

**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
June 16, 2015
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Lucy Odden, Chair
Dave Fleurant
Amy Simpson
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:05 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Lucy Odden welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Lucy Odden expressed her enthusiasm about attending the upcoming National ASPE Conference in Philadelphia.

Approval of Agenda

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the March meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Ric Nelson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Lucy Odden tabled the April meeting minutes.

Reports

There were no reports at the meeting.

Old Business

Council Employment Programs Update

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff reported that AIEI is continuing its work with the business employment services team on employer engagement. The team is a collaboration between the Governor's Council, Department of Labor (DOL), the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Job Centers. They are

working towards a kickoff event in October focusing resources for employers to assist them with hiring individuals with disabilities. The team will also be conducting breakout sessions at the Society of Human Resource Manager (SHRM) Conference in September and providing trainings in partnership with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCCP) relating to Section 503, as well as specific regulations with respect to construction contractors.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the microenterprise grant applications are expected to be available in July, with the application period being through the fall and winter. There has been a lot of outreach regarding microenterprise, and they anticipate more applications than previous years.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that with regards to the discovery class pilots, they are continuing to work with the instructional designer on the last phases and the distance delivery course. The future plans include training teachers in the fall of 2015 and beginning classes in the spring of 2016 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome, and Palmer. The training pieces will be available to any provider interested in offering discovery and billing DVR for those services.

Kristin Vandagriff reported the training to become certified in employment services brought to Alaska from the University of Washington is starting to wind down. Kristin stated that they will now take that training and develop a hybrid strain that would be adapted for Alaska and make it available in a distance delivery model for rural dissemination. The long-term goal is for Alaska to develop its own certification and become self-sustaining in that regard.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the policy and regulations work group is revising and finalizing the matrix document with Senior & Disability Services (SDS) and DVR to assist in developing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) of the process.

Kristin Vandagriff reported on the other activities related to AIEI as follows:

- Developing a timeline on the transition handbook format.
- Holding monthly customized employment training by Roger Shelley.

- Summarizing data recommendations for Employment First.
- Continuing work on DB101 calculator and training modules.

Trust Beneficiary Employment & Engagement Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff briefly reported that Rich Sanders has been working with the Trust's data work group and the different departments to develop recommendations regarding which common data sets they would like to collect with the DB101 calculator. She noted that the transition work group has been meeting, and they are planning a larger stakeholder meeting for some time in the fall.

Employment First

Kristin Vandagriff briefly reported that Rich Sanders is working on pulling together an interdepartmental team made up of champions from DSDS, EED, and DVR to meet in August to develop a common measurement of progress. Kristin remarked that during her research, she found a document called The Unified State Plan out of Utah that provides an outline for what Utah uses as their MOA.

AK APSE Chapter Update

Lucy Odden reported the Alaska APSE chapter is coming on its first year as a chapter, and they will start the process of electing officers. Kristin Vandagriff reported that the chapter has put forth their articles of incorporation, submitted their initial report, and has requested an EIN number from the IRS.

Lucy Odden reported that she and Kristin Vandagriff will be attending the National ASPE Conference in Philadelphia June 22nd – 25th, 2015. Lucy remarked that Representative Millett has been nominated for an award for her championship of Employment First, and Lucy has been nominated for a personal achievement award. Kristin Vandagriff stated that she will be making a presentation about Alaska's Employment First journey, and co-presenting with the Partnership in Employment regarding best practices during transition.

Alaska Mobility Coalition

There was no report from AMC available for the meeting.

New Business

E&T Committee FY16 Priorities and Work Plan

Kristin Vandagriff led the committee members through the priorities that were voted on at the May Council meeting as follows:

1. Meet with Employment First leaders designated by Department commissioners (DEED, DHSS, and DOLWD) to implement Employment First Act.
2. Support discovery class pilot sites in curriculum development, teacher, and paraprofessional training, class start-up, and post-class outcome data analysis to enhance transition out of school.
3. Hold a transportation community conversation with transportation panel (TSA, taxi, public transportation).
4. Explore funding options for provider training such as draw-down of federal Medicaid, WIOA, and IDEA funds to increase employment provider training.
5. Provide feedback to SDS regarding transition plan implementation with respect to supported employment services in integrated and competitive settings and transportation.
6. Partner with Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project (at CHD) to oversee the integration of the newly developed two-tier system of benefits planning for Alaska into the state system to increase employment provider training.
7. Collaborate with DOL on the annual Diversity Job Fair, federal contractor workshops, and state agency networking events to increase employment numbers by 2016.
8. Monitor Anchorage taxi response rate for accessible cabs.
9. Hold at least one informational webinar with rural DD communities as the target attendees to increase microenterprise self-employment.
10. Hold at least 2 open house events per year with specific marketing to the DD community to increase microenterprise self-employment.

The committee members reviewed the work plan and made recommendations of additional partners and Council members who may be interested in joining the efforts on specific priorities of the E&T Committee.

The committee members had a discussion regarding the priority No. 3, hold a transportation community conversation with transportation panel, because planning for that needs to begin. The committee members suggested that Kristin Vandagriff contact Casey Anderson, with Alaska Mobility Coalition, to coordinate on possibly attaching to a transportation event in the future and for help with identifying other potential partners to fill out the panel.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

June 22-25, 2015

National APSE Conference – Philadelphia, PA

July 13-17, 2015

National Project SEARCH Conference – Phoenix, AZ

July 30-31, 2015

National PIE Conference – Alexandria, VA

September 21-25, 2015

National Project SEARCH Director TA Visit
and AK SHRM Keynote

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Employment & Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ric Nelson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.