

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

**Education Committee
MINUTES**

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**October 15, 2015
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Margaret Kossler - Chair
Jill Burkert
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Mallory Hamilton
Amy Westfall
Sarah Emmal
Amber Parker
Maria Pepperworth
Fred Villa

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Brittney Howell
Rich Sanders

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:35 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome

Margaret Kossler welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Christie Reinhardt shared that her son, who is now a high school student, got all B's on his report card, and he received a very good grade on a science project that involved group participation.

Brittney Howell shared the good news that Rich Sanders is back at the Governor's Council and is attending the meeting.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Due to the lack of quorum, the agenda was not approved, and the approval of the previous meeting minutes was tabled.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported at the meeting.

Reports

Chair's Report

Margaret Kossler reported that she was unable to attend the Governor's Council meeting and looks forward to hearing updates from the meeting.

SESA

Patrick Pillai was unavailable for a SESA report. Christie Reinhardt reported that there are seats open on the SESA board that need to be filled by Council members representing rural stakeholders. Christie stated that SESA has filled two autism professional vacancies with board certified behavior analysts.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she made a request at the SESA board meeting that SESA explore training and certifying their behavior interventionists and staff working in schools in crisis prevention/management. Patrick Pillai is now providing CPI training to his staff.

EED

Don Enoch and Cassidy Jones were unavailable to report on EED. Christie Reinhardt reported that the Department staff is heavily involved in monitoring. Staff from EED attended the Early Childhood Conference in Atlanta last week. Rich Sanders noted that he will be presenting on programs on the afternoon of October 23rd at the Special Education Directors meeting.

CASE

Clayton Holland was unavailable to report on CASE. Christie Reinhardt mentioned that CASE is putting together comments on the FASD regulation to present to the State Board of Education.

FASD

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD Workgroup met on October 12th, and Clayton Holland made a presentation on the teacher evaluations. He indicated that the evaluations are intended to measure students' progress, or what they refer to as the students' growth map, which tracks the individual student's growth over time rather than specific benchmarks. The evaluation is being piloted in Kenai this year and will be rolled out statewide next year. He expects there will be variation on how school districts implement their teacher evaluation systems.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that there was also a presentation on the Aware Program, which is a pilot program on decision making and substance abuse prevention for teens with FASD.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the committee has a lot of work to do in terms of Medicaid reform to ensure that people with an FASD are able to get the services they need to be successful.

Brittney Howell remarked that she has been contacted regarding interest in restarting an Anchorage FASD Council.

Autism Ad Hoc Committee Update

Jill Burkert reported that the Autism Ad Hoc Committee met last week at the Trust where there were reports on the data that had been collected in terms of prevalence and services related to autism. Jill stated that one of the discussions revolved around identifying duplication of services and efforts and moving to a more integrated and comprehensive approach statewide. The concept of an Autism Center was presented as a way of integrating services and providing resources. There were various suggestions on how that could look and what the pros and cons were. The group decided it was an idea worth pursuing, and they will begin the ground work and data collection, as well as gathering more information on how the idea of centralizing services and resources could move forward.

Christie Reinhardt stated that with regards to the data that was reported, the committee recognized the need to write into the work plan ways in which to collect relevant data that is missing.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Update

Christie Reinhardt reported that she and Brittney Howell attended the SBOE meeting in Sitka and toured Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Christie noted that they also had the privilege of touring Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School, the 2015 winner of the Inclusive Practice Award, and visiting with the principal and staff there.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she offered the SBOE the Council's comments related to the definition of physician for educational-purposed diagnoses.

Old Business

Community Forums Update

Brittney Howell reported that the Council has been engaged in gathering stakeholder input related to the State Plan and most recently held

community forums in Sitka, Cordova, and Ketchikan. She and Christie Reinhardt will be traveling to Kotzebue next week. Britteny stated that the community forums are going well, and they are getting great attendance in smaller communities.

FASD Regulation

Christie Reinhardt directed the members' attention to the copy of the amended statute 4 ACC 52.130(k), regarding special education services of a child with other health impairments. She stated that (1) and (2) are federal requirements, (3) and (4) are state requirements, but with regards to (3), the verbiage that was recommended was broader than what is being proposed, which is other health impairments must be diagnosed by a physician, or in the case of FASD, an advanced nurse practitioner certified in either psychiatry or family practice. Christie stated that the Council is preparing comment and will be presenting at the SBOE meeting in December, and she encouraged committee members to take advantage of either written or oral public testimony.

New Business

Five-Year Priorities from the Council Meeting

Britteny Howell led the committee in a discussion on the priorities of the work plan for the Education Committee, which was included in the meeting packet, and the committee worked on drafting objectives for the first two priorities. Britteny recommended using the SMART process for defining the objectives, which means the objectives need to be Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-sensitive and should include stakeholder and self-advocate involvement.

After a lengthy discussion, the committee recommended the following objectives:

1. Increase collaboration with our statewide partners and maximize parent and self-advocate involvement to improve graduation rates for students with disabilities.
2. Improve post-secondary transition by improving workforce/professional development and maximizing parent

engagement and self-advocacy, and improving education transition information and services.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

October 18 – 20, 2015

Alaska Principals Conference
Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage

October 21, 2015

Community Forum
Nullagvik Hotel, Kotzebue

November 5 – 8, 2015

Alaska Association of School Boards
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2015, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Kossler adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.