

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

**Employment & Transportation Committee**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date  
March 17, 2015  
1:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Lucy Odden, Chair  
Sean O'Brien  
Amy Simpson  
Ric Nelson  
Mallory Hamilton  
Casey Anderson  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

**Guest Speaker:**

Larrisa Cummings

**Staff:**

Kristin Vandagriff  
Rich Sanders

**Prepared by:** Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 1:06 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Welcome From The Chair**

Lucy Odden welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

**Announcements and Good News**

Lucy Odden reported that she attended a diversity change class two weeks ago, and it was a very good class.

**Approval of Agenda**

Sean O'Brien **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from February's meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

**Reports**

**Trust Microenterprise Grant Presentation**

Larrisa Cummings, from the Center for Human Development, presented a PowerPoint on the Microenterprise Grant Program, which is a program that benefits Mental Health Trust beneficiaries to assist them in starting or expanding a microenterprise or small business. The requests are between \$500 and \$10,000, and require a dollar-for-dollar match. The program provides access to a business consultant. Larrisa reported that in FY14, they had 18 awardees, and in FY15, they had 15 awardees with award ranges of \$700 up to the full \$10,000.

Larrisa Cummings reported that the satisfaction survey of the grant recipients FY08 through FY11 reported that 85 percent were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their business; 75 percent of the awardees were

still in business; and 75 percent said the funding was vital. Larrisa reported that there was a moderate correlation found between the perceived quality of daily life and business success. Larrisa shared a story of one of the successful entrepreneurs in their program.

Larrisa Cummings described the application process and noted that she and a business consultant were available for support throughout the application process. In addition to the application, a resume, a business plan, three years of financials, and proof of beneficiary status are required. The application goes to a committee that reviews it and makes the determination of whether to award the funding or not. The determination committee is comprised of representatives from DVR, TVR, the Governor's Council, the Small Business Development Center, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and a self-employed person who was a grant recipient at one time.

Larrisa Cummings reported that there is detailed information on the Microenterprise Grant Program on CHD's website, as well as downloadable applications. She noted that the deadlines for this year will be posted on the website by July.

## **Old Business** **Council Employment Programs Update**

### **Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative**

Kristin Vandagriff reported that they have reviewed the evaluations from the employers regarding the Diversity Job Fair held at the University Center Mall, and they were highly positive. Kristin noted that the job fair was so successful that they plan to continue to partner with the agency networking sessions to do more of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program's workshops for federal contractors.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that plans are underway to visit four Project SEARCH sites with the national director, who will be visiting Alaska. The sites they will be visiting are Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and Central Peninsula. They will also be looking at potential expansion efforts in Nome.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that March concludes a reporting period for AIEI, and she will be gathering data to complete the required reports. Kristin noted that the upcoming AIEI activities include preparing for the Full Lives Conference scheduled for mid-April where the Governor's Council will have a table of resources and employment breakout sessions, and the AIEI Advisory Board meeting scheduled for May 11 – 12, 2015.

## **Trust Beneficiary Employment & Engagement Initiative**

Rich Sanders reported that he has been engaged in working with a collection of state agency data experts to put together a list of employment-related data to be able to collect data that shows the impact of the initiative. Rich noted that the data will also be important for the Employment First reporting.

Rich Sanders described the BEE Initiative work groups that will be involved as follows:

- Transition work group - focused on youth transition from high school to adulthood.
- Workforce work group - to ensure there is a talented, skilled work force that has the resources to assist transitioning youth and adults.
- Beneficiaries' community engagement work group - to look at the benefits employment provides and the activities they can do to become a part of the community.
- Business engagement work group - to develop business relationships.

Rich Sanders stated that all the work groups will have met by the May 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 AIEI Advisory Board meeting, and the process of implementation will begin.

Rich Sanders reported that the DB101, the online benefits tool, full proposal is going before the Trust Finance Committee in April. If it is approved, it will be up and running by fall of 2015.

Rich Sanders reported that he will be attending the Offenders With Cognitive Disabilities Conference, and he will also be assisting Anchorage

Community Mental Health with not only putting together an employment program for about the approximately 1,700 people that they serve, but also to help them become a Ticket to Work Employment Network so they can build their capacity to serve more of their clientele in employment services.

## **Employment First**

Rich Sanders reported that he was able to get a confirmation for a meeting of the designated people from each of the departments to look at the Employment First law and develop a methodology to report annually to the Trust. The first meeting is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Juneau.

Rich Sanders stated that he will be doing an Employment First presentation at Full Lives. He noted that he plans to show examples of people who were considered unemployable who are working and having a fuller life because of it.

Rich Sanders reported that he and Kristin Vandagriff did a presentation at ASSEC where they touched on Employment First and the ABLE Act.

## **AK APSE Chapter Update**

Lucy Odden reported that the focus at the last AK APSE Chapter meeting was the plans for the Cinemability showing scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Kristin Vandagriff noted that this event is important for APSE as it is required in order to be a chapter.

## **Alaska Mobility Coalition**

Casey Anderson reported that he has met with the Fairbanks Transportation Partnership Project's steering committee where they reviewed the goals and outcomes for the project. He noted that there is a renewed interest in working on a coordinated transportation plan for Fairbanks North Star Borough as a whole from the borough as well as various human service providers in Fairbanks. Casey reported that the full Partnership is scheduled to meet Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at Raven Landing in Fairbanks.

## **New Business**

### **Discuss Updating the Work Plan for May Council Meeting**

Kristin Vandagriff reminded the committee members that they will be reviewing and updating the work plan in preparation for the May Council meeting at the next E&T Committee meeting.

### **Discuss Future Activities for FY15 Work Plan Items**

Kristin Vandagriff reported that after reviewing the activities done by the E&T Committee, she found two areas that need some attention; microenterprise awareness and disability etiquette for public transportation providers and TSA.

With regards to the disability etiquette for public transportation providers and TSA, the committee discussed the barriers of accessing taxi driver information regarding what they have, if anything, in place for disability etiquette policies. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to table taxi services and concentrate on TSA and other public transportation providers, and they will look for contacts to begin to partner with the services and assess their policies regarding contact with people with disabilities.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

### **March 23 – 26, 2015**

National Project SEARCH Director's Visit

### **March 31 – April 1, 2015**

Serving Trust Beneficiaries who Commit Crimes Conference

### **April 16 – 17, 2015**

Full Lives Conference

### **May 11 – 12, 2015**

AIEI Advisory Board Meeting

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

The next Employment & Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2015, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

## **Adjourn**

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.