

**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, May 15, 2014
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Margaret Kossler – Co-chair
Kim McNamara
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Terese Kashi

Community Members:

Breanna Brian
Jim Kreatschman
Kathleen Yarr
Cassidy Jones

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

A quorum was present, and Margaret Kossler welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus shared the good news that school was out and that her daughter passed with honors every quarter and plans to attend Ilisagvik College this summer for a week for the Teachers for the Arctic Program.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

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

Kathleen Yarr **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2014 meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt reported that she received a draft of the Stone Soup Group's parent guide, which she will forward to the committee members for review and feedback. She also received correspondence from the Council for Exceptional Children, who published a memorandum from the Division of Civil Rights that is the clarification for charter schools on having to file and follow 504 and IDEA guidelines. The focus of the memo was that charter schools that receive federal funding have to make their buildings accessible, make 504 plans accessible, and they are required to consider all applicants regardless of race, ethnic background, or disability.

Reports

Chair's Report

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Governor's Council meeting held at the end of April went well. They met at the new Special Olympics Alaska Building, which was beautiful. The Education Committee presented their priorities, and the work plan was passed by the full Council. She noted that since there were significant deviations from the five-year plan, the work plan would have to be put out for public comment.

SESA Report

There was no SESA report available for this meeting.

EED Report

Kim McNamara reported on the activities of Department as follows:

Meetings/Trainings the Department participated in:

- Governor's Council meeting April 30th.
- Capacity Building Institute training in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- The Daisy Center training in Kansas City.
- LLP, Special Education Law Training in Florida.
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee meeting in Kodiak.

Upcoming meetings:

- Employment First Committee Planning Meeting.
- Employment First Committee Meeting.

Kim McNamara reported that at this point in their monitoring year, they have completed all the onsite visits and are starting to receive the corrective action plans from districts. They are starting to plan the monitoring schedule for next year and are adding some districts for targeted monitoring.

Kim McNamara reported that they have ongoing fiscal monitoring happening with OSEP and have submitted their federal applications for their grants. They are also working with districts to have them apply for their grants through the online grants management system.

Kim McNamara stated that they have submitted their parent surveys

statewide and are starting to receive some returns. The survey gathers data on how districts are serving and including parents in the special education process. They have also been working on the special education handbook, making corrections, clarifications, and updating the handbook in accordance with the new bills that passed this session. Terese Kashi asked if the changes in the handbook could be bold listed for people so they would be able to quickly note what changes have been made, and Kim assured Terese that she would bring that up to the team for consideration.

The Department has been continuing to work on the SSIP and have had meetings with OSEP to reconfigure and clarify items on their Annual Performance Report they submitted several weeks ago. They have also been updating their website to reflect changes in regulations. Their GAINS grant was submitted last week, and they have been developing a plan for next school year.

Alaska FASD Work Group Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the work group met after the Governor's Council meeting and reviewed their priorities relating to FASD-informed care. Christie Reinhardt stated that they discussed expanding DD eligibility for individuals with an FASD in one of two ways:

- Providing information about FASD being a brain-based disability.
- Looking at DD eligibility on a vulnerability or risk scale as part of the eligibility process.

The work group also identified that education for the DD eligibility “gatekeepers” is going to be very important. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus noted that she had a discussion with the Department of Corrections at the ABADA board meeting regarding FASD-informed care.

New Business

New Priorities and Development of Work Plan for 2014-15

The Education Committee members reviewed the 2014-15 work plan and the additions made at the Council meeting. The priorities were reported as follows:

1. Post-secondary transition

Activities added:

- Look at models of other states and data from states who have changed the transition ages.
- Partner with DVR regarding discovery pilot.

2. Graduation and dropout rates

Activities added:

- Partner with clubs and high school graduates for peer mentoring.

3. Exclusionary discipline

4. Parental rights and safeguards

5. Participate in telepractice goals of Council

Activities added:

- Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus volunteered to represent the Education Committee on a Council work group for telepractice.

6. SEAP responsibilities

7. SESA statutorily mandated responsibilities

Christie Reinhardt stated that she would email the updated work plan to committee members for further feedback.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus will be holding a FASD Into Action training June 2nd through 3rd, and a Train the Trainer a week or two later.

Terese Kashi will be attending a three-day training in Portland, Oregon on neurobehavioral functional assessments.

Margaret Kossler announced that there would be a First Responders Autism Training May 16th in Anchorage.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she would be attending the Deaf Education Board meeting. Christie also noted that the Regional Training Center is no longer funded to do FASD 101 and 201 training. They will provide the training, but it will have a cost.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for June 26th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.