

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

May 24th, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair
Mary Deitz
Heidi Haas
Diana Marsh
Tracey Thomas
Debbie Kitelinger
Margaret Kossler
Lizette Stiehr
Sharon Miranda
Dean Gates
Jane Atuk

Community Members/Guests:

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

There were no announcements.

Upcoming Trainings

- Play Project, June 16 and 17.
- OSEP Mega Conference, August 1 – 3.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconferences are June 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. and August 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of the Agenda

Tracey Thomas **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Diana Marsh **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence/Legislative Update

ILP Survey/ILP Booklet

Committee members commented that the ILP annual report/booklet is a very nice presentation of the information.

Jane Atuk stated that the current survey that is posted online is from spring of 2010 and another report will be coming out within the next

month for 2011 data. She noted that the preliminary report looks good and they have some nice improvements showing on the 2011 survey.

Jane Atuk also commented that they culled out the responses from those families who have children who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or visually impaired. She noted that Roxy Lamar will be doing an addendum to the annual survey that will contain that additional information.

New ILP Federal/State Regulations

Amy Simpson stated that the ILP coordinators met with Jane Atuk and Linda Borghols from the State ILP office, and they reviewed federal and state regulations surrounding ILP in anticipation of the release of the federal regulation changes. She stated that the draft state regulations will be released for public comment within the next nine to twelve months.

Lizette Stiehr commented that one of the biggest changes she noted requires a complete rewrite of the Alaska regulations allowing birth to 5 services as a family choice.

Election of New Chair and Voting Members

Tracey Thomas **MOVED** to have Amy Simpson continue as chair of the EIC. The motion was **SECONDED**.

Debbie Kitelinger nominated Heidi Haas, who accepted the nomination, but added that she would be happy to continue to co-chair.

After voting with no opposition, the motion **PASSED** to have Amy Simpson continue as chair with Heidi Haas continuing as co-chair.

Current non-Council voting members include: Mary Deitz, Dorothy Erickson, Debbie Kitelinger, Diana Marsh, Tracey Thomas, Erin Kinavey/Linda Borghols/Jane Atuk, Lizette Stiehr, and Elizabeth Tracy.

Diana Marsh **MOVED** to change the status of Elizabeth Tracy and Dorothy Erickson to community members instead of voting members. The motion **PASSED**.

PARTNER REPORTS

OCS/ILP

Jane Atuk stated that other than the annual report that they previously discussed, she has no other report to give.

AILPA

Lizette Stiehr stated that AILPA had a great face-to-face meeting. They discussed the activities of the Council's EIC and they discussed placing an AILPA member on the EHDI advisory board.

Lizette stated that AILPA discussed the in-depth cost study completed by the State.

They are also in the process of an AILPA survey to all the programs to determine how AILPA can best serve the programs. One of the big issues for AILPA is retention and recruitment, and the budget has allotted funding to jointly recruit for some hard to fill positions including speech, OT, and PT.

Lizette Stiehr stated that another interesting thing that came up at the face-to-face meeting was that there was a request to AILPA to develop a public service announcement that could be used in programs' local regions.

AILPA also recognized Monica Luther, who is retiring from the Seward area.

AILPA's next teleconference will be June 21st at 3:00.

Beth Kaplan expanded on the EHDI advisory committee and stated that as part of their grant, they will participate in a learning collaborative through NICHHCQ called Improving Hearing Screening and Intervention System Learning Collaborative, which uses a specific methodology for quality improvement. She noted that it is a big stakeholder process, and she will be bringing a core team from Alaska to three outside trainings.

DEED

Tracey Thomas stated that there are three people employed in the department, Sam Jordan, Don Enoch and herself. The SIG position will not be filled and those duties have been divided among the three. She noted that they do still have a special ed program manager vacancy.

Tracey stated that she has been working on revising the monitoring handbook for next year. They are also working on consolidating and revising the special ed handbook.

She stated that Sam Jordan and Don Enoch attended the Stone Soup Group conference, and they also visited that Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They also attended the DEB board meeting and the Council meeting.

Tracey Thomas stated that they have been reviewing the special ed grants that have been coming in from all the districts. They have created their monitoring schedule for the next school year. The special ed director training will be September 28 – 29.

Tracey stated that she has a meeting set up with Erin Kinavey, Jane Atuk and Paul Sugar to discuss the MOA that is in existence and the possible regulation changes.

Tracey stated that the number of students enrolled in public school special education programs for fiscal year '11 is 18,048.

COMMITTEE MAIN TOPIC

Review Work Plan and Start to Finalize Activities for 2011/2012.

Goal 1, Long Term: Advocate for an expansion in eligibility for ILP services to all Alaskan children with a 25% delay or greater.

Amy Simpson stated that the State ILP office would like to make children who have substantiated reports of harm have an automatic Part C designation. They would also like to further discuss the option of parents staying in ILP from birth to 5 and the impact it would have on the system. She noted that these two options as well as the eligibility

change to 25 percent delay might overwhelm the system.

Amy stated that Medicaid billing will also become aligned, and ILP will be able to bill for all 17 services under Medicaid. When this happens, the revenue stream would increase and they may be able to service children down to 25 percent delay without making them Part C eligible.

Lizette Stiehr added that the new Medicaid alignment with Part C services will also allow ILPs to register under Medicaid as an early intervention program instead of as a rehab clinic, so the reimbursement rates will better match their costs.

Jane Atuk stated that the State needs to see what the impact of the new billing structure is going to be, and then they can determine what the capacity for serving more children will be.

Dean Gates asked how many children would be impacted by dropping the eligibility to 25 percent delay, and committee members explained that the three pilot sites for the eligibility change reported an approximately 30 percent increase in enrollment.

Jane Atuk further explained that the State ILP has a contract with people experienced in doing planning with the tribal groups and school districts across the state. They are going to help the State do a review of the communication systems, the billing process and how they can make those systems work more smoothly and in greater support of the ILPs and tribal grantees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee members agreed that they will discuss the second priority, concerns about early intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, at their next teleconference.

Dean Gates informed the committee that John Miranda has resigned as the president of the Alaska Deaf Council, and as vice president, Dean is now the president. He stated that the ADC has an EIC, and when the chair has been designated, they will be invited to sit on the Council's EIC.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.