

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

April 12, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Mary Deitz
Dorothy Erickson
Heidi Haas
Diana Marsh
Margaret Kossler
Tracey Thomas
Elizabeth Tracy
Linda Borghols
Lizette Stiehr

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof
Carolyn Coe
Beth Kaplan

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME AND CELEBRATIONS

Announcements

Teresa Holt announced that Jennifer Jones has been hired by the Council to staff the Education and EIC committees.

Teresa announced that Heidi Haas received one of the First Lady's Volunteer of the Year awards.

Upcoming Trainings

- GCDSE, Seward, May 3 – 5
- Early Childhood Mental Health Conference, May 10 – 12, Anchorage
- Sensory processing workshops, Soldotna, April 13, and Wasilla, April 15.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is May 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of the Agenda

Lizette Stiehr **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Tracy **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence/Legislative Update

Teresa Holt provided the following legislative update:

- SB 6 – Developing a plan for pre-K – currently in the education committee
- HB 49 – Parents as Teachers – currently in education committee
- SB 74 – Autism insurance coverage bill – heard once in Labor and Commerce
- HB 154 – devise a plan for universal pre-K – heard and held in education committee
- SB 120 – Parents as Teachers – currently in the education committee.

Teresa Holt stated that the Council sent a letter to Representative Tuck for the Parents as Teachers bill.

Set Priority Recommendations for Council Meeting

Teresa Holt reviewed the current work plan goals as follows:

1. Eligibility change for ILP services
2. Address concerns about early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
3. Support Stone Soup Group parent conference
4. Increase the early childhood workforce
5. Ongoing ICC duties.

After discussion, the committee members agreed to continue on with the priorities from this past year with an added focus area to goal four to look at increasing speech therapists and occupational therapists in the state.

PARTNER REPORTS

OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that the professional development meeting will be face to face to review the Part C credential. She stated that they hope to be able to pilot that in June.

Linda stated that Erin Kinavey will be meeting on April 13th with the folks

from Medicaid.

They will be having their Coordinator's Conference May 17 – 18 in Anchorage at UAA. The focus of the meeting will be policy, procedures and regulations, and that would include lowering the eligibility to 25 percent.

AILPA

Lizette Stiehr stated that AILPA has been tracking the progress with OCS/ILP.

Lizette stated that they are looking at their budget and have restructured through the bylaws. They determined that they will be spending 55 percent of their budget on advocacy issues. She noted that they are also creating committees that will help the State select scholarship recipients for trainings to become highly qualified.

Lizette concluded her report by stating that AILPA will not be meeting this month, but will be meeting during the Coordinator's Conference, May 17 – 18.

DEED

Tracey Thomas stated that she has spoken with Paul Sugar to make sure they incorporate Head Start into the memorandum of agreement.

Tracey stated that she has one more monitoring trip this year and then she will be going to a conference in Phoenix on special ed law.

COMMITTEE MAIN TOPIC

Work Plan Priority 4: Workforce Development Long Term Goal: Increase EC qualified workforce, and increase ILP staff recruitment and retention.

A. Short Term Goal: Advocate for UA to create a recruitment program for scholarship students.

Activity 1: Advocate for cultural competencies to be embedded in SEED

module trainings.

- Amy Simpson and Lizette Stiehr attending the personnel development meeting looking at the SEED modules. They need to be sure to include cultural competencies in that.

Activity 2: Review and advise the State on SEED training structure.

- Amy Simpson and Lizette Stiehr working with Meghan Johnson.

The committee members engaged in a discussion regarding the difficulty of non-conventional or distance students navigating through the university system.

Activity 3: Survey current providers as to their path to becoming an ILP provider.

- Survey people at the Coordinator's Conference.

Activity 4: Ask AILPA for suggestions on grow your own ILP.

Activity 5: Talk with Future Teachers of Alaska programs to present on Early Childhood Education and ILP.

- Work on this activity in the fall.

Activity 6: Create a map/chart to show the pathway to an EC degree.

- Amy Simpson, Carolyn Coe, Teresa Holt, Meghan Johnson and Tracey Thomas.

Activity 7: Create a statewide internship program for therapists.

B. Short Term Goal: Advocate for a forgiveness of students' loans to support staff recruitment and retention.

Activity 1: Expansion of Alaska Teacher Loan Program (TEL) for early childhood educators.

- Seems to be the most viable option to change the regulation. Geri Benshoof will investigate who does those regulations, the State Board of Education or the Department of Education.

Activity 2: Expansion of State Loan Repayment Program for Alaska to include OT/PT/SLP.

- This is through the Department of Health and Social Services and is specific to primary care practitioners, dentists and behavioral health workers. This program is currently in the planning stages.
- Contact Robert Seawell to see if the therapists can be added to the list of primary health care providers.
- Does not really fit into the ILP realm, but they could work on it for the OT/PT/SLP issues in the state.
- Discuss programs with Meghan Johnson who may have additional information.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.