

**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, December 18, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Mallory Hamilton – Acting Chair
Margaret Kossler – Co-chair
Don Enoch
Cassidy Jones
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Jill Burkert
Terese Kashi
Anthony Cravalho
Angelina Fraize

Community Members:

Jim Kreatschman
Clayton Holland
Amy Westfall

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Brittney Howell

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

A quorum was present, and Mallory Hamilton welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Christie Reinhardt reported that not long ago Taylor Gregg suffered the sudden loss of her grandfather. Christie noted that today was also Taylor's birthday, and encouraged committee members to reach out to Taylor with condolences and birthday wishes.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

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

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 20th, 2014 meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported at the meeting.

Reports

Chair's Report

There was no chair's report available for the meeting.

SESA Report

There was no SESA report available for the meeting.

EED Report

Don Enoch reported on the activities of the Department as follows:

- Held the online stakeholders' meeting in November.
- Attended the SESA board meeting in December.
- Held a face-to-face stakeholders' meeting in December.
- Conducted their disproportionality webinar in December.
- Had Department training on the new uniform grant guidance system.

Don Enoch reported that they have completed their ongoing fiscal monitoring with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), pending a report from OSEP. He noted that the new federal special education grant has been issued for this year, and they will be working on that.

Don Enoch reported that the intensive reviews first-round notifications will go out the first week of January, and the 619 and 6B district grants have been processed and posted. Don stated that the memorandum of agreement with Health and Social Services needed minor changes with regards to the Part C to B transition, and those changes are being made and will go to the commissioner for approval.

Don Enoch reported that they are in the planning stages for the Alaska State Special Education Conference (ASSEC) in Anchorage in February. The Department will be conducting presentations during the main conference, as well as pre and post trainings.

Don Enoch stated that the website has been reviewed and upgraded, and they are awaiting upload. Don reported that next year's director training is being organized. They are planning on a smaller venue to address the new directors' needs earlier in the school year, and then they will conduct a veteran directors training at a later date.

Mallory Hamilton asked questions relating to the typical funding for an average student versus students with intensive needs. Don Enoch stated that funding varies based on locations, school sites, and student populations. He noted that generally the intensive funds are designed to reimburse districts for providing those student services. He stated that

intensive funding for a student is 13 times the base allocation, which comes to \$73,840 per intensive student. He stated that more information regarding intensive needs can be found on the website under the Intensive Needs Training Materials link.

State Board of Education (SBOE)

Christie Reinhardt reported that she attended the last meeting of the State Board of Education where the board discussed and voted on six regulation changes. The Council made comment on two regulations, one with regards to new student assessments, and one regarding the implementation of restraint and seclusion legislation, specifically the reporting and training pieces. Christie Reinhardt noted that they will have to keep an eye on the crisis prevention trainings the Department approves.

Alaska FASD Subcommittee Report

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Subcommittee is looking at the criteria for who can assess a fetal alcohol diagnosis that will be accepted by a school district. Jeanne reported that the SAFA chapter has a kickoff date of January 15th, 2015 at The Arc of Anchorage. Christie Reinhardt reported that The Arc has been very supportive of SAFA in terms of using their resources.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the subcommittee will be meeting in February to discuss the qualifications for who can provide a fetal alcohol diagnosis for other health impairments. Christie Reinhardt noted that there are travel scholarships available for that conference.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that there is no current funding for the FASD family camp scheduled for February 14th – 16th, 2015. The amount of funding they are looking for is approximately \$60,000.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that a request has gone out to superintendents around the state to get a list of e-mail contacts for regular ed and special education teachers and paraprofessionals. She noted that they received 16 responses. Jeanne reported that they intend to survey the respondents to gauge their current knowledge base about fetal alcohol,

what kind of training they would like, and their preferred method of delivery for training.

Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Report

Clayton Holland reported that CASE is generally in favor of a change to the definition of physician for diagnosis of other health impairments. CASE's next meeting is in February at ASSEC, and they will discuss writing a letter of support for that change.

Clayton Holland stated that the group has been discussing the teacher evaluation system with the focus around student growth measurements and how to apply them to special education students.

Clayton Holland noted that the Inclusive Practice Awards are the main format for CASE to recognize the very best teachers, and they are beginning the process of making nominations.

Old Business

Implementation of Restraint and Seclusion Policy Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that restraint and seclusion implementation was one topic covered at the State Board of Education, specifically regarding crisis prevention training. Christie stated that the Council is looking at finding funding to bring a crisis prevention trainer to do a group training, possibly tagging on to the end of ASSEC.

Other Health Impairment/Physician Regulation Change

Christie Reinhardt led the committee in a discussion regarding the expansion of the definition of "physician" relating to diagnoses for other health impairments for educational purposes. They began with the definition of physician as it relates to Workers' Compensation and discussed a variety of professionals who may be included in the recommendation for an expanded definition. After a lengthy discussion, the committee directed staff to research the parameters of different medical providers to see what they are allowed to diagnose within the scope of their practice.

New Business

Inclusive Practice Award 2015

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Inclusive Practice Award nomination forms are available.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

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

Amy Westfall informed the committee that the registration for the parent conference scheduled for March will be out after the first of the year. The conference is scheduled for March 6th – 7th, 2015.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for January 15^h, 2015 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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