

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, 2011

Attendees:

Donna Swihart, Chair
Eric Gebhart
Ric Nelson
Julie Broyles
Kathy Fitzgerald
Amy Simpson
Tonja Updike

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Ric Nelson introduced Denis, who is now working for him. He also announced that Dayna McGuire had her baby boy.

Ric announced that he is going to be in an ad for the Council as part of the new “You Know Me” campaign. Millie Ryan explained that the Trust gives each of the boards \$25,000 to highlight something more specific to the boards and the Council has chosen to highlight that people with developmental disabilities can go to college and be successful.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald asked to add an agenda item under new business to discuss the status of legislative advocacy items if they don’t get discussed under reports.

Approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The approval of the November 24, 2010 meeting minutes as written **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie Ryan reported that the Council has received requests for letters of support from LINKS, Center for Human Development, people from Delta Junction, and Representative Tuck for the Parents as Teachers bill.

Millie stated that she sent a follow-up letter to Mike Lesmann at the Governor’s office after their meeting with him. She stated that she heard back from him that he supports their efforts around domestic violence. Millie also noted that the Council will be working with the Division of Personnel to get the e-mail list for State employees to research the percentage of people with disabilities working in State government. Millie

reported that Mike indicated to her that the autism bill hasn't been ruled out yet. The Hub didn't make the Governor's budget.

Millie Ryan stated that the last thing that Mike indicated to her is that they are looking at extending the sunset for SESA, but not removing it.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Donna Swihart did not have a report for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson stated that each of their teleconferences has focused on one area of their work plan and that format has been working very well.

Amy stated that she has a meeting scheduled with Diana Poag with the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to follow up on services for young children with hearing impairments.

Amy noted that the EIC has discussed the workforce professional development that ILP is doing, the cost study, and some of the other training initiatives.

Amy Simpson stated that they will be meeting in April to do a draft of the service delivery guidelines that the State ILP office has been working on. Also in April a group will get together to review the modules for credentialing for the ILP staff to make sure they are highly qualified.

Education Committee

Julie Broyles stated that she heard that Eric Gebhart and Tonja Updike did a fabulous job at ASSEC.

Tonja Updike stated that the winner of the Inclusive Practice Award was Sterling Elementary School. Teresa Holt explained that the reason Sterling won was because they didn't have any intensive needs students at their school and it was cheaper to bus them into Soldotna, but the teachers at

Sterling Elementary wanted to have those kids at their school. So they advocated with the district and were able to bring all those kids home to their school and integrate them for part of the day.

Julie Broyles stated that they have a new commissioner, Mike Hanley and a new special education administrator, Don Enoch.

Teresa Holt stated that the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee has been holding forums around the state about transition services, and they forwarded a list of questions to the Council. The Education Committee and the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee provided input for that.

Teresa added that Bettye Davis introduced Senate Bill 10, which is about whether or not the exit exam should count, but the bill is not about removing it. She noted that there are other bills about the Alaska Performance Scholarship that are floundering because of funding.

Teresa stated that there is a Parents as Teachers bill, which has gone through the Finance Committee.

Teresa also stated that there are several pre-K bills that are in various forms. There are also some bills regarding funding for special education.

Teresa attended the State Board of Education meeting and presented the Education Committee's recommendations on restraint and seclusion and asked the State Board to consider creating some regulations. She stated that the Education Committee will also draft recommendations regarding the HSGQE to present at the next State Board of Education meeting.

Teresa Holt reported that the State Board of Education plans to redo all the standards to match the national core standards. She also noted that as a result of the national standards, the exit exam will change anyway.

Legislative Committee

Ric Nelson asked Teresa Holt to talk about some of the current bills the Council is tracking.

Teresa stated that in addition to the education related bills she just discussed, there is both a House and Senate version expanding protections for vulnerable adults.

Millie Ryan stated that there are several bills around transportation that are moving forward.

Teresa stated that the Finance Committee removed the funding for the Alaska Autism Resource Center, which was an increment the Governor had put in. Millie Ryan added that the legislature added an extra \$112,000 of Trust funding, which they are not allowed to do. Teresa Holt stated that the Trustees will not approve that amount.

