

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

Early Intervention Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**May 21, 2013
10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Amy Simpson - chair
Dean Gates
Diana Marsh
Ric Nelson

Community Members:

Mary Elam
Melora Gaber
Beth Kaplan
Janel Keplinger

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

areas that the Governor's Council is required to report on, such as housing, transportation, employment, early intervention, and education. Christie Reinhardt noted that the early intervention section of the meeting went very smoothly because of the advance work done by this group.

The Early Intervention Committee submitted five areas that they wanted to focus on, with the top three being to continue to work on recruitment and retention of a highly qualified workforce; to continue to advocate for changes to expand ILP eligibility; and working on telepractice, utilizing technology to help increase access to early intervention services in rural communities.

The Governor's Council as a whole rearranged the priorities for the Early Intervention Committee, voting to place among the top three continuing to advise the state in policy and procedural changes regarding early intervention services for young children that are deaf or hard of hearing.

The committee discussed the itinerant program that used to exist, and how telepractice might be a viable alternative. They also discussed creating a network of contact information for itinerant service providers, and ideas for enhancing recruitment and retention of highly qualified early childhood workers.

Under Priority No. 2, serving more children, the committee discussed looking into ways to ensure that agencies are billing insurance and other appropriate payers for services whenever possible, and offering webinars to help providers learn about Medicaid billing.

Christie Reinhardt made a list of short-term and long-term goals, and said that she would compile it into a work plan and send it out to committee members soon.

Partner Reports

No partner reports were available.

Selection of New Chair: Amy Simpson's Sabbatical

Christie Reinhardt noted that the agenda had been changed, but the committee could not act without a quorum. Amy Simpson has been awarded a sabbatical from the Rasmuson Foundation, and will be gone from August to December of 2013. Amy stated that Karli Lopez has expressed an interest in being the new chair of the EIC, and Amy could support Karli in that position.

The topic was opened to discussion, but no one voiced an opinion, so Christie Reinhardt stated that she would consider that supportive of Karli. Therefore, with no formal vote, the Early Intervention Committee passed this recommendation on to Ric Nelson, the Council chair.

Next Meeting

The next Early Intervention Committee meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.