

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

**Employment & Transportation Committee
Minutes**

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**August 18, 2015
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Lucy Odden, Chair
Dave Fleurant
Amy Simpson
Alexis Henning
Erin Atwood

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Lucy Odden welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

Lucy Odden announced the good news that she was the recipient of the Personal Achievement Award at the National ASPE Conference in Philadelphia.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from April. The motion was **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from June. The motion was **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Reports

There were no reports at the meeting.

Old Business

Council Employment Programs Update

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the AIEI Advisory Board made a recommendation to collect specific data from the state agencies and the Trust with respect to the particular populations that they serve. There were letters requesting specific data indicators relating to employment status, employment settings, wages per hour, and hours worked per week sent to the Department of Labor, the Department of Health & Social Services, and the Department of Education & Early Development. Kristin reported that a letter was also sent jointly to the Trust and Division of Senior & Disability Services regarding supporting a point-in-time survey twice a year looking at the same indicators in more detail, including seasonal and subsistence factors.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that they attended the Partners in Employment annual meeting in Washington, D.C. where they met with the other states participating in the federal grant to look at the activities that each of the states were involved in as well as looking towards sustainability, which will be the focus at the November Advisory Board meeting for the grant. Kristin noted that there was some focus on transitions handbooks from other states, which is a project Alaska will be pursuing, working in conjunction with Governor's Council committees, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Family Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders to develop a robust transition handbook.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that there was great news coverage for the variety of events celebrating the 25th ADA Anniversary.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that with regards to trainings, they are working in collaboration with Center for Human Development on the Discovery class pilots and the certificate in employment services.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that with regards to employer engagement, the business employment service team plans to perform breakout presentations for the Society for Human Resources Managers (SHRM) Conference in September, and they are partnering with SHRM on the keynote presentation. Kristin stated that the business employment service team activities also include an employer engagement networking event

planned for October, which will be a kickoff to a monthly series of events for employers highlighting October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Trust Beneficiary Employment & Engagement Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the individual workgroups have been meeting, and they are in the midst of pulling together all the work from those groups. There has also been a data poll request sent out to see what data is being collected in order to pull all the data together and develop a baseline to start measuring progress in order to determine if the curve is turning. The group is looking towards scheduling a large stakeholder's meeting in December.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that with respect to the Disability Benefits calculator, DB101, there is a two-day meeting with the creators of the calculator being planned for this fall in Anchorage to gather input from the different stakeholders and to educate the creators on the uniqueness of Alaska's state systems, Alaska's Medicaid, and other features that interrelate for the success of the calculator.

Employment First

Kristin Vandagriff reported that Employment First efforts include working towards scheduling an interdepartmental meeting. Each department has designated a champion within their department to work towards Employment First implementation and develop a specific progress measurement tool.

AK APSE Chapter Update

Lucy Odden reported the Alaska APSE met August 10th where they celebrated their first anniversary. Topics covered at the meeting included their financial updates, having the SILC as their fiscal agent, tax returns, APSE member recruitment, marketing, and upcoming events and fundraisers. Kristin Vandagriff noted that the Alaska APSE is now fully chartered, which will allow for the opportunity to offer CESP exams.

Alaska Mobility Coalition

There was no report from AMC available for the meeting.

New Business

Five-Year State Planning Update

Kristin Vandagriff opened the floor for committee members to discuss employment goals recommendations for inclusion in the Five-Year State Plan starting after 2016. After a review of the current committee goals and activities, discussion ensued about wordsmithing to reduce the number of goals. Dave Fleurant recommended gathering information regarding transportation barriers as an ongoing goal because the climate of transportation changes dramatically over time. Lucy Odden asked that youth transition continue to be a priority for the committee, as she has experienced the value of a good transition plan for youth.

Review Revised E&T Committee FY16 Work Plan

Kristin Vandagriff furnished the committee members with an updated committee work plan for review. She asked committee members to review it and provide her with feedback and advise her if they wished to volunteer as a lead or assist on any of the goals.

Review E&T Priority Results from May Council Meeting

Kristin Vandagriff furnished the committee members with priority document for the E&T Committee from the May Council meeting. The priorities were as follows:

1. Working with the Employment First leaders on implementation of Employment First.
2. Supporting Discovery class pilot curriculum and training.
3. Holding transportation community conversations/panels.
4. Explore funding options for provider training.

Planning for Transportation Community Conversation

Kristin Vandagriff opened the floor for committee members to recommend transportation-related entities and events the committee could look to partnering with in the future. The committee recommended contacting the Municipality of Anchorage's transportation director, exploring what transportation reports are available statewide and who is authoring them, and to continue working with the Alaska Mobility Coalition.

E&T Committee Member Recruitment

Kristin Vandagriff requested strategies to improve member recruitment for the E&T Committee. The recommendations included representatives from People Mover, Anchor Rides, the Department of Transportation, and the SILC.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- **September 1:** Interim Council Meeting, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **September 2 & 3:** “The Aging Population Summit” – Special Olympics Alaska Building 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **September 21-25:** National Project SEARCH Director TA Visit and AK SHRM Keynote
- **OCTOBER:** National Disability Employment Awareness Month <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>
- **October 8 & 9** – Fall Council Meeting
- **October 21:** BEST Employer Kickoff Event
- **October 23:** APICC Annual Conference
- **November 9 & 10:** Alaska Peer Support Employment Conference
- **November 13:** Veteran's Job Fair
- **November 16 & 17:** AIEI Advisory Board Meeting
- **November 18:** BEST Employer Event

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Employment & Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Dave Fleurant **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Alexis Henning. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.