

**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
May 17, 2016
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Lucy Odden, Chair
Cindy Murphy-Fox
Alexis Henning
Maggie Winston
Sara Kveum
Erin Atwood
Cheri Biddle
Beth Wilson
Mark Meyer

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff
Ric Nelson
Patrick Reinhart

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 shared the news that the Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated at the Alaska Zoo on Sunday from 11:00 to 5:00.

Lucy Odden shared the good news that the ABLE Act was passed, and plans are being made to have some type of a signing ceremony.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest of Members

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest made by the committee members.

Approval of Agenda

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Maggie Winston. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Maggie Winston **MOVED** to approve the February meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Sara Kveum. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Maggie Winston **MOVED** to approve the April meeting minutes, **SECONDED** by Sara Kveum. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Reports

AIEI Semiannual Report Submitted

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI) semiannual grant report has been submitted to the Administration on Community Living. The next report is due in October.

Old Business **Council Employment Programs Update**

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative (AIEI)

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the AIEI grant is a five-year federal grant, and they are in the fourth year, so they are preparing to complete the five-year continuation paperwork. They will also be working on a request for a six-year no-cost extension for that grant.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the Disability Benefits 101 calculator is currently in the testing phase. The Disability Benefits 101 calculator is tentatively scheduled to launch September 12th – 16th, at which time trainings will take place in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that she and Ric Nelson have been working on the transition handbook, which will be a resource for students and their families to assist with the transition out of high school. Once the preliminary draft is done, it will go to the Department of Education and other stakeholders for review.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the AIEI is working with the Center for Human Development to use the matrix document, which was developed in the early stages of the initiative planning, to create an infographic. A draft version of the infographic will be presented at the June 1st AIEI meeting to gather feedback.

Kristin Vandagriff reported that work continues on the expansion of Project SEARCH into additional industries and communities.

Trust Beneficiary Employment & Engagement Initiative (BEE)

Kristin Vandagriff reported that they continue to work with the Trust and other partners on the strategic planning and funding allocation for the next fiscal year.

Employment First

Kristin Vandagriff reported that work continues on the common progress measurement tool with the Department of Health & Social Services, the Department of Labor, and other partners. They will be looking for baseline

reports from the departments and recommendations to further the progression towards competitive and integrated employment.

Employment First continues to support the Alaska Association of People Supporting Employment First, (AK APSE). Kristin Vandagriff noted that the second Certified Employment Support Specialist, (CESP), exam is scheduled for June 30th in Fairbanks. The first exam was held in conjunction with Full Lives in March, and 14 people went through the certification.

Mark Meyer shared with the committee his experience of doing the training and taking the exam. He noted that with his breadth of experience, he still struggled with the Social Security benefits analysis piece, and recommended a more thorough training piece regarding benefit analysis.

AK APSE Chapter Update

Lucy Odden reported that the AK APSE Chapter is making plans for a “Take your Legislator to Work” event to be held sometime in October. Lucy also noted that the National APSE Chapter is gearing up for the annual conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, which she, Ric Nelson, and other Alaskans will be attending.

Alaska Mobility Coalition Update

Patrick Reinhart shared the news that the \$1 million funding in the Governor’s budget for Alaska Mobility Coalition, which was previously removed by the Senate, has been reinstated by the House. The budget, which includes the funding, was sent to Conference Committee and the final outcome is pending.

New Business

Next Steps for Employment Goal, Objectives, and Activities in the Five-Year State Plan

Kristin Vandagriff led the committee members through an extensive review of the E&T Committee’s goals, objectives, and activities included in the State Plan. Kristin noted that next step for the State Plan is to put it out for public comment for 45 days.

Future Desired Guest Speakers Discussion

Lucy Odden opened the floor for recommendations from the committee members for guest speakers and topics at their future committee meetings. The recommendations included:

- TSA representative
- A presentation on financial literacy/asset building
- Transportation Commission representative

ABLE Act Update

Ric Nelson reported that the ABLE Act recently passed in Alaska, and preparations are being made to disseminate information regarding the implementation and the resources that will be made available to Alaskans with disabilities to take advantage of the ABLE Act's opportunities. Ric gave a basic overview of the website that other states are using for implementation, and he gave a synopsis of what Alaska will be developing for its consumers to use.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences:

June 1, 2016

AIEI Advisory Board meeting

June 21-23, 2016

National APSE Conference (Cincinnati, OH)

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next Employment & Transportation Committee meeting has been rescheduled for July 19, 2016 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Alexis Henning **MOVED** for adjournment, **SECONDED** by Sara Kveum. The meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m.