

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

Education Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**February 20, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Margaret Kossler – co-chair
Terese Kashi
Angie Fraize
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Don Enoch
Sam Jordan

Community Members:

Patrick Pillai
Breanna Brian

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Taylor Gregg welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Christie Reinhardt announced the personal good news that she closes on her house in a week, and she found a wonderful place to live.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that she received her children's progress reports and her freshman had five A's and one B; her eighth grader had six A's; and her junior is passing all her classes.

Sam Jordan announced that his 8 month old child is cutting four teeth.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended to include a discussion of the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) request. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 16th, 2014 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt stated that they have received correspondence, and those items would be covered in the reports.

Reports

Chair's Report

Taylor Gregg reported that she went to Key Campaign this year and she spoke with Senator Stedman, who supported the Safe Student Act and

Employment First legislation. Senator Stedman said he supported the Complex Behavioral Collaborative, but because there is a fiscal note attached, it may be a harder to get it in the Governor's budget.

SESA Report

Patrick Pillai reported that the SESA staff completed the Smart Board training and will be conducting a test with districts to determine the best distance technology delivery system. They expect to design a five-minute presentation to districts and have that transmitted through their Smart Board. The presentation will be broken up into slowly adding pictures, and then find the best transmission rate, and they will then be able to decide which type of technology will best suit each site.

Patrick Pillai noted that the SESA specialists are CPR certified. He reported that ten SESA specialists presented at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC) on a variety of topics, including technology. Patrick stated that SESA is anticipating two autism vacancies, and they have started recruitment for those positions.

Patrick Pillai reported that SESA is collaborating with the Opportunity Foundation based in Minnesota to train school staff to use a new device called Eagle Eye. This device uses eye tracking technology and is great for their students with severe disabilities. An Eagle Eye representative came to Alaska and provided training for their staff.

Patrick Pillai reported that they are planning an open house tentatively for April 27th, 2014. He stated that Eric Gebhardt recommended an open house to coincide with the Governor's Council coming to town for a meeting and inviting everyone to come to SESA and see the premises and meet with their specialists.

Patrick Pillai reported that he attended the Governor's Council meeting and Key Campaign and that they went very well. He also reported that SESA is making good progress on rebuilding their database. SESA is also working on fiscal year budgets for both the agency and for each one of their grants. He noted that the SESA board meeting is scheduled for March 13th and 14th, 2014.

EED Report

Don Enoch reported that the Department attended the following meetings and trainings:

- SESA Board Meeting in Anchorage
- Governor's Council Meeting in Juneau
- Stakeholder's Meeting in Anchorage
- Stone Soup Group Conference
- RTI Training – ASD
- GAINS Classes at ASSEC
- Governor's Council Autism Ad Hoc Committee meeting

Don Enoch reported that they've scheduled a Special Education Directors and Coordinators Training for October 15th and 16th, 2014 in Anchorage. They have also scheduled their hearing officer training and complaint investigator training around the same timeframe.

Don Enoch reported the compliance monitoring is nearly complete for the following districts:

- Northwest Arctic
- Aleutian Region
- Mt. Edgecumbe
- Yukon Flats
- Gateway
- Klawock
- Hydaburg
- Juneau
- Craig
- Tanana
- Nome
- Nenana
- Valdez

The remaining districts slated for monitoring are Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Skagway.

Don Enoch reported the Department is wrapping up the intensive funding. He also reported that the special education handbook is open for corrections. He stated that they've gotten some feedback and some of the sessions during the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC) had questions they think would be valid for the handbook. Don noted that the Special Education Department was joined by the Teacher

Learning and Support and the Teacher Certification Group at ASSEC doing presentations and answering questions related to the teacher evaluations system and the recently changed standards.

Don Enoch reported that the APR was submitted and accepted on time by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the federal program the Division reports to. He also stated that the Department is getting ready to send out their discretionary grant announcement letter letting people know that they are focusing on graduation dropout and transition services.

Old Business

FASD Work Group Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the FASD work group met February 4th and worked on their priorities to craft them so they are concise and consistent. She noted that FASD will stand for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders to keep the consistency.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that she attended the FASD Steering Committee meeting where there was a good discussion on aligning the priorities with the Trust and working together in a positive way.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus noted that on a personal note, she called in to the Trust meeting and spoke to the Trustees about family experiences to make sure that the Trustees were getting the personal impact of raising children with prenatal exposure to alcohol and about the needs of people who are transitioning, whether it was kids in school or transitioning adults.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she attended an Alcohol Focus Group preplanning/data collection meeting at the Trust where they specifically asked about the work group and how the work group was aligned with other statewide stakeholder groups. Christie noted that Teresa Holt met with Teri Tibbett and spoke about the Council's work group possibly becoming a work group under the FASD Partnership so it would become a subcommittee that would be able to do the work they have been doing and reporting to the Partnership to help guide them with their activities.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus spoke briefly about a training she provided for the Cook Inlet Tribal Council's case managers, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, and Father's Journey. She commented that it was wonderful to be able to train that many people who really want to provide services in an appropriate manner.

Inclusive Practice Award 2014 Winner

Christie Reinhardt reported that the winner of the 2014 Inclusive Practice Award was Homer High School's intensive needs classroom, which has a lead teacher and six staff members. Christie noted that there were some great nominations made by parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals for their lead teachers and school administrators.

HB 210 "Keeping Students Safe Act"

Christie Reinhardt reported that the first hearing of HB 210 was heard and it was apparent that the House Education Committee members were not completely familiar with the legislation. There was a huge amount of discussion relating to Section 1 of the bill, which dealt with chemical restraint. There were also technical difficulties and for an extended period of time there was no sound, which negatively affected the public testimony.

There is going to be another hearing scheduled for next week, and Christie asked committee members to identify parents, families, or caregivers that would be available to testify with personal stories demonstrating the importance of the proposed legislation.

Because of the dissention regarding Section 1, the Council has had discussions about removing Section 1 and having that section a stand-alone piece so that the definitions and parameters relating to chemical restraint can be sorted out by the medical professionals who are experts in the field. Terese Kashi commented that by removing Section 1, states will be required to meet, at a minimum, the federal law, and at this time what the state law is trying to do is provide the broadest protection for children. She further commented that if a district wished to be more stringent, they would be free to do so. She further added that the legislation is intended to address safety, and it is not a medical issue.

Christie stated that Commissioner Hanley reported the fiscal note attached to the legislation has been set at \$14,000, which was good news. Christie Reinhardt will be communicating with committee members by e-mail to update them on the time and date of the rescheduled hearing and opportunities for public testimony.

New Business

Discussion of HB 220/SB 111: Repealing the HSGQE

Christie Reinhardt stated that the Council would like the Education Committee to offer their recommendation on House Bill 220, which is an act repealing the secondary student competency examination and related work requirements. The Education Committee members unanimously recommended supporting House Bill 220.

CASE Request

Christie Reinhardt made the committee members aware that she was approached at ASSEC by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), which is a professional group of special education administrators who apparently would like a standing community seat on the Education Committee. CASE indicated that they will be writing a letter of request to the Council. Christie noted that under their federal regulations, the committee has to have a special education administrator on the committee, so having a special education administrator that was associated with a larger organization would be a strong strategic alliance.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

Taylor Gregg reminded the committee members that the State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 13th – 14th, 2014.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she will be doing FASD training for Kodiak rural school sites, which will take place over three Fridays.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for March 20th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Taylor Gregg adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.