Millie stated that there is nothing on the House side for the Hub. The Senate HSS committee put in a \$325,000 increment for the Hub and there is still the \$150,000 of Trust funding.

Millie stated that HB 198 was introduced to make SESA permanent, remove the sunset, and change the funding formula. She noted that the Department of Education and Early Development is not in support of the bill. Nancy Nagarkar is going to follow up with someone at the Department of Education.

Millie stated that Senate Bill 74, the autism insurance bill, will be heard on March 30th. She noted that the National Federation of Small Businesses is concerned about this bill and the impact on small business. She reviewed with committee members that the average cost is around \$1.70, which most companies would split with their employees.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they had some discussion on the changes to the waivers. The APD waiver had to be changed because there were people with developmental disabilities applying for APD waivers who meet both DD and APD criteria. The DD criteria make the people on APD waivers eligible for habilitation under the DD waiver. CMS stated that it was a waiver within a waiver and needed to be changed.

The State has decided to make a DD/APD waiver, change the Older Alaskans waiver to include adults with physical disabilities, and the MR/DD waiver name has been changed to ID/DD.

Kathy stated that they discussed the waitlist, and they have a new SDS person for their committee. They also discussed quality assurance and the

recommendations the Council had for the Division regarding the Medicaid waiver reapplication. They will have a follow-up meeting with SDS in April.

Teresa Holt added that the funding for the technology upgrade for SDS was removed from the budget on the House side. She noted that SDS really needs that funding to meet the requirements set out by the corrective action plan.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt stated that the Rural Committee will be having a face-to-face meeting in Cordova in April. They will be seeing some technology demonstrations at the clinic and the schools.

The committee discussed holding a Trust beneficiary meeting before the ATA conference in September.

Teresa stated that she will be meeting with the Online With Libraries project people to talk about how the DD community can use libraries for a variety of services such as infant learning, behavioral consults, etc., and talk about how libraries can arrange for private areas for these types of uses.

Teresa Holt stated that ILP has provided each provider a flip camera. They have been using it to videotape interactions with children and families and then use store and forward technology through YouSendIt to consult with therapists.

Teresa stated that the Rural Committee also reviewed the State Voc Rehab Committee questions on transition. She felt that the comments were interesting because the Rural Committee has a few members from DVR who provided a good perspective.

Autism Ad Hoc Committee

Millie Ryan stated that at their last meeting they set four different goals and selected groups specifically around funding for services in general and for school services.

Millie stated that one group will looking at a school program where kids with autism would get services from highly qualified staff, and it would be an

opportunity for people interested in getting board certified in ABA to have the supervised time that they need.

Another group will be looking at all the different opportunities around Medicaid and will make some recommendations.

A third group will make sure that parents are more involved and have greater access to training and support.

Millie Ryan stated that the committee will most likely meet again in July.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan stated that she, Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson attended the Disability Policy Seminar. They met with Congressman Young and Karen McCarthy from Senator Murkowski's office. She stated that they also met with Diane DiSanto as well as Prue Fitzpatrick from Senator Begich's office.

Millie stated that she, Ric Nelson and Kathy Fitzgerald are scheduled to make comment regarding the Medicaid Task Force option for cost savings. Millie briefly reviewed some of the options with committee members.

Millie stated that she and Teresa Holt are in the process of hiring a new person to staff the Education and Early Intervention Committees.

OLD BUSINESS

January 2011 Council Meeting Debrief

Millie Ryan noted that Council members seemed to like that not as many presenters were there to talk about their priorities because it allowed them to focus more on Council priorities.

Teresa Holt stated that she received comments about the scheduling process and people liked it better when they posted things on the wall.

Teresa stated she also received several comments from people, who are not self-advocates, that the Council as a whole needs to do a better job of helping self-advocates know what's going on, learn the information, and feel comfortable and ready to participate.

Ric Nelson stated that he liked that all the scheduling information was up on the screen.

Teresa also mentioned that nobody liked the Prospector Hotel.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that Amy did an outstanding job, and the Legislative Committee did a nice job of putting information together.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Meeting, May 3 - 5, 2011

Millie Ryan reviewed the tentative agenda for the May Council meeting.

The committee members discussed the format for setting committee priorities and allowing for flexibility to accommodate unknown or emergent needs.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.