclusive Practice Awards will be presented February 5th, 2013 at 12:15 p.m.

Key Campaign is scheduled for February 20th and 21st, 2013.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next teleconference of the Education Committee is scheduled for February 28th, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to adjourn. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.