

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

November 24, 2010

Attendees:

Donna Swihart, Chair
Eric Gebhart
Ric Nelson
Amy Simpson
Tonja Updike

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Heidi Frost

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Eric Gebhart shared that he is sorry to see that Art Arnold will be moving from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor because he has done so much for special education in Alaska. Millie Ryan stated that they will send Art a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Tonja Updike **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The approval of the 9/7/10 meeting minutes as written **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report on for this meeting.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Donna Swihart did not have a report for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

DD Committee

Ric Nelson stated that they met twice last month and they discussed the AADD face-to-face meeting, the wait list, and the WICHE report. Ric noted that they discussed wanting Kathy Fitzgerald to sit on the WICHE committee.

Ric Nelson stated that at their second meeting they discussed the differences between the ICAP and the SIS, and they will be doing some research on finding a new instrument for the level of care determination.

Ric stated that the DD Committee has a special meeting set for December 6th to discuss SDS waiver recommendations.

Education Committee

Tonja Updike stated that their last meeting was the face-to-face meeting in Barrow. She stated that they met Ted Danson, and they were calling him Duane's twin. She noted that people were asking Duane for his autograph all over Barrow.

Tonja stated that they had an amazing turnout for their community gathering, and they enjoyed visiting two of the schools there. Every special education teacher in Barrow attended the Education Committee's meeting to share their concerns and what is working well.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson stated that they had their face-to-face meeting in Nome last month and they coordinated their meeting with the statewide strategic planning for the Council.

During their meeting they elected new chairs, and Amy Simpson and Heidi Haas are co-chairs. They delved into the ILP Part C services eligibility and having enough resources to serve everyone, and they discussed what infrastructure they need to have in place to be able to do Medicaid billing for all services. They also discussed the workforce they'll need and documentation that goes along with getting reimbursement from Medicaid and private health insurance.

Amy Simpson stated that they also discussed other long-term goals including early intervention for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. They are looking at how to partner the EHDI program with the ILP program to ensure that all children are getting the interventions they need. They are also looking at how the systems are working together and if they are any gaps in those systems.

They discussed supporting the Stone Soup Group Parent Conference as well as the SEED module in workforce development.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

There was no report available for the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee at this time.

Autism Ad Hoc Committee

Millie Ryan stated that they are trying to get a meeting pulled together to talk about the funding of services.

Legislative Committee

Ric Nelson stated that they are still working on their position papers for the legislators and hope to have them done by the next Legislative Committee meeting. They are also doing a white paper on direct service providers and their wages. They are hoping to have that ready by January.

Millie Ryan added that there was a survey done that showed that about 20 percent of DSPs receive benefits such as childcare assistance or housing assistance, and the bulk of those 20 percent were people that worked in the DD or senior system. She stated that they want to make sure that they don't advocate for a wage that will put DSPs in a worse position than they currently are in.

Eric Gebhart asked Ric Nelson to forward the position papers on education related issues to him when they are complete so he can further educate his legislators on the issues.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan stated that she is the chair of the Public Policy Committee for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and one of the things they have been monitoring is the reauthorization of the Developmental Disability Act.

Millie also stated that the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant is scheduled to end on September 30, 2011, and they are going to ask for another extension.

Millie stated that they were successful in getting a grant from the Employment Security Division and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board as a disability employment initiative. Rich Sanders will be spending two days at the Council office and three days over at the Workforce Investment Board to help them make the kinds of changes that need to be made.

Millie stated that Heidi Frost will be working on a grant that the Center for Human Development received for youth with intellectual disabilities to attend to the University of Alaska and receive supports and services.

Millie Ryan stated that she was able to meet with Ernie Manzie and go through the Council orientation PowerPoint with him. She stated that he is excited to be on the Council and is interested in serving on the Education Committee. He may also be interested in being on the Legislative Committee.

Millie noted that they haven't yet heard who the next commissioner for the Department of Health and Social Services will be.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director's Evaluation

Eric Gebhart stated that he and Millie Ryan have come up with a good form to use that will give her good feedback, and it also ties really well to the approved State Performance Evaluation Report. He will get this ready and put it into an electronic format and get it out to all the members of the Executive Committee for review. He stated that they will then need to develop a way to survey the Council and staff members. When the results of those surveys come in, they will have an Executive Committee teleconference to discuss the information from the surveys and complete their portion of the evaluation.

October 2010 Council Meeting

Millie Ryan asked for feedback on the October Council meeting.

Amy Simpson stated that she felt more engaged for the majority of the meeting. She felt that the discussions around the waiver and SDS were really good. Eric Gebhart agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Meeting, January 25 – 27, 2011

Millie Ryan stated that she is starting to put together the January meeting. She referred committee members to the agenda from last January and reviewed that with the committee.

She stated that one addition to this year's agenda will be time to review the community forum information relative to the State Plan.

Millie Ryan stated that she will give the presenters an outline to follow to attempt to keep presentations concise, but they may not use it.

Amy Simpson stated that she would like to see a short synopsis of the bills and priorities related to the Council.

Eric Gebhart asked if it would be possible to have a meeting at the Governor's house again. Dayna McGuire stated that Ric Nelson and Duane Mayes are going to meet with Mrs. Parnell before the Council meeting.

Eric Gebhart suggested setting aside 15 minutes on the last day of the meeting to discuss the executive director's evaluation and give a summary so that it's reflected in the minutes. Eric also suggested they ask Council members to review a portion of the bylaws prior to the Council meeting and then set aside some time to review that and ask for any recommendations. This could continue to be a revolving process with the bylaws at each meeting until they get through all of them.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next teleconference is scheduled for December 16th at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.