

**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

**February 16, 2016
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Lucy Odden, Chair
Dave Fleurant
Amy Simpson
Alexis Henning
Erin Atwood
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Cheri Biddle
Cindy Murphy-Fox

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:02 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Lucy Odden welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Announcements and Good News

No announcements or good news was reported.

Approval of Agenda

Dave Fleurant **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Dave Fleurant **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December meeting, **SECONDED** by Alexis Henning. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Old Business

Council Employment Programs Updates

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff reported the following activities for AIEI:

- Employment First Job Fair is scheduled for February 19th.
- Completed the ASSEC post-conference focused on supported employment best practices.
- Working on a compliance evaluation training in collaboration with Department of Labor's Business Employment Services Team and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program.
- Working on AIEI reporting and preparation for the next AIEI Advisory Board meeting.

Trust Beneficiary Employment & Engagement Initiative

Kristin Vandagriff reported that plans are being made to hold a stakeholder meeting to review data, develop a baseline of performance levels, identify gaps in the system, review budgets, and look at best practices for the systems process.

Employment First

Kristin Vandagriff reported that plans are being made to gather together the departmental teams from DHSS, EED, and DOLWFD to review the Employment First progress reports from the November meeting and develop strategies for the next steps for Employment First implementation.

Lucy Odden reported that she had spoken with the Governor at a town hall meeting about the Employment First Initiative, and he was very supportive of Employment First.

AK APSE Chapter Update

Lucy Odden reported that they are gearing up for the 2016 National Conference for APSE, which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. She reported that the AK ASPE chapter made the following award nominations:

- Kristin Vandagriff for the Policy Award
- Ric Nelson for the Personal Achievement Award
- Danny Parish for the Professional Award
- The Arc of Anchorage for the Organizational Award

Lucy Odden reported that she and Danny Parish applied for seats on the Board of Directors for the National APSE Chapter.

Lucy Odden noted that plans are underway to hold a two-year anniversary celebration of the AK APSE Chapter in September.

Alaska Mobility Coalition

There was no report from AMC available for the meeting.

New Business

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Alaska State Plan Discussion

Kristin Vandagriff led the committee members through a review of the Alaska State Plan as it relates to the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act. The following recommendations and positive feedback to include in the committee's comments was as following:

PART 1:

- Page 40:
 - Recommend expanding Goal 2 to include a bullet that specifically denotes connecting people with significant disabilities and/or brain differences to ongoing supports, monitoring, and mentoring-type of services.

- Page 43:
 - Include positive feedback for highlighting apprenticeships as a gateway to employment outcomes.

- Page 44:
 - Include positive feedback for the inclusion of the narrative of Employment First implementation.
 - Include positive feedback regarding the training support they intend to provide.
 - Recommendation to include education and awareness to those that are served that the ABLE Act is now something that can be utilized.
 - Recommendation to include the addition of a clarifying statement that the DB101 calculator will also have public benefit, not just for people with disabilities to determine SSI or SSDI benefit impact.

- Pages 44-45:
 - Include positive feedback for plans to expand the Ticket to Work program and replicate and expand Project SEARCH.
 - Include positive feedback regarding continuing and expanding partnerships.

PART 2:

- Include a narrative regarding employment services options and the matrix document between SDS and DVR.
- Page 9:
 - Include positive feedback for the inclusion of provisional hire narrative.
 - Recommend including additional information highlighting the significant work that been done through the interagency collaborative activities.
- Page 71:
 - Include positive feedback for the partnership between DVR and the Governor's Council regarding AIEI.
- Page 72:
 - Include positive feedback for the partnership with Governor's Council related to increasing the use of provisional hire.
- Page 76:
 - Include positive feedback relating to DVR agreeing to take a seat on the Governor's Council, renewing the MOU with DSDS, and the narrative about Employment First.
- Page 83:
 - Recommend additional narrative related to DVR's role in partnership with different agencies on CES training.

- Page 87:
 - Recommend clarifying monitoring the percentage of the youth caseload.

- Page 103:
 - Include positive feedback on partnerships related to supported employment and training efforts.
 - Recommend including information related to the matrix and how it would help form the basis of a MOU with DSDS.

- Page 104:
 - Correction: The Governor's Council does support Project SEARCH.
 - Include positive feedback for the inclusion that Project SEARCH is a good model for pre-employment services.

- Page 110:
 - Recommend highlighting partnerships with CHD and Governor's Council with respect to the CES training and rural component.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that the Council comments are due Feb 23rd, and members could email her with any additional comments they have.

Future Desired Guest Speaker Discussion
Next Steps for Employment Goal in Five-Year State Plan
Review Current Work Plan Progress

Discussion on future guest speakers, next steps for employment goals in the Five-Year State Plan, and a review of the current work plan progress were tabled.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- **February 18-19:** Key Coalition Key Campaign Juneau Advocacy
- **February 19:** BEST Employment First Job Fair
- **March 8:** BEST OFCCP training for federal contractors
- **March 9:** Anchorage Project SEARCH Expo “reverse job fair”

- **March 22-23:** Reducing Recidivism Conference
- **March 30-31:** Full Lives Conference

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Employment & Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2016 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.