

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

June 26, 2015
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Dean Gates
Art Delaune
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Ric Nelson welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Lucy Odden announced that she went to the national APSE Conference where she was awarded the personal achievement award. Patrick Reinhart added that there were about 18 nominees in her category, and it was a big honor to win. He added that there were about 1,000 people in attendance at the award ceremony, and Lucy got her picture taken with Sharon Lewis, the head of the Administration for Community Living.

Karli Lopez announced that the 2015 Buddy Walk for Down syndrome will be August 1st from 10:00 to 2:00.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda, **SECONDED** by Karli Lopez. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 2015 meeting as written, **SECONDED** by Amy Simpson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart reported that it is his intention to use this portion of the meeting to report on formal correspondence that requires an official response from the Council, although he responds to numerous correspondence items each day.

Patrick reported that requests came in from both Senators Murkowski and Sullivan's staff for comments on the final draft of the ESEA authorization. Christie Reinhardt composed a response relative to the Council's long-standing positions on the reauthorization.

REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson reported that this is his last meeting for the Executive Committee. He thanked the Executive Committee members for all their support. Lucy Odden thanked Ric Nelson for his service as the chair of the Governor's Council.

Ric Nelson stated that he has another item to address under new business regarding PCA regulations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council is closing out their FY '15 budget, and they are hoping to roll over some of their federal funding. Staff are carefully reviewing FY '15 expenditures and allocating them appropriately. They are also working with the Department on the FY '16 budget, and has been previously reported, the Council will be seeing a \$50,000 reduction to their travel budget. Patrick stated that he received word from Duane Mayes that travel will be closely scrutinized.

Patrick stated that he will be meeting with Public Health next week to discuss funding for the health and disability grant as well as funding to support their Autism Ad Hoc Committee.

HCBS Committee

Patrick Reinhart stated that he has been involved with a Home and Community-Based Services Committee along with other board EDs, Duane Mayes and SDS staff, and others. They have been working on a \$400,000 RFP that will go out to a contractor to do a re-design of the entire waiver system and PCA system that will use the 1915(i) and (k) State Plan options.

Complex Behavior Solutions Group

Patrick reported that another meeting he has been regularly attending is with the Complex Behavior Solutions Group. Some of the attendees at this

meeting include SDS, API, Alzheimer's Association, AADD, and Hope Community Resources. This group has been addressing the increased number of people with both severe mental illness and developmental disabilities that are admitted to API. This is an issue that the Complex Behavior Collaborative tries to address in some training aspects, but there are still a number of people that end up at API, and API is maxed out. Some of the solutions include strengthening the Complex Behavior Collaborative as well as Hope Community Resources developing one of their homes to be specific to people with challenging behaviors. Patrick stated that SDS and the current administration are very supportive of not bringing ICF/IDDs back into Alaska.

Dean Gates asked how many people are currently affected that need service in this area. Patrick Reinhart felt like it was around 100 or so people. Patrick also noted that he is of the understanding that it costs \$1,000 per day to serve these hard-to-serve individuals in API, and the cost to doing it in the community would be about half that amount. He also noted that the director of API is asking for help with this matter because it is almost becoming an I/DD unit at API, which is not the intention of API.

Key Coalition

Patrick reported that the Key Coalition board met last week. Ric Nelson added that the next Key date has been set for February 18th and 19th. Patrick also reported that John Cannon, the current Key Coalition president, is now going to be the new director of DVR.

Trust RFR Projects

Patrick Reinhart stated that he is also working on the Trust RFR projects, which are the request for recommendations from the boards and councils to the State. He noted that the current advisement from the Trustees is to not look at what they can ask for, but rather look at what they can save money on. The boards and councils will be prioritizing the various projects that the Trust has started, and there will be no requests for new programs or projects that do not come out of Medicaid reform that lead to savings in the future. This item will be further discussed at the next Trust meeting August 26th and 27th.

Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC)

Patrick Reinhart stated that he is on the board for the AMC, which is struggling with little to no funding other than membership funds and a couple of small grants. There is no funding to hire a new ED, and the acting part-time executive director will be working out of his home. He stated that Millie Ryan is trying to set up a meeting with Jeff Jessee to talk about the Trust's support for AMC. Because of some money misappropriation on the part of the previous director of AMC, the Trust has pulled their funding.

Dean Gates asked what the Council could do to support AMC. Patrick stated that as a member of the board, he will be supporting AMC directly. After further discussions with the Trust, the Council may be able to get involved in providing additional support.

Meeting with the Commissioner

Patrick Reinhart stated that as a result of a meeting he had with the EDs of the Council's sister boards, they have decided to have a meeting with the Commissioner to see how she wants the lines of communication to be handled from the boards to the divisions to the deputy commissioner, et cetera. They also want to talk with her about budget autonomy.

