

**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, February 11, 2015
10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Karli Lopez – chair
Mandy Cleveland
Wendy Barrett
Beth Kaplan/Jimael Johnson
Amy Simpson
Laurie Thomas

Community Members/Guests:

Sue Armstrong
Carrie Truett
Melora Gaber
Sarah Freeman, Pharm.D.
Matt Hirschfeld, M.D./Ph.D.

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Brittney Howell

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

Announcements and Good News

No announcements or good news were reported.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was completed prior to convening a quorum and was not approved.

Approval of Minutes 1/14/15

Melora Gaber corrected the spelling of her last name on the 1/14/15 minutes. Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes as amended. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Council received a request from the Department to provide comment on regulation 4 AAC 06.714 considering early literacy screening within the state for children in kindergarten and first grade. She stated that one of the problems with the regulation is that a school in the Valley, which is based off the Waldorf model, will do poorly on the assessments because the model does not teach children to read until later grades. Children schooled based on this model typically perform above academic standards by the time they reach sixth grade. Parents from this school would like to have the ability to opt out of these pre-literacy screenings.

One of the benefits of the pre-literacy screenings is that children with dyslexia are identified and can receive services at a much younger age.

Christie Reinhardt will send the information out to the committee for feedback. Comments are due before February 27th.

Reports

Chair's Report

Due to a prior engagement, Karli Lopez joined the meeting late and did not provide a report.

Partner Reports

EI/ILP

Laurie Thomas stated that she is just wrapping up her tour of all the programs in the state. It has been a phenomenal experience for her to visit the sites and get a sense of all the programs.

Laurie stated that EI/ILP has recently made some changes to their system of payment that will go out for public comment. There are some significant changes related to their previous system of payment for families, which was very complicated. The new system of payment will ask for an annual participation fee from families, which will be determined on a sliding fee scale.

Laurie Thomas stated that she is also getting the Part C application completed so it can also go out for public comment.

AILPA

No one was present from AILPA to provide a report from their last meeting.

EED

Cassidy Jones was unable to participate in the meeting due to the conflicting ASSEC Conference.

Melora Gaber reported that Paul Sugar will be retiring from the Department on May 15th. His position will be posted soon, and she asked that committee members help spread the word.

EDHI

Beth Kaplan reported that she is working on her EHDI CDC data for infants born in 2013, and she will have an update for the April EIC meeting.

Beth stated that she will be in Louisville, Kentucky for the National EHDI Conference during next month's EIC teleconference. She will be attending the conference with other professionals within the state. She mentioned that a parent of a child with cochlear implants from Fairbanks will also be attending the EHDI conference. Dr. Hirschfeld commented that ANMC is doing cochlear implants, and they may open it up to non-Native children. Beth Kaplan gave kudos to ANMC for their audiology group that tracks children statewide.

Jimael Johnson provided an update on an upcoming survey they will be completing specifically for families of children with special health care needs. She asked that the EIC members help spread the word about this upcoming survey so they can increase family engagement. Jimael commented that during the population-based needs assessment, they saw a need to focus on paternal substance abuse for parents of infants.

FASD Work Group

Christie Reinhardt reported that the work group submitted a proposal to the Department of Education to define physicians for educational terms as being M.D., D.O., advanced nurse practitioner, and physician's assistant. The Department is currently crafting the regulation. The regulation will be presented to the State Board of Education in June and will then go out for a 90-day comment period. The hope is that this will become regulation before school starts.

Brittney Howell stated that she attended the FASD Forum in Juneau, and she found hearing the personal stories to be a very powerful experience. Wendy Barrett added that she attended the Forum as well, and there was a lot of good testimony at both the Health and Social Services Committee as well as the Education Committee.

Old Business

OSEP Letter and Report to the Governor

Christie Reinhardt stated that the Council sent out a letter to the Infant Learning Program with comments the committee made on ILP's Annual Performance Report. This letter was also sent to the Governor's office. She will send out copies of the letter and the report, and the documents will be posted to the Council's website.

