

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

March 23, 2010

Attendees:

Donna Swihart, Chair
Kathy Fitzgerald
Chris Saddler
Debbie Kitelinger
Julie Broyles

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:10 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Donna Swihart announced that she bought a new house. She invited everyone to help her move and participate in a moving party at her house.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Debbie Kitelinger **SECONDED**. The agenda was **APPROVED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Kathy Fitzgerald made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Debbie Kitelinger **SECONDED**. The meeting minutes were **APPROVED** as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie Ryan stated that they wrote some letters of support for some organizations who are working on teleservice delivery.

Millie stated that there was a complaint regarding a forward that Catherine Helle sent out encouraging Congress to pass the health care reform. Mike Chenault was wondering why a State employee was sending out this kind of information. Millie stated that she wrote a letter that explained that Catherine is an intern, and it is part of her job to send information out to people. The Council doesn't tell people what to do, but rather provides the information which people can choose to act on or not. Millie stated that in the future, they should put a disclaimer on these forwards that explains that this is for information purposes and the Council is not taking a position.

Millie Ryan stated that they received an official letter that states that Alaska was chosen as one of 20 states selected to participate in an external evaluation by Westat. Millie stated that it appears that it will be somewhat similar to the MTARS review they completed recently. They will be here in person July 26th through the 30th. They will spend about two days with the Council, a day-and-a-half with the Center for Human Development and a day-and-a-half with the Disability Law Center. She stated that there is the

expectation that they will assemble some Council members to meet with them. They will also be meeting with Council staff as well as other partners.

There was a group discussion around the possibility of a new FASD program being put together at Whaley. Teresa Holt stated that she will ask about this at the next SEAC meeting.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Donna Swihart stated that she attended the Key Campaign with two of her three children, and it was a life-changing event for them. She stated that they talked to Commissioner Hogan about an autism waiver. One of the things that really touched her was that on the flight back to Anchorage, Governor Parnell sat in coach. Donna also stated that Key Campaign has a really good reputation in Juneau and concluded her report.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee

Millie Ryan stated that the Senate Health and Social Services finance subcommittee put in \$162,500 for ISIS, which is a quarter of what they asked for. Millie spoke to Michelle Lyons-Brown, who oversees the State Medicaid plan, about the possibility of supplementing some of that with administrative claiming money, and she was supportive if the Council has support from the Department. Millie stated that she is cautiously optimistic about the opportunity to leverage other funds.

Millie stated that Senate Bill 32, rate review for home and community-based services, is in House finance.

Millie Ryan stated that House Bill 187, private insurance for autism, is stuck in the Health and Social Services committee. The Council will coordinate an alert asking that people ask members of that committee to hear it and move it out. She also noted that Representative Keller has some qualms about insurance mandates. There is Senate Bill 250 on the Senate side that has been heard once. Millie stated she is trying to find out when it will be heard the second time.

Millie stated that some of the things from Bring the Kids Home that were not in the House budget got put in at the finance committee level. On the Senate side, most of the things that were needed around Bring the Kids Home are in the budget.

Millie Ryan stated that there are also GF/MH funds in the budget for services for people with FASD. She stated that it is grant funding for treatment services in Juneau, Kenai, Sitka and Bethel. She stated that it is not for diagnostic services, but rather case management and individual service accounts. On the House side there is \$228,600, and there is \$400,000 on the Senate side.

Millie stated that the Senate put in GF/MH funding for the early childhood mental health program, but there is none in the House.

Millie stated that other bills that will hopefully get passed include the Denali KidCare expansion and the dental bill.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they have a new State person on board named Caroline Hogan. They spoke to Caroline about the Council goals and reviewed their face-to-face meeting with her. They asked Caroline to bring specific reports and information to present at the DD Committee meetings.

Kathy stated that Caroline informed them that they are tracking the length of time that it takes from when somebody is approved for a waiver until their plan of care is approved. Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they discussed coming up with a way to track how long it takes from the time someone's plan of care is approved to actually getting them into service. Kathy stated that this information would probably come from DD providers rather than the State. She stated that this data could be used for legislative advocacy and their five-year plan. Kathy stated that they will be working with Carrie Predeger, Duane Mayes and AADD about what kinds of things they would need to capture.

