

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

LOCATION

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

**Meeting Date
May 30, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Don Enoch/Kim McNamara
Ernie Manzie
Terese Kashi
Justine Sheehan
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Julie Broyles

Community Members:

Angelina Ahrens
Derrick Pennington

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Reading of the Council's Mission

Justine Sheehan recited the Council's mission: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Quorum

A quorum was not established at the beginning of the meeting. Committee members held off on some of the agenda items to be addressed if a quorum is met.

Conference Updates

Taylor Gregg informed the committee members of the upcoming conference:

- OSEP IDEA Leadership Conference July 29-31, Washington D.C.

Christie Reinhardt informed the committee members that due to financial restrictions placed on travel, the attendees of this conference will include: Christie Reinhardt; Taylor Gregg, as Education Committee chair; and Karli Lopez, as Early Intervention Committee chair.

FASD Conference

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus gave a report on the FASD Conference held in May. She stated that the conference had been a long time coming, and it was beneficial to gather everyone together to talk about what is going on statewide and where they need to go as a state. Christie Reinhardt remarked that she felt that the parent, birth parent, and self-advocate panel was very powerful.

Christie added that there are some birth parents who have started a support group to talk about FASD. They currently have 800 members. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus will get the information about their Facebook page for committee members.

LEND Program Conference

Christie Reinhardt stated that she attended a small conference through the LEND Program. One of the outcomes from that was the early formation of a family advisory board with the idea of providing direct training to parents on advocacy skills and public speaking so they can develop a cadre of informed parents to work on committees and function as a professional parent organization.

Review Priorities for 2013-2014 from the May Council Meeting

Taylor Gregg reviewed the Five-Year State Plan goals in the areas of advocacy and leadership, community inclusion and supports, housing, employment, early intervention, education, and health.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the full Council accepted the Education Committee's recommendations and adopted all three of the priorities in the order the committee chose. The priorities are as follows:

Objective 1: Continue to advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination and/or receive a diploma.

Christie stated that the Education Committee has an HSGQE subcommittee that has been looking into some options for this. They are planning on holding a Midwest Academy to determine recommendations to the full Council.

Justine Sheehan felt that the best option would be to do away with the exam completely.

Ernie Manzie suggested that their tactic with this needs to be focused only on kids with disabilities rather than looking at it from the perspective of all students. Don Enoch and Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus agreed.

Objective 2: Advocate for improved secondary transition services in rural areas.

Christie Reinhardt asked for comments or suggestions about short-term goals under this objective.

Terese Kashi suggested telephonic seminars related to transition to college or trade schools, sort of along the lines of an online job fair.

Derrick Pennington suggested community collaborative meetings where people can discuss things that work and don't work regarding transition in their community. Christie Reinhardt stated that something similar was done through the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee several years ago where they surveyed communities through community forums. She stated that they can perhaps get some of that information from them, although their areas of focus were Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, which aren't rural communities.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus suggested getting students referred to DVR early on and educating high school special education teachers to do this. She also felt it is important to educate the provider agencies.

Christie Reinhardt suggested finding a vehicle to communicate educational information to DD programs, care coordinators and case managers once they have put together a clearinghouse of information.

Objective 3: Advocate for state and/or federal regulations regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.

Christie Reinhardt stated that Representative Charisse Millett may be interested in sponsoring some legislation around restraint and seclusion.

Kim McNamara stated that there are no regulations in Alaska, and there are no federal regulations regarding restraint and seclusion. There has been a document that gives federal guidance regarding restraint and seclusion, and it is basically a letter that explains what districts should have in their policies if they don't already. She stated that a lot of school districts do have policies, but they aren't regulated at the State level.

Don Enoch suggested that the Council survey all the school districts regarding any policies they may have regarding restraint and seclusion.

Ernie Manzie suggested they could advocate to the State that every district has a policy, either through Department regulations or through legislation. Don Enoch stated that they may want to see if federal regulations come out

before they make any state regulation changes.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus commented that she was on an ad hoc committee regarding restraint and seclusion, and it was suggested at that time that restraint and seclusion be built into the IEP. There was no final decision on that issue because people felt that others might think that just because it's on the IEP, it's acceptable to do. Julie Broyles agreed and commented that she believes the committee felt that if it was on the IEP, it would give people permission to restrain or seclude someone.

Julie Broyles stated that the ad hoc committee had a lot of good discussion and other ideas such as who should be trained to restrain and what steps should be taken before restraining or secluding a student. Jeanne added that they also talked about who should be notified, that it should be in writing, that it should be immediate, and that the family also needed to be notified. They also discussed the need for a debriefing session for everyone involved in the event of restraint or seclusion.

Jeanne suggested that an activity of the Education Committee could be the review of the restraint and seclusion discussions of the ad hoc committee. Christie Reinhardt stated that they can put together a summary of the work that has been done up until now, and also look at some of the language in the new federal regulations.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus also suggested contacting Disability Law Center to get some information.

Christie Reinhardt stated that she will condense all this information under the three objectives into the form of a work plan and get that out to committee members prior to the next meeting.

Quorum Established

A quorum was established and the committee went back to previous agenda items.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 2013 Meeting

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Agenda

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Announcements and Good News

Taylor Gregg announced that after the OSEP Conference, she is going to fly to New York to visit family, and then drive to Maine to visit her great uncle. They may also stop in Philadelphia along the way.

Taylor Gregg also announced that she will be going to a Steve Miller concert this summer in Portland.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that she will be leaving for Maine July 1 through August 7.

Report from the HSGQE Subcommittee

Ernie Manzie stated that in addition to what has already been previously discussed, the subcommittee is requesting to continue to move forward to have recommendations from this committee and then present to the full Council.

Report from SESA

Christie Reinhardt stated that Teresa Holt and Patrick Reinhart attended the signing of the SESA bill in Fairbanks yesterday.

Report from EED

Kim McNamara reported the following highlights from the Department of Education and Early Development:

- Reviewing 6B and 619 grant applications.
- Preparing to implement a new online grant system.
- Provided clarification to OSEP on their APR and are awaiting their determination.
- Attended the Post-Secondary Transition Capacity Building Work Institute on Charlotte, North Carolina.

- Attended the Alaska Literacy Institute on Training on the New Alaska English Language Arts Standards.
- Attended the FASD Conference.
- Working on verifying corrective actions for monitoring for six districts from this past year.
- Updated all the special education eLearning courses. The updates should be finalized by August.
- Renewing their contracts and grants for FY'14.
- Planning for their upcoming monitoring season.
- Two conferences in July, OSEP and State Personnel Development Grant Conference.
- Don Enoch will be attending the Special Education Law Symposium in Pennsylvania in June.
- Meredith Jaecks has gotten a job at the Juneau School District and will be leaving the Department next month.
- Sam Jordan has a baby due in the next couple of weeks.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for June 20th, 2013 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.