New Business

Telehealth Discussion with Dr. Sarah Freeman and Dr. Matt Hirschfeld

Dr. Sarah Freeman, director of program development for telemedicine/telehealth for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), explained that the Alaska Tribal Health System is a voluntary affiliation of 30 Alaskan tribes and tribal organizations providing health services to Alaska Natives and American Indians. Each is autonomous and serves a specific geographical area.

Dr. Freeman stated that the AFHCAN telemedicine program managed by ANTHC supports tribal health partners statewide for both live video care and asynchronous or store and forward care. Currently ANMC offers over 20 different specialty clinics through videoconferencing.

Dr. Matt Hirschfeld, pediatrician and medical director of maternal child health services at ANMC, stated that he has become interested in telehealth since they started developing programs specifically for rural Alaska to provide specialty services that don't exist.

Dr. Hirschfeld explained some of the successes of the pediatric endocrinology clinic and the impact it has had on infants statewide because an endocrinologist has been available for consult during the newborn screening. He also shared some of the successes of the pediatric speech therapy program provided via telehealth to the regions. He stated that this method can also be applied to physical and occupational therapy as well as behavioral health. He stated that ANMC is looking to expand these types of services.

Dr. Hirschfeld then explained the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and explained that the greater number of adverse childhood experiences a child has, the greater their risk of experiencing negative health consequences later in life is. Study participants who report no ACEs are consistently healthier across all measures. He noted that this data shows a direct correlation between public spending on children in their first three years of life resulting a public spending savings on these same individuals as teens and adults. He also commented that if ACEs were eliminated from the Alaska population, 40 percent of people would drop off of Medicaid.

Dr. Hirschfeld stated that he is also on the executive team for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (AAPP), which is becoming a 501(c)(3) within the next month or so, and they will be looking at doing the Triple P, which is the Positive Parenting Program. He stated that the AAPP received some money from the Trust to implement Triple P in Sitka. Sitka will have the Triple P program come out and train 20 people, social workers, providers, nurses, school personnel, et cetera, and these people will then teach parents how to be better parents. The community of Sitka is very supportive of the introduction of this program. Triple P has also been shown to have a very small cost outlay for a huge benefit, and it uses existing infrastructure. Triple P also has a data collection component to it, so they are hoping that with the legislature's support in the future, they will be able to take this program statewide.

Dr. Hirschfeld stated that he has been working with Dr. Freeman and the Kellogg Foundation to do a telehealth lactation program. This program will be educational for rural providers as well as provide direct consumer services.

Dr. Freeman stated that some of the challenges they face with telehealth include:

- Specialty providers are centrally located in the urban areas.
- Lack of neurodevelopmental providers statewide.
- Therapies and payment for services, particularly Medicare.
- Mental health and non-medical services covered by primary care and

lack of space and ability to bill for service.

- Technologic challenges such as varying video platforms, and in-home care delivery and how to track and bill for in-home care services via telehealth.

Based off a question from Amy Simpson, Dr. Freeman stated that in terms of providing ILP services, AFHCAN can sell video room on their service at a much-reduced price to the state. She noted that there are many opportunities for collaboration with the state. Dr. Hirschfeld commented that the ILP program in Nome has begun to use telepractice out there with a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist. It is a change in traditional practice, but people are becoming accustomed to it.

Dr. Freeman suggested that it would be interesting to have a subcommittee on telehealth and collaborative initiatives in early intervention and developmental disabilities as a way to move a statewide telehealth practice forward and to keep people from working in silos.

Dr. Freeman and Dr. Hirschfeld fielded additional comments and questions from committee members and concluded their presentation.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

ASSEC, Pre-Conference Feb. 7 – 8, Main Conference Feb 9 – 11, Post-Conference Feb. 12 – 13

Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

Key Campaign XXVIII, Feb. 19 - 20

Centennial Hall, Juneau

Time and Date of Next Meeting

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

Good of the Order and Adjournment

Christie Reinhardt stated that the Inclusive Practice Award was presented at the ASSEC Conference to an entire school, Keet Gooshi Heen.

Karli Lopez stated that she has been informed that the legislation for the Alaska ABLE Act is about to be filed by Representative Saddler. Key Campaign needs to be notified so they can act on this legislation when they meet in Juneau.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.