APSE Conference

In addition to the award presented to Lucy Odden, Patrick Reinhart wanted to comment on the outstanding presentation by Kristin Vandagriff at the national APSE Conference. Representative Millett was in attendance at a couple of sessions, and she stated that she wants to take on the issue of changing the transition age requirement in schools from 16 to 14. Representative Millett plans to pre-file a bill before this next legislative session. Patrick also wanted to thank the Trust for the funding to attend this conference.

UAA Dean of Education Meeting

Patrick reported that Christie Reinhardt met recently with the new dean of education at UAA, and they had some valuable discussions. They discussed trying to educate special education teachers on life and school

counseling, because schools won't really have guidance counselors anymore. They also discussed UAA hosting an autism center in terms of education.

SESA

Patrick Reinhart stated that he attended the entire SESA board meeting a couple of weeks ago. They have just completed Patrick Pillai's evaluation, noting that he is doing an outstanding job, and they have agreed to continue his contract. Patrick stated that he will share some of the SESA ED evaluation information with the Executive Committee so they can use it for his evaluation. He also noted that he received a position announcement for the Council's ED position from Tara Horton, and he will use that announcement to compile a draft ED job description for the Council.

Medical Care Advisory Committee

Patrick Reinhart reported that Rich Sanders is currently in this Medical Care Advisory Committee meeting, and Rich noted that they are working on many of the same issues that the Council has been, including reuse and recycling of durable medical equipment. The Council will continue to be at the table with this group to provide as much input as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports from the committees were presented to members of the Executive Committee in written form. Patrick Reinhart noted the following highlights from a few of the committees:

Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee

- A meeting will be announced for August for anyone who has expressed an interest in participating on this committee.

Early Intervention Committee

- Working with Laurie Thomas of ILP on the principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

- Housing barriers report available on the website.

Education Committee

- Working on how to do their state performance reports.
- Christie attended the State Board of Education meeting in Fairbanks and discussed defining a physician for FASD diagnosis for an IEP.

Health and Disabilities Program

- Lanny Mommsen is working on the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

OLD BUSINESS

FY '16 BUDGET

Patrick Reinhart directed Executive Committee members to the FY '15 and FY '16 budgets and reviewed the amounts listed for the various funding sources for FY '16.

Patrick and committee members engaged in a brief discussion regarding the ILP professional development funding that comes through the Council to ILP for professional development to obtain highly qualified status for providers. Patrick stated that he had a brief conversation with Laurie Thomas and Christie Reinhardt about the fact that the Council seems to be lacking any reporting on this funding. They will be discussing this issue further when Laurie Thomas returns from vacation. Patrick also would like to get further information on why this money is an RSA to the Council.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the projected budget for FY '16, **SECONDED** by Lucy Odden. The motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Amy Simpson reported that the following Council members have been appointed as the following committee chairs and Council positions:

Education Committee – Margaret Kossler
DD Committee – Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Early Intervention Committee – Angie Fraize
Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee – Dean Gates

Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee – Alex Gimarc
Mallory Hamilton – Member at-large
Vice Chair – Lucy Odden
Legislative Committee – Art Delaune
Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committee – Lucy Odden.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Patrick Reinhart referred members of the Executive Committee to the draft policy and procedures manual and asked them to review it and provide feedback to Britteny Howell prior to the fall Council meeting.

FIVE-YEAR STATE PLAN

Patrick Reinhart referred members of the Executive Committee to the five-year strategic plan logic model that Britteny Howell put together. He noted that this is the format the Council will be following when they develop the Five-Year State Plan, and he wanted them to be aware of it.

PCA REGULATIONS

Ric Nelson informed the Executive Committee that he has heard that if people request additional PCA hours from SDS because they need more help, they are re-assessed, but then their hours are decreased instead of increased. People receiving PCA services are also told that they are not allowed to go to fair hearing over regulations anymore. Patrick Reinhart recommended that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee or DD Committee invite SDS to present on this issue at a July or August meeting. Amy Simpson stated that it will be important to get further information on this issue before taking any action. She stated that she and/or Patrick Reinhart can be included on that presentation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- June 30 – AIEI Policy and Regulations Group – 1 – 3 p.m.
- July 8 – Staff meeting, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
- July 21 – 23 – NACDD Conference, Nevada.
- July 26 – 27, ADA 25 Year Celebration and events.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting date and time is to be determined through a Doodle.

INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Amy Simpson thanked Ric Nelson for his leadership as chair of the Council, Karli Lopez for serving as the chair of the EIC, Taylor Gregg for serving as the chair of the Education Committee, and all the other chairs for serving in that capacity over the last term.

Karli Lopez asked about the current process for filling Council vacancies and if there were any particular slots that still needed filling. Patrick Reinhart stated that he has not had any response from the Governor's office on inquiries made in that regard. He stated that until Council members hear otherwise, they will need to continue to fill their seats unless they write a letter stating that they are done.

Dean Gates mentioned a recent Supreme Court decision regarding the Fair Housing Act and that disparate impact claims can go forward in the Fair Housing Act, which will impact people with disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Karli Lopez. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.