

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

**Early Intervention Committee  
MINUTES**

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

**Meeting Date  
Tuesday, December 1, 2015  
10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

Angie Fraize – Chair  
Sandra Dehart  
Heidi Haas  
Amy Simpson  
Karli Lopez  
Cassidy Jones  
Erin Kinavey-Wennerstrom  
Amy Westfall

**Community Members/Guests:**

Annette Blanas  
Cindy Higgins  
Meghan Johnson  
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich  
Kathleen Yarr

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt  
Rich Sanders

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

### **Announcements and Good News**

Christie Reinhardt announced that the Zero to Three Conferences starts tomorrow in Seattle, and there are members of this committee that will be attending.

### **Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes**

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Cassidy Jones **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Heidi Haas. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

#### **Approval of Minutes - November 2015**

Heidi Haas **MOVED** to approve the previous meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Amy Simpson. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

#### **Correspondence**

Christie Reinhardt reported that correspondence will be addressed later in the meeting.

#### **Reports**

##### **Chair's Report**

Angie Fraize stated that other than today's work of this committee and the Zero to Three Conference, she has no additional items to report.

##### **Partner Reports**

##### **EI/ILP**

No one was present from EI/ILP to give a report at this meeting.

## **AILPA**

Amy Simpson did not have anything to report from AILPA at this time.

## **EED**

Cassidy Jones reported the following activities of the Department of Education and Early Development:

- The team continues to participate in committee meetings of the Governor's Council.
- Don Enoch attended the Deaf Education Board (DEB) meeting in November. EED supports the Governor's office regarding a concern for deaf education.
- Working on the state improvement grants.
- Will attend next week's SESA board meeting.
- In the middle of the intensive funding review process.
- Continuing to work on the SPDG grant.
- Website is complete.
- SPED Directors Conferences were held
- Working with the Governor's Council on telepractice memo.
- The monitoring schedule is as follows:

| <u>Complete</u>  | <u>On Hold</u>   | <u>Upcoming</u>  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fairbanks</li><li>• Yukon Koyuk TA</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annette Island TA</li><li>• Kake</li><li>• Bering Strait</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anchorage</li><li>• Mat-Su</li><li>• Chatham TA</li><li>• Northwest Arctic</li></ul> |

## **EHDI and WCFH**

No one was present to give a report for EHDI or WCFH. Christie Reinhardt noted that Beth Kaplan will be retiring at the end of December, and they will be sorry to see Beth go.

Christie Reinhardt further reported that Women's, Children, and Family Health has been doing some strategic planning around the medical home grant. The project coordinator for that is Jimael Johnson. Christie stated

that Agnew::Beck has been involved with a group of stakeholders looking at national standards and evaluating Alaska as compared to the national standards. Christie participated in two meetings to finish that work up last week, and the meetings revolved around parent and community involvement in the medical home, as well as parent and family involvement in not just their primary care in a medical home, but involvement in higher-level boards.

Christie Reinhardt reported that a significant part of this medical home is also using Help Me Grow. Alaska has become a Help Me Grow state, and it's in the earliest launch. She hopes that Jimael Johnson can give a longer presentation to the EIC about Help Me Grow. Christie noted that one component of Help Me Grow is the expansion of the 211 idea of instead of just calling 211 to get a referral, families would get a navigator of sorts to help refer parents to resources and then continue to follow up with them afterwards.

Christie Reinhardt also reported that she attended the Deaf Education Board meeting, and the board discussed the inclusion of an EHDI representative in their membership. Mandy Cleveland, who is a parent member of the DEB, will also serve as the EHDI representative. Mandy Cleveland can then in turn also provide reports from the DEB Board to the EIC committee.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on Potential Move of ILP to SDS**

Christie Reinhardt stated that Duane Mayes and Lisa McGuire were unable to attend this meeting, but Christie received an e-mail updating them on the progress of this issue. The move for ILP to SDS is hinging on the Governor's budget. In the meantime, SDS has been having a series of meetings regarding the move, including meeting with OCS leadership to look at the funding streams and grants. Duane Mayes felt that the meeting was good and there was nothing creating a roadblock. Duane has a teleconference scheduled with AILPA on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and he would like to visit two ILP programs on site this month.

