

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

Education Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**October 23, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Don Enoch/Cassidy Jones
Terese Kashi
Angie Fraize
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Mallory Hamilton
Patrick Pillai
Jill Burkert

Guests:

Barb Chambers

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Christie Reinhart conducted the meeting in the absence of Taylor Gregg and Margaret Kossler.

Announcements and Good News

Christie Reinhardt announced that Taylor Gregg is absent from this meeting because she was surprised with an early gift to go see Beauty and the Beast in Seattle.

Christie Reinhardt also announced that she is pleased with her son's recent success in school and the way he has decided to start applying himself.

Christie also announced that yesterday was Teresa Holt's last day at the Council, and today is Patrick Reinhart's first day as executive director.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Don Enoch commented that Cassidy Jones's name was spelled incorrectly on the agenda under reports.

Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 25th meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt stated that correspondence will be addressed later in the agenda.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Christie Reinhardt gave a brief report on Taylor's behalf noting that the full Council meeting was held in October, and the Education Committee report highlighted the past and future work of the committee.

SESA Report

Patrick Pillai reported the following activities for SESA:

- Working on the new SESA database.
- Work has begun on the new deaf blind project database.
- Planning an early intervention training for staff from five districts December 1 – 2.
- Patrick Pillai attended the Special Education Directors meeting and presented to the new directors on how to access SESA's services.
- Working on the second draft of the FASD survey to gauge supports and services needed by teachers and paraprofessionals in school districts.
- Attended and presented an update at the superintendents meeting.
- Reviewed some resumes for the office specialist vacancies, and planning on attending job fairs to fill that vacancy.
- Started FY'15 with a caseload of 309 students, to date have logged 219 activities, which include 111 direct student consultations and 33 trainings. They have served 100 students in 37 districts, and the LID program logged 74 travel itineraries, and the grants program logged 26.

EED Report

Don Enoch reported the following highlights from EED:

- Tony Buckner has been hired as a new program manager.
- Completed a training for hearing officers that process due process complaints.
- Special Education Directors training was held October 15 – 16.

- Cassidy Jones serves on the EIC as a voting member.
- Sam Jordan has been working on the SSIP and the APR, and has also been promoted to an admin I position.
- Working on an extension for the GAINS grant for this year, and then will be doing a renewal of the application.
- Working on intensive reviews. Anticipating 500 to 550 new claims this year.
- Proceeding on schedule with their monitoring trips.

State Board of Education

Christie Reinhardt reported that the State Board of Education put out a lot of regulations, which have a deadline for comment of November 3rd.

Christie stated that the last State Board of Education meeting focused a lot on assessments. She stated that it was exciting to be there for the final regulation repeal of the HSGQE and the adoption of the challenging of courses.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be held telephonically on October 29th.

FASD Subcommittee

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that they are meeting on October 28th, and the SESA work group is moving ahead with their survey to special educators relating to FASD. Christie Reinhardt stated that she can send out the most recent survey draft to Education Committee members for comment.

Jeanne stated that she did two submissions for the ASSEC conference to do two presentations on FASD.

In terms of the FASD work group as a subcommittee of the DD Committee, Jeanne stated that they have been discussing students qualifying for services in the “other health impaired” or OHI category.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus further stated that it was discovered in the Alaska

statutes that FAS is actually one of the qualifiers for I/DD eligibility. She noted that it sounds like some very positive implications about getting DD services for people with FAS, although it needs to be expanded to include people with FASD. California currently has an initiative to get the “D” added for eligibility, and it was an attorney from California who discovered Alaska’s statute.

Old Business

Comments on Regulations

Don Enoch and Cassidy Jones excused themselves from further participation in the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

4 AAC 06.175, .177 – Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Christie Reinhardt stated that the first amendment to the regulations, .175, has to do with the school districts reporting restraint and seclusion data to the Department on or before June 30th.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the current thinking about this data is that it would be collected and reported at the same time the other disciplinary data is reported.

Christie then directed committee members to .177, which addresses the approving the crisis intervention training programs selected by the districts and ensuring that they are using best practices.

Jill Burkert shared her concerns regarding who would be held responsible or accountable for training and supporting substitute teachers. Christie Reinhardt asked Jill to send her an e-mail with any additional comments from her students who are teachers.

4 AAC 06.775, 4 AAC 06.721 - .724 - Assessments

Terese Kashi shared some concerns that she has heard in her school district such as they are unsure of how the accommodations are going to be made during test time, and some also don’t like computerized testing. Anthony Cravalho shared his personal experience about computerized

testing and what a huge improvement that is for people with disabilities. Christie Reinhardt noted that the universal access tools on the new test are available for all students, but some of the additional accommodations need to be turned on by an administrator.

Christie Reinhardt asked committee members to further review the regulations and please forward any additional comments or feedback to her so the Council can comment by November 3rd.

New Business

Discussion of Other Health Impairment (OHI) Eligibility and FASD

Barb Chambers, a parent navigator with the Anchorage FASD diagnostic team, stated that the state-funded diagnostic teams specifically looking at FASD have all received specialized training from the University of Washington. They carry a great deal of credibility in their ability to diagnose FASD, but very few of the teams have a physician on them.

Barb Chambers then directed committee members to the memo from Anchorage School District special education director Cindy Anderson circulated on October 10th discussing OHI. Barb stated that the problem with this policy is that it requires that the diagnosis of FASD be signed by the M.D. or D.O. that originates the diagnosis. Christie Reinhardt added that in order for a student to be found eligible for services under OHI, the federal regulations do not mention the originating diagnosis by a doctor, nor does it mention it in state statute. The state regulation specifically says that the student must be diagnosed by a physician as having an impairment, but the regulation does not define what a physician is. Christie noted that this has also become an eligibility issue for students with ADHD and ADD who have been diagnosed by behavioral health practitioners.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the FASD work group is looking at some recommendations to provide to the Education Committee. The Education Committee can take those recommendations and develop a plan. Because this is a regulations change, it would go through the State Board of Education. She stated they can present to the State Board and also convene school administrators, teachers, students and physicians to testify before the State Board about the need for a change to this regulation.

Potential options are:

- Draft a regulation that can define what a physician is in a way that would work in Alaska that can include M.D., D.O., P.A., chiropractor, dentist, and nurse practitioner.
- And/or include FASD within the descriptors of what other health impairment is.
- Change the regulations to say physician or certified nurse practitioner.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- October 29 - State Board of Education Audio/Video Conference.
- November 6 – 9, Alaska Association of School Board Conference.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for November 20th from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.