

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

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**September 19, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Margaret Kossler – co-chair
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Heidi Haas
Terese Kashi
Justine Sheehan
Ernie Manzie

Community Members:

Breanna Brian
Janel Keplinger
Starr Marsett
Derrick Pennington
Patrick Pillai
Fred Villa

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Rich Sanders

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Margaret Kossler announced the good news that her husband was appointed a judgeship.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on FASD in reports and the removal of the EED report. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 22nd, 2013 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christine Reinhardt reported that there was correspondence and it would be discussed during restraint and seclusion bill update.

Reports

State Board of Education

Janel Keplinger reported that the State Board of Education will be meeting in Nome September 23rd, 2013. They are scheduled to have a discussion about the Early Literacy that was passed at the last meeting. She noted that she will not be able to attend the meeting.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she will be attending the State Board of Education meeting and will also be meeting the special education director and touring their Head Start program and their early intervention program.

SESA

Patrick Pillai reported the activities of SESA as follows:

- SESA is scheduled to present to the Senate Education Finance Subcommittee on the identification of cost drivers over the past ten years and the projections affecting the next ten years.
- SESA is scheduled to present a report at the superintendent's meeting at the Captain Cook Hotel.
- SESA presented to the new special education directors making them aware of SESA's services and how to access a referral packet to request services.
- SESA is currently working on content for their website and also developing their newsletter, which is published in the spring and fall each year.
- The SESA board has elected a new chair, Eric Gebhart, who is the superintendent of the Nenana School District.

Patrick Pillai noted that SESA met with Kim McNamara, who is working on data collection. SESA will be receiving the updates and will be trying to make more programs available through GAINS.

FASD

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the FASD Partnership has been the home for FASD issues. She feels in order to move this issue forward, the Governor's Council is potentially the place where an ad hoc committee on FASD would be more effective in promoting changes in systems to improve access to services, training, and support for people impacted by FASD. The DD Committee is interested in making a proposal to the Executive Committee to form an ad hoc committee on FASD. They will look to bringing up the proposal at the Governor's Council meeting in October and will be looking for support from other committees.

Old Business

Restraint and Seclusion Bill Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Education Committee has received correspondence from Commissioner Mike Hanley from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development and Bill Streuer from the Department of Health & Human Services expressing concern about the Governor's Council having contacted a legislator to sponsor a bill regarding restraint and seclusion in schools, mainly that the Governor's Council has not worked through the proper channels.

Christie Reinhardt explained that Representative Millett, the legislative liaison to the Council, attended a Council meeting and recognized restraint and seclusion as a concern. Representative Millett drafted a bill and sent it to the Council and requested that the Education Committee and the Legislative Committee assist her with the draft legislation.

The Education Committee reviewed the proposed draft legislation along with their partners, which included special education directors from school districts, Disability Law Center, and parents of students that had been restrained or secluded, and submitted recommendations and comments on the proposed legislation.

Christie Reinhardt stated that it was her intention to present the proposed draft legislation at the State Board of Education meeting as an opportunity to introduce the topic and make the board aware that this topic is going to be addressed legislatively. She further stated that there was a request from the commissioners that the Governor's Council does not broach the topic with the State Board of Education until it has been vetted by both the commissioners and perhaps even the Governor. The Council is currently considering the request.

Christie Reinhardt announced that the Midwest Academy is scheduled for October 1st, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Council office, and will be facilitated by Kathy Fitzgerald. The focus will be on addressing the draft restraint and seclusion legislation and discussing legitimate questions such as who is responsible for training, recordkeeping, and whether there is a

fiscal note attached to the legislation. The meeting will be teleconferenced for committee members who are unable to attend in person.

New Business

Discussion of the 2013-2014 Work Plan

Christie Reinhart led the committee members through the work plan to fill in the gaps in activities, partners, and target dates for the goals.

Rich Sanders presented information on the Integrated Employment Initiative, the microenterprise program, Project SEARCH, and customized employment. He noted that the Employment & Transportation Committee would be very interested in comments from the Education Committee because their current focuses are around transition and employability skills for youth.

The committee members discussed potential activities relating to Goal 3:

- To advocate for improved secondary transition services in rural areas.

Margaret Kossler **MOVED** to remove the activity of advocating for a minimum age for transition IEP goals from 16 to either 9th grade or 14 from the HSGQE goal (Goal 1-3a) and move it to one of the focuses of the secondary transition goal (Goal 3). Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Christie Reinhardt will finalize the Education Committee's work plan and send it to members for a final review. The work plan will be presented at the Governor's Council meeting in October.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Meeting
September 24th – 25th, 2013, Nome, Alaska

State Board of Education Meeting
September 24th – 25th, 2013, Nome, Alaska
Restraint & Seclusion Midwest Academy

October 1st, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Governor's Council Office, Anchorage, Alaska

Governor's Council Meeting
October 2nd – 4th, 2013
Embassy Suites, Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Workforce Investment Board
October 15th – 16th, 2013
Muldoon Job Center, Anchorage, Alaska

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for October 17th, 2013, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.