## **New Business**

### **Finish Work on the Five-Year State Plan Objectives and Activities**

Angie Fraize referred committee members to the e-mailed draft materials noting that they contain the original goals and objectives created after the last Governor's Council meeting, and then also a draft of these objectives that have been modified and adapted in response to the community forum feedback the Council has received.

Christie Reinhardt reviewed the draft objectives with the committee members as follows:

***Goal:*** *Strengthen policies and programs so that infants and toddlers with disabilities, their families, and caregivers receive appropriate early intervention supports and services.*

- 1. Assist, advise, and collaborate with statewide partners to optimize funding and program parity in Alaska's Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program.*
  - a) Investigate funding sources and barriers.*
  - b) Collaborate to strengthen statewide telepractice use for early intervention.*
  - c) Advocate for increased family involvement and understanding of ILP policies and programs at all levels.*
  - d) Assist the Alaska EI/ILP program in increasing the current rate of service delivery.*

Amy Simpson stated that the finance committee she participates in can present to the EIC at a future meeting on the work that has been happening regarding funding sources and barriers to help inform this activity of the Council.

Amy Simpson explained that regarding activity c) above, she is in the process of doing a series of YouTube videos that explain the ILP program, parent rights, evaluations, and IFSPs. The series will be eight to ten videos. She stated that she would like to convene a group of people to review the scripts. They are at the beginning of this project, and she would

appreciate the help of the EIC. Volunteers included Cindy Higgins, Angie Fraize, Karli Lopez, and Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich.

Amy Simpson also suggested adding a fifth activity under here that involves ILPs being able to bill for developmental specialists, particularly as the ILP looks to move under Senior and Disabilities Services.

2. *Increase the knowledge of professionals and families of infants and toddlers with disabilities resulting in appropriate early screenings, identifications, referrals, and interventions.*
  - a) *Participate in statewide multidisciplinary collaborative efforts to improve appropriate early screening and referral.*
  - b) *Collaborate with state programs to improve the timely transition of toddlers before their third birthday.*
3. *Collaborate and coordinate to improve the number, scope, and practice of early childhood professionals.*

Amy Simpson suggested an activity under this section could include researching options to grow their own in state by working toward a student loan forgiveness program for ILP professionals.

Karli Lopez suggested getting some disability community representation with the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation workgroups as they continue their work on workforce retention and attraction barriers.

Annette Blanas suggested researching options regarding funding tuition up front for students interested in the ILP fields. She also suggested that beyond financial incentive for students, the issue of burnout in this field needs to be addressed. Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich suggested surveying existing staff and people who are leaving to ask them what would make a difference regarding burn out.

4. *Assist in increasing and expanding the utilization and availability of inclusive childcare for infants and toddlers with disabilities statewide.*
  - a) *Identify obstacles in statutes, regulation, policies, and procedures to families of children with disabilities from accessing inclusive childcare.*

Meghan Johnson stated that there is a workgroup called Learn and Grow that will be developing a statewide quality recognition improvement system. It is going to be looking at capitalizing on some really effective initiatives that have been happening in Alaska for several years. What they are trying to be with Learn and Grow is a comprehensive system where they are partnering and aligning everything together for all children who need access to inclusive care regardless of income.

*5. Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska's Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.*

Christie Reinhardt stated that with this information, she will develop one to two-year work plans based on their discussion. She will also bring these goals and objectives to the Council meeting in February where the full Council will review it and vote on it for inclusion in the Five-Year Plan.

At the EIC's next meeting in January, they will review the OSEP determination letter and make comments, particularly regarding the indicators that they have been placed in "needs assistance" status.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

#### **Governor's Council Community Forums**

Kodiak Hope Community Resources, December 15, 2015

Mat-Su Services for Children, December 17, 2015

#### **Zero to Three Conference, December 2 – 4, 2015**

Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

Karli Lopez **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Erin Kinavey-Wennerstrom. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.