

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

Education Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**Thursday, November 20, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – Chair
Margaret Kossler – Co-chair
Don Enoch
Cassidy Jones
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Patrick Pillai
Mallory Hamilton
Jill Burkert
Anthony Cravalho

Community Members:

Jim Kreatschman
Clayton Holland
Starr Marsett
Fred Villa
Anthony Buckner

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

A quorum was present, and Taylor Gregg welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Taylor Gregg shared the good news regarding her Thanksgiving travel plans.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Christie Reinhardt requested an amendment to the agenda to include a report by Clayton Holland from the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from October as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt stated that the correspondence from the director of education for North Star would be addressed under new business.

Reports

Chair's Report

Taylor Gregg stated that there was no news to report since the last meeting.

SESA Report

Patrick Pillai congratulated Patrick Reinhart in his new position as the executive director of the Governor's Council. Patrick Pillai reported that

SESA welcomed three new board members from the Governor's Council; Anthony Cravalho, Sean O'Brien, and Patrick Reinhart.

Patrick Pillai highlighted the following activities of SESA:

- SESA is making steady progress on the FASD survey, and ten districts have submitted information to participate in survey.
- SESA's fall newsletter will be published soon, and the focus is on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
- SESA and deaf/blind databases are in the final phase of data migration.
- SESA has issued a letter of intent to hire an autism specialist for FY15.
- SESA is planning for the early intervention training scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, 2014.
- The Alaska Association of School Board's policy on restraint and seclusion will be presented at the SESA board meeting in December.

Patrick Pillai expressed SESA's wishes for everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

EED Report

Don Enoch reported that they have been busy with the intensive reviews that the districts submit regarding their students with intensive needs. Don noted that they average approximately 600 submissions, and each submission is reviewed by three separate people.

Don Enoch reported that the department has three new complaint investigators and three new hearing officers. The department held a hearing officer's training and a complaint investigator's training in October, and the director's annual training was also conducted in October.

Don Enoch reported with regards to the monitoring schedule, the districts completed are as follows:

Kodiak Island, Alaska Gateway, Aleutians East, Annette Island, Pribilof, Yukon/Koyukuk, Southwest Region, Delta/Greeley, Lake & Peninsula, Lower Kuskokwim, Kuspuq, Chatham, and Ketchikan.

Districts scheduled:

Wrangell, Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Dillingham, and Nenana.

Don Enoch reported that the special education handbook will be out after the changes are made based on the regulations being drafted. He stated that the website has been reviewed and updated and is awaiting upload. Don noted that they are working on the plans for next year's special education directors training, and they are also gearing up for ASSEC.

State Board of Education (SBOE)

Christie Reinhardt reported that the SBOE met earlier this month and mainly reviewed the school district budget variances. The next SBOE meeting is scheduled in two weeks, and the Governor's Council will be submitting oral testimony related to issues of importance to the Council.

Alaska FASD Work Group Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus briefly reported that the work group has been looking into the issue of the FASD diagnoses being accepted by school districts. Christie Reinhardt reported that they continued the discussion about other health impairments, but there has not been a firm recommendation from the work group yet.

Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)

Clayton Holland, the president-elect of CASE, reported that they held their last meeting in October. CASE is interested in sharing information between CASE and the Education Committee, and they appreciate the opportunity to have representation on the committee.

Clayton Holland stated that besides restraint and seclusion, other topics of interest for CASE are the alternate assessments and the extent of field testing, and other health impairments.

Clayton Holland reported that the next meeting of CASE is scheduled for December 3rd, 2014.

Old Business

Discussion of Other Health Impairments Eligibility and FASD

Christie Reinhardt led the discussion the committee began at the last meeting with regards to expanding the definition of what a physician is as it relates to diagnoses in the state of Alaska. After a discussion, the committee chose to look into expanding the definition of what a physician is within the state of Alaska. Christie Reinhardt will begin researching what other states are doing with regards to expanding the definition.

Implementation of Restraint and Seclusion Policy Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that the laws regarding restraint and seclusion went into effect October 14th, and school boards had to have policy in place, even though the regulations have not been approved. The Alaska Association of School Boards put out a sample restraint and seclusion policy for their board members. Christie stated that she went to the AASB presentation and had a restraint and seclusion information table, which was heavily attended. Christie commented that IEP was not mentioned in the new sample policy. Christie reported that Clayton Holland gave her some sample reporting forms, both long and short forms, and the sample forms were very popular. Clayton Holland and Christie Reinhardt are planning to present on restraint and seclusion at ASSEC in February.

New Business

Update on Proposed Legislation for Provision of Education in Hospital Settings

Christie Reinhardt reported that the director of education for North Star and the educational liaison from the North Star Hospital are proposing legislation that would change educational funding to allow students to receive educational services while admitted to the hospital. Christie Reinhardt wanted to bring this to the attention of the Education Committee assuming that the Education Committee will eventually be asked to weigh in on it, and it would give members a chance to review the documents Christie sent in preparation for continued discussions on this issue.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

January 20 – 22, 2015
Governor's Council Meeting
Juneau

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for December 18th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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