

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

Education Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**March 20, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Margaret Kossler – co-chair
Terese Kashi
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Angie Fraize

Community Members:

Patrick Pillai
Breanna Brian
Amy Westfall
Fred Villa
Ernie Manzie
Jim Kreatschman

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Taylor Gregg welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Taylor Gregg announced that she will be leaving to go on vacation to Hawaii.

Fred Villa expressed his appreciation to Christie Reinhardt and the LEND group for the presentation of IEP fundamentals. He encouraged committee members to distribute announcements of those training opportunities, as they are very helpful and informative. He also gave kudos to Don Enoch and his team at the Department related to the lack of appeals that have to be processed due to the intervening and negotiations by the Department.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 19th, 2014 meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt stated that correspondence would be discussed during old business.

Reports

Chair's Report

Taylor Gregg reported that she will be attending the Full Lives Conference in April in her role as the chair of the Education Committee.

SESA Report

Patrick Pillai reported that since the beginning of this fiscal year they have served a total of 292 students in their LID program. Out of the 292 students served, 240 were service-related travel itineraries. They had 70 site consultations; 317 student consultations; and 68 trainings, of which 55 were presented in person and 13 were presented via distance education.

Patrick Pillai reported that Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus conducted a FASD 101 training at the March 4th, 2014 SESA board meeting. He noted that he had received a fantastic FASD link to a module on learning about FASD from Terese Kashi, which they have put on their website under training modules.

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA is undergoing the testing of their Smart Board and Eright software in different villages that receive different bandwidth to find out what the best choice is to deliver distance education.

Patrick Pillai noted that at their June board meeting Timi Tullis of the Alaska Association of School Boards will be conducting a workshop on goal setting for board members. He reported that their contracts for FY15 are being finalized and will be done by day's end. He also reported that the SESA staff has received training on the use of Eagle Eye software.

EED Report

Christie Reinhardt stated that she spoke with Don Enoch who reported that the Department is in the field finishing up the district monitoring, and that they have hired someone for the vacant position as a 619 and early childhood coordinator, which is very good news because that has been a difficult position to fill.

FASD Subcommittee Report

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that at the FASD subcommittee meeting March 4th the discussion revolved primarily around their relationship with the Alaska FASD Partnership. Because the Trust sees the Alaska FASD Partnership as the coordinating body addressing issues related to fetal alcohol related issues, the subcommittee has been discussing whether to appeal to the Partnership's Steering Committee to become a separate

committee or to remain an independent subcommittee and report to the Alaska FASD Partnership on a regular basis. The subcommittee is in the final stages of developing their proposed priorities.

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Alaska State Board of Education has three new appointees, one of which is Kathleen Yarr, who will become the liaison to the Governor's Council. Kathleen Yarr has an extensive background as a teacher and has also done work with the Ketchikan courts as a drug and alcohol prevention instructor. She is expected to be able to attend the next Education Committee meeting in April.

Old Business

HB 210 “Keeping Students Safe Act”

Christie Reinhardt reported that HB 210 had its second hearing by the Education Committee on Monday morning and there were many people who testified. She noted that the most moving testimony came from Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, who did a phenomenal job speaking to her experience as a parent having a child restrained at her school.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the bill had minor changes made to it, and she noted that she had received correspondence from Bob Hanley, the director of Special Education in Fairbanks saying that with the changes that were made in the medication and physical escort pieces, he was able to offer an endorsement from the Fairbanks School District, which was very exciting.

The bill will now be moving to the House Finance Committee. The companion bill, SB 204 has been introduced in the Senate, and there is testimony lined up for the hearing. Christie noted that there will not be a hearing by Senate Finance because the fiscal note on the bill is only \$14,000. She also noted there were some very direct questions for Commissioner Hanley about the intentions of that funding.

New Business

Discussion of 2014 Priorities and Work Plan

Christie Reinhardt led the committee members through the discussion of the 2014 priorities and the proposed work plan. The Education Committee agreed on proposing the following goals for the upcoming year:

- Improving the graduation rate of students with disabilities
 - Broaden the range goal
 - Alternate routes to graduation
 - Dropout rates

- Transition
 - Improve secondary transition services
 - Minimum transition age
 - Looking at transition models, including military
 - Incorporating better communication systems
 - Improve transition services for Part B to Part C

- Suspension/Expulsion of students with disabilities
 - Explore data from school districts statewide

Christie Reinhardt stated that she will send an e-mail outlining the proposed goals to committee members for review and asked that any feedback be sent to her as soon as possible, because the deadline to finalize the committee's work plan is nearing.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- **Early Childhood Mental Health Institute**
April 8 & 9 Egan Center Anchorage
<https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=20141035E>

- **Full Lives Conference for Direct Service Providers**
April 17 & 18 Sheraton Hotel Anchorage
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/centerforhumandevlopment/fullives/index.cfm>

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for April 17th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.