

**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

**Wednesday, December 10, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Karli Lopez - chair
Wendy Barrett
Angie Fraize
Heidi Haas
Diana Marsh
Amy Simpson

Community Members:

Jill Lush
David Mayo-Keily
Laurie Thomas
Carrie Truett
Kathleen Yarr
Melora Gabor

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Karli Lopez welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Angie Fraize shared that she will be graduating with her Masters in Early Childhood Special Education on Saturday.

Diana March shared that her travel to Point Hope had been postponed due to weather.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda with a minor amendment to list Karli Lopez as chair for the call to order line item. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Minutes – 11/12/2014

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported at the meeting.

Reports

Chair's Report

Karli Lopez reported that there has been some discussion about what will be taking place at the Governor's Council meeting in January. She reported that the Governor's Council does not have specific legislative priorities this session. Karli asked for information about what Key

Campaign's priorities are, and Christie Reinhardt noted that the only issue she is aware of is around reconvening the autism taskforce. She noted that the taskforce's sunset is set for January 20th, 2015, but because of the issues with insurance and Medicaid expansion, the thought is to reconvene the taskforce and hopefully expand the representation on that committee.

EI/ILP

Laurie Thomas reported that they are continuing work on their statewide systemic improvement process, and they've identified some areas for improvement around outcomes for children, positive social/emotional relationships, looking at evaluation tools and data quality, and ensuring that people understand the functional outcomes for children.

Laurie Thomas stated that they are also working on their Annual Performance Report, and when it is complete, she will be sharing it with the EIC members and posting it for public comment.

Laurie Thomas noted that with regards to the system of payment regulations and the memorandum of agreement with Part B, they had identified significant concerns and had to make radical changes to what they submitted to OSEP last year, which will make it so those will need to go out for public comment again. She also stated that they are looking at having the coordinators meet three times a year in order to ensure that the entire group is included in developing the mission and vision for Infant Learning.

Laurie Thomas reported that with regards to telepractice, they are planning to come together in connection with the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference in April to provide a discussion/sharing opportunity for coordinators around technology as a service delivery tool.

AILPA

Jill Lush, the acting president of AILPA, reported that they are in the process of re-evaluating their internal goals for association clarity to create a stronger association, and strengthening critical relationships to increase their mission impact. They have an association training scheduled for February.

Jill Lush noted that the nominations for their annual awards will be distributed across agencies to all ILP providers, and any AILPA member or ILP provider is welcome to nominate a person that has had a big impact on early intervention. The awards are presented at the Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children Conference (AAEYC).

EED

There was no report available from EED.

EDHI/WCFH

Beth Kaplan reported that they are working on their State Systemic Improvement Process, specifically how they can reduce loss to follow up. They are also in the midst of working with Early Intervention on updating a memorandum of agreement to do a data match in order to identify children that are not following up with audiology or not accepting referrals to ILP.

Beth Kaplan shared the information that in accordance with the patient-centered medical home grant, they will be doing a state survey on their state plan for children with special health care needs that will align with the new national standards specifically for systems of care.

Beth Kaplan encouraged committee members to take a survey that is out regarding the Title V needs assessment for children with special health care needs. Christie Reinhardt will resend the link to the survey.

FASD SUBCOMMITTEE

Christie Reinhardt reported that the FASD Subcommittee has been looking at defining what a physician is for educational purposes. They have been looking at definitions of physicians in other regulations and statutes, and conferring with national technical assistance about what other states have done regarding the definition.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she spoke with the chair of the State Board of Education and the commissioner of education, who have both expressed their support of defining a physician for educational purposes. Christie noted that Commissioner Hanley said that if the work group were to put forth language that expanded the definition of physician and made eligibility

available for more children, the Department would be very supportive of it.

OLD BUSINESS

MEDICAID EXPANSION: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Christie Reinhardt updated the committee members by reporting that Alaska has some work to do before the Medicaid expansion happens. One thing is to address the backlog of applications, and another has to do with the lawsuit against Xerox.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON TELE-PRACTICE

Karli Lopez recommended the committee members identify the goal of the EIC with regards to telepractice. After a brief discussion, the recommended goal was as follows:

We aim to increase the frequency and quality of services provided to families statewide by implementing telepractice through the appropriate use of technology so that children across the state have improved/enhanced access to early intervention.

The committee members began sharing some of the known barriers to different types of telepractice services, some of which included geographic barriers, access barriers, socio-economic barriers, security, equipment, and bandwidth. Christie Reinhardt expressed her appreciation to the committee members for their input and noted that this is the beginning of the discussions they will have on telepractice. Christie noted that she will look at other professional organizations for their definitions of telepractice.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Governor's Council Meeting
January 20 – 22, 2015
Juneau

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2015 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.