GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Employment and Transportation
Committee Meeting

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

Teleconference
Meeting Date
December 10, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:
Lucy Odden – Chair
Sean O'Brien
Alexis Henning
Erin Atwood
Dave Fleurant
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
David Levy

Staff:
Rich Sanders
Patrick Reinhart
Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Lucy Odden welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements or Good News

Alexis Henning announced that she is participating in the Trust Advocacy Summit training.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of Agenda

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to approve the agenda with a change of moving new business ahead of old business. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as amended, and the motion **PASSED.**

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED.**

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report at the meeting.

Reports

There were no reports given at the meeting.

New Business

Presentation on Employment First

Guest Speaker – Wendy Parent-Johnson, Ph.D., CRC, CESP

Wendy Parent-Johnson spoke to the committee members about the successful passage of Employment First legislation in Kansas and the strategies they used, the partners and stakeholders involved, and the process they used to achieve the passage of the bill. The basic outline of the process included:

- Keeping the bill simple
- Developing a task force
- Development of a white paper
- Expanding and building consensus
- Developing marketing materials with a straightforward message
- Extensive peer outreach
- Developing and disseminating a consensus statement
- Held Employment First summits
- Developed a draft bill and procure legislative support
- Navigate the bill.

She summarized by stating the three essential ideals they employed in the effort to pass Employment First legislation in Kansas was bringing in all of the stakeholders, from the grassroots groups to the planning and policy groups; contending with the issues and the legislation at the same time; building a foundation so you have the support groups, legislative advocacy, and a continuity of key people overseeing the entire process.

Committee member's questions were directed at the implementation of the legislation relating to training, staffing, and transition. Wendy Parent-Johnson forwarded some examples of the paperwork used in Kansas to Kristin Vandagriff to share with the committee members.

Review of the Adopted Committee Work Plan

Lucy Odden stated that the current priority for the Employment and Transportation Committee is to try to get the Employment First legislation up and running. Rich Sanders stated that if members of the committee had any questions regarding any other areas of the work plan, the staff would be available to consult with.

Old Business

Council Employment Programs Updates
Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI)

Rich Sanders stated that the focus for the AIEI is training for providers. The Center for Human Development is finishing the first round of training for the Anchorage and Fairbanks providers who attended the initial meeting in July. Training will be conducted in the Kenai area in February. A site review has been offered to the Alaska Process Industry Career Consortium to look at different way to incorporate customized employment into their workplaces, and there has been an invitation by the Anchorage School District to do a site review of their various departments.

Trust Beneficiary Employment Focus Area

Rich Sanders reported that they have been working with Amanda Lofgren from the Trust, who attended the customized employment training with Rich and also met with various agencies to tour their facilities and gather their input. Rich noted that there are ongoing meetings with the technical assistance providers of AIEI to develop a coordinated approach that could work with all populations, because the Trust's beneficiary focus area not only includes individuals with developmental disabilities, but also people with mental illness, traumatic brain injuries, and so forth. The Council will present the statement of intent at the Trust meeting January 3rd, 2014. The Council will also be conducting focus groups for employers, providers, and individuals to gather information leading up to the Employment Summit at the end of May.

Update from the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC)

David Levy reported that the taxi ordinance that AMC has been working on in collaboration with the Governor's Council, Disability Law Center, Access Alaska and various other transportation advocacy groups was passed with approximately 80 percent of the changes the group had asked for. He highlighted that there will now be a person with a disability or a senior appointed to the Transportation Commission; there will be a reinforcement of the taxi ordinance by ensuring that complaints will now be covered by Anchorage Municipal Code Title 5, which deals with equal rights; sensitivity

training and disability awareness training for drivers and dispatchers; and a strengthening of the standards for vehicles.

David Levy stated the three priorities for AMC this year include:

- Seeking state matching funds to local communities to provide public and community transportation
- Seeking $45,000 for the Veteran's Transportation Project
- Continued funding for Fairbanks project looking at transportation needs for seniors and people with disabilities.

David Levy reminded the committee members that AMC is a membership organization and encouraged the members spread the word and join AMC. He directed them to the AMC website, www.alaskamobility.org for further information.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Trust Mini Advocacy Summits this fall:

- Anchorage – December 11th and 12th, 2013
- Juneau - To be determined

Governor's Council Meeting – January 21st – 23rd, 2014

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment and Transportation Committee is January 14th, 2014 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Sean O'Brien **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.