Kathy stated that Jennifer Jones came to their meeting and talked about progress on workforce and supported employment issues that she is working on. She will be attending DD Committee meetings periodically to give an update on any changes.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that during their next meeting, they will be going over those items they would like to present to the Council for their FY'11 work plan.

Early Intervention Committee

Teresa Holt stated that the State ILP is doing a variety of things with their ARRA funds and the EIC is providing input when necessary. She stated that they have been asked to review their Parents' Rights Booklet. ILP is also creating a new IFSP form, and the EIC will be reviewing that when it comes out in final draft form.

Teresa stated that they have been asked to go to Juneau in May to review the early childhood outcomes e-module that the Department of Education put together. Teresa and Margaret Kavanaugh will be going to that meeting.

Teresa noted that the EIC has been asked to provide parents to sit on an ILP committee looking at service guidelines in a variety of categories.

Teresa Holt stated that by the end of spring, all ILP grantees are doing a competitive RFP process. She read through the RFP and stated that they came up with seven regions. Teresa stated that she and Duane Mayes have been asked to be on the PEC for those. There are two different committees, one for the regional grantees and one for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Teresa stated that at the last EIC meeting, they looked at the transition indicators and gathered suggestions on how to improve transition on a statewide basis from infant learning to pre-school.

Teresa stated that by the end of the month, they will have finished their pre-school survey, and they have over 50 responses now. She stated as a side to the survey, they were able to gather all the contact information for pre-school teachers and they will start an early childhood special education listserv.

The Early Childhood Networking Forum will be on May 10th and 11th at the Hilton in Anchorage. Teams of people will be coming from communities

who can hear the speakers and address topics to problem solve specific to their communities.

Teresa stated that the first round of the TACSEI training took place last month, and the second round will happen next month. She stated that the RFP will go out this month for three pilot sites to implement the early childhood PBS.

Millie Ryan stated that the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference is May 25th and 26th.

Teresa concluded her report by stating that the EIC is looking to go to Kotzebue for their face-to-face meeting.

Millie Ryan added that during Key Campaign, they included educational information about changing the infant learning eligibility from a 50 percent delay to a 25 percent delay. Millie stated that Representative Gara was interested in that and his aide, David Theriault, met with a group of them to discuss the situation.

Education Committee

Teresa Holt stated that they had the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference and awarded the inclusive practice award to Adrienna Holden from Kodiak. They are going to nominate Adrienna Holden for a national inclusion champion award.

Teresa stated that they have been inviting David Tarcy to the meetings to discuss survey results that he compiles for the Department of Education regarding the indicators. They recently reviewed the post-school employment survey and the parent survey results, which were very similar to last year.

Teresa Holt stated that Alyse Galvin attended their last meeting as the Department partnership liaison. She will be creating partnerships between communities and schools, and she has invited the Education Committee to join in on Statewide Partnership Day.

Teresa stated that at the federal level, House Bill 4247, restraint and seclusion in schools, passed the House. She also stated that a set of core education standards by grade has come out. There is an opportunity for

feedback on those, so she sent it out on AKSPED and she will look at it to see if it is something the Council would want to give feedback on.

Teresa Holt stated that they have been asked to hold another Wrightslaw training. Millie Ryan stated that the Council would probably not be interested in hosting it again and suggested that maybe Stone Soup Group would.

Teresa Holt stated that at their February meeting, Commissioner LeDoux came to have a discussion with the committee about the exit exam and why the Department and the State Board of Education were not supporting it at this time. She stated that the committee has some strong supporters of SB 109, and it was good to have this discussion with him so he could hear what the Council members think. Commissioner LeDoux asked for the Council's help in coming up with a better alternative to the exit exam. Teresa Holt added that Con Bunde paid for Dittman Research to do a survey of Alaskans regarding the exit exam. The results came back that 74 percent of Alaskans stated that the exit exam should be kept in place.

Teresa Holt stated that she, Anna Attla and Tom Cyrus will be attending the Rural Special Education Conference in Memphis, TN.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan stated that they were successful in getting Congressman Don Young to send out a dear colleague letter asking that representatives sign onto an increase in funding for state councils on developmental disabilities. It would be about a \$3 million increase.

