

**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
April 28, 2016
1:32 p.m.**

Attendees:

David Kohler - Chair
Sandra DeHart-Mayor
Sam Jordan
Patrick Pillai
Sarah Emmal
Jill Burkert

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 1:32 p.m.
ROLL CALL**

Welcome

David Kohler welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

David Kohler announced the good news that Starr Marsett, a member of the Education Committee, will soon become a member of the Anchorage School Board.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Committee members had no conflicts of interest to declare at this meeting.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Due to a lack of quorum, the approval of the agenda and previous meeting minutes was tabled.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt reported the Education Committee has received a request from a pediatrician from the Valley to join the committee.

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Council has received correspondence from DD agencies, from the federal level, and the American Bar Association related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Governor's Council wrote a letter of recommendation for a HRSA Grant through the Women's, Children's and Family Health (WCFH) relating to improving screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism collaboratively, particularly in rural Alaska.

David Kohler reported that he has had contact with a union support organization from Virginia related to SB 103/HB102. The hospital corporation in Virginia is essentially trying to introduce the same type of legislation, and she was gathering research from states that are dealing with that type of legislation.

Reports

Chair's Report

David Kohler deferred his report to the update on HB 102/SB 103.

SESA

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA has hired a multiple disabilities specialist with a vision background, and they continue to have vacancies for two autism specialists and one multiple disabilities specialist that they are working on.

Patrick Pillai reported that the other activities of SESA include:

- Training for the Anchorage Police Department and the Kodiak Island Police Department and first responders.
- The APR for the Deaf/Blind Grant has been completed and submitted.
- SESA is closing out the five-year PBIS/ILP Grant in June.
- Through mini grants, SESA was able to coordinate district PBIS training for Lake & Peninsula School District and Yupiit School District, and they were able to purchase PBIS materials for the Yukon Flats and Hoonah School Districts.
- Training for SESA staff is scheduled for May 8, and will include a presentation from the Alaska Neuro/Therapy Center.
- SESA's premise lease has been negotiated and approved by the board and will commence on July 1, 2016 for a five-year period.

Patrick Pillai stated that the last SESA board meeting for fiscal year 2016 is scheduled for June 3, 2016.

EED

Sam Jordan reported the following activities for the Department:

- Ongoing monitoring of the legislative session and providing support for legislative requests.
- Submitted a renewal application for the State Improvement Grant.

- Finalized and submitted the SSIP related to the APR draft recommendations.
- Finalized and submitted the clarifications needed on the data used for the federal reporting.
- Awaiting the state's determination on the implementation of IDEA.
- EED has begun to receive school district grant application.
- Ongoing involvement in the Department's response to ESSA.
- Submitted comments on disproportionality as it relates to small schools and states without mandatory preschool programming.
- Updating the special education handbook

Sam Jordan reported that there have been many inquiries related to the cancellation of the state assessment this year specific to special education and the implications of not having that data for reporting purposes.

CASE

A report from CASE was not available for the meeting. Christie Reinhardt reported that CASE submitted letters of opposition directly to the House Finance Committee members regarding HB 102.

FASD

A report from the FASD Workgroup was not available for the meeting. Christie Reinhardt reported that the FASD Partnership is currently planning the 9/9 event, and they are planning a statewide panel training for attorneys, judges, guardian ad litems, and paralegals on FASD implications. Christie was invited to speak on the work that has been done with bringing FASD into other health impairments within education regulations.

Old Business

Update on HB 102/SB 103

David Kohler reported that the Governor's Council and the Education Committee, along with the Disability Law Center and others, were involved in a flurry of activity to submit letters of opposition to the amended the language of HB 102/SB 103. The word "may" was changed to "shall", which would require school districts to contract with United Health Services.

After some research into the integrity the legislation and of UHS, the opposition also included the possible restriction for parental access to their children, and whether the proposed legislation was legal under the state constitution and federal IDEA. Currently the proposed legislation is in the House Finance Committee and has not been scheduled for a hearing.

New Business

Two-Year Work Plan Activities for the Five-Year Plan

Christie Reinhardt led the committee members through a final review of the activities for the draft two-year work plan. After refining the wording on the activities the committee chose to focus on in the next two years, Christie stated that the plan will be brought to the full Council for approval May 5th, and if approved, it will go out for public comment in mid-June, and it is due to be submitted August 1st.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

May 5, 2016

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Meeting Video and Teleconference

To participate by videoconference go to one of the following three sites:

- Anchorage – 3601 C Street, Room 890/896
- Fairbanks – 751 Old Richardson Hwy, Suite 100A
- Juneau – 350 Main St, Room 115
- To participate by phone:
1-866-356-1755: code 325 848 2953#
- 4:30 Public Testimony—Special Topic: 5 Year State Plan Draft
To participate by phone:
1-866-356-1755, code 325 848 2953#

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2016 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.