In May they will be doing a survey of State employees to get a sense for what percentage of State employees are people with disabilities and learn about their experiences with reasonable accommodations and ways to do better outreach to encourage people with disabilities to become State employees.

Millie Ryan stated that there was a team of people that attended a Region 10 autism summit. The Women's Children's and Family Health section of the Division of Public Health received a small grant to hold a follow-up meeting from that summit which will be held on June 1.

Millie stated that she received a call from someone asking about the EPSDT and how that can be better used to provide autism services, particularly around treatment. Millie stated that she was asked that the Council really push the treatment side of things.

Millie Ryan stated that they had their Self-Employment Summit in February. They looked at the different policies of State agencies, waste and also the small business development centers on how they can make sure that what they have been able to create through START-Up Alaska can be maintained. Rich Sanders is continuing to follow up on this.

Millie stated that she facilitated a meeting of the Assistive Technology Consortium looking at ways they can better share resources and coordinate advocacy efforts around assistive technology.

Millie Ryan stated that they are moving forward with the ASPEN project, which is the Alaska Safety Empowerment Network, to bring people from the disability community and the victim services community together so that they can better meet the needs of women with disabilities who are the victims of sexual and physical assault. They are conducting needs assessments in Dillingham and Ketchikan right now, and they will be meeting in May to talk about the processes and the strategic plan to implement ways to address the needs identified in the needs assessment.

Millie stated that she, Kathy Fitzgerald, and Duane Mayes will be going to Washington D.C. for the Disability Policy Seminar, and they will also be meeting with the congressional delegation.

Millie Ryan stated that she recently attended a meeting at Hope to hear about what Hope is doing to deliver more services to people with autism. She stated that they are doing some great things that may be potential models for other DD providers.

OLD BUSINESS

January 2010 Council Meeting Debriefing

Millie Ryan stated that this year they spent more time going over the position papers with Council members so they felt better prepared before meeting with their legislators. As a result, they didn't have an Executive Committee meeting during that timeframe. The feedback she received was

that most people liked the format. Julie Broyles agreed and stated that it was nice to have the extra time and not feel so rushed.

NEW BUSINESS

May 2010 Council Meeting

Millie Ryan directed the Executive Committee to the draft agenda of the May Council meeting. Kathy Fitzgerald asked why Stone Soup Group was included in the partner reports and Millie Ryan clarified that they are the parent training and information center. Kathy Fitzgerald asked that they be clarified as the PTI on the agenda.

Millie Ryan also suggested asking the partners to just present their top accomplishment for the year, discuss their top priority, and then give a written report, as the day becomes quite tiring for Council members and this would cut down on the amount of time in the partner reports.

Millie noted that the Alaska Commission on Aging will be meeting at the same time as the Council, and this would be a nice opportunity to get together with them and discuss some of the issues that they have worked on together.

Millie continued to review the agenda with the committee and stated that they have discussed forming an FASD Ad Hoc Committee because they have heard so much testimony around this issue. The FASD Committee would have representatives from the DD Committee, the Education Committee and the Early Intervention Committee. Millie stated that the Council could have a discussion around forming an FASD Ad Hoc Committee, similar to what they did with the Autism Ad Hoc Committee.

Other New Business

Millie Ryan stated that this year they will be making recommendations to the Trust for FY'12 and '13. Duane Mayes and Carrie Predeger will start working on a survey to get input from folks. This summer they will also have a meeting to figure out their priorities. In the past they have always had someone from DSDS, Erin Kinavey, Art Arnold and Council members participate in these meetings. Millie suggested that they also include Stephanie Birch from the section on Women's Children's and Family Health.

Millie Ryan also stated that they will be putting together the five-year State Plan this year and they will need to be planning some community forums to get input. She stated that they will review past public testimony and gather new testimony to help decide where they want to go and what will be the Council's advocacy for systems change and capacity building for the next five years. The forum for gathering the public testimony will be focused around what is working well, what is not working well, and what are possible solutions.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting was not established during this meeting.

ADJOURN

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.