

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

June 22, 2011

Attendees:

Donna Swihart, Chair
Eric Gebhart
Ric Nelson
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 stated that he won his waiver appeal for the inability to purchase eating utensils.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Millie Ryan stated that she will write up the minutes from the Seward face-to-face Executive Committee meeting for approval at the next meeting.

Eric Gebhart **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie Ryan reported that they received a letter from the commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities about the upcoming Technical Assistance Institute at the end of July. Millie Ryan, Teresa Holt and Eric Gebhart will be attending.

Millie Ryan stated that she also received a letter asking that she participate in the Commonwealth North health care forums. She attended the one yesterday which was centered on patient-centered medical homes. They discussed obstacles and next steps and how to translate things to Alaska.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Donna Swihart stated that she felt that the Council meeting in Seward was difficult because the town is relatively inaccessible. She thought the city was beautiful, but the accessibility was horrible.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee

Ric Nelson stated that they met to set the priorities to focus on for the next year, and they also worked on the work plan. They also discussed working on updating the position papers during the summer.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that their next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

Kathy stated that a year ago, they discovered in the regulations that intensive active treatment is temporary, and many services will no longer be able to be billed under Medicaid, such as positive behavioral supports, applied behavioral analysis, and intensive intervention for people with autism. She noted that they have already started denying some people services.

Millie Ryan stated that she will try to schedule a meeting with Duane Mayes or Kathi Potter to discuss this issue.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that Commissioner Streur stated publically at a Trust meeting that the waivers are too high and they need to get them under control. She feels that his comment is something the Council needs to look into.

Millie Ryan stated that she spoke to the commissioner briefly in the hallway, and he is open to talking more about it. Millie stated that they asked providers to send them information on their high-cost individuals. They did not get any response. They will send out an anonymous survey tomorrow to see if they can get any information, and if they get no response, Millie will call the directors personally.

Teresa Holt added that she and Kathy Fitzgerald offered public testimony to CMS when they were here about SDS. She felt it went really well. Millie Ryan added that Duane Mayes felt that CMS is very impressed with what Alaska was able to do.

Education Committee

Teresa Holt stated that in January she presented to the State Board of Education on restraint and seclusion. There was not a lot of interest at that time.

Teresa noted that they recently presented to the State Board of Education about the exit exam, and they had a lot of questions from the Board, and the commissioner asked the Council to meet with him.

Teresa stated that they received a request from Senator Begich to provide some feedback on a new bill that puts back into the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act the right for parents to have expert witness fees reimbursed in the due hearing process. She stated that they are definitely in favor of that, and Jennifer is in the process of writing a letter of support.

Tonja Updike added that David Tarcy came to the last Education Committee meeting and presented his statistics on post-school outcomes. She stated that Jennifer Jones is going to have him come back in August to discuss it further.

Tonja stated that they also discussed the OSEP conference as well as the activities and goals they need to accomplish in their work plan.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson stated that Dean Gates and Sharon Miranda have joined the EIC.

She stated that one of their priorities is to start an EIFA chapter. They discussed the other priorities on their work plan as well.

Rural Services Committee

Teresa Holt stated that the Rural Services Committee met and discussed their work plan. One of their biggest priorities is trying to hold a Trust beneficiary technology meeting in conjunction with the American Telemedicine meeting in September. They also need to figure out how to fund it. Teresa stated that she can see if other DD providers are willing to chip in and then approach the Trust for additional funding.

They assigned different committee members to work plan activities.

Teresa stated that another thing the committee wants to do is figure out a way to get MOAs between DD providers, schools, DVR and TVR in each community.

Autism Ad Hoc Committee

Millie Ryan stated that there are four work groups on the Autism Ad Hoc Committee. The family services work group met recently and discussed early diagnosis.

Millie stated that they want to have a meeting with key stakeholders to see who is doing what and see what they can do to bring some new folks into the mix that could do training around autism.

Millie also shared that Kansas has been doing diagnostic workups with 90 percent fidelity using distance technology, and they are also providing training and support to parents using distance technology. She stated that this program is on their list of things to follow up on.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan stated that members of the executive committees of the beneficiary boards, the Trustees, and Trust staff had a meeting. The general consensus was that the Trustees seem to have a genuine interest in hearing about what is working, what's not working with the beneficiary boards.

Millie stated that Duane Mayes convened a group of people to look at putting together a long-term care plan. She stated that all of the boards have representation, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, the SILC, and others.

Kathy Fitzgerald shared her disappointment that there is not a person appointed to the committee to represent stakeholders. Ric Nelson would like to have a follow-up conversation about this with Duane Mayes.

Millie further went on in her report to state that she and Teresa Holt and Julie Broyles gave presentations to the University of Alaska Southeast, one presentation about early intervention, the other about school, particularly secondary transition. They also talked about the Council and the activities of the committees.

Millie discussed activities around self-advocacy. She stated that tomorrow the Alliance for Full Participation will be holding a meeting. She stated that a Peer Power meeting was held in April, and they discussed a variety of things regarding employment. This information will be used to develop the State Plan for the Alliance for Full Participation, and it will form the basis for discussion in November at the national meeting.

Millie stated that Ric Nelson has been involved in planning the Asset Building Summit meeting coming up July 14th. It's looking at how low income people and people with disabilities can begin to accumulate assets.

Millie stated that Marcy Rein will be doing her practicum for her master's in public health. She will be spending time at the Council doing research on recreation systems, particularly family-focused activities.

Millie stated that the budget meeting regarding the Council's recommendations to the Trust will be July 20, 21, and 22.

Millie Ryan stated that the AADD released an RFP for leadership development targeted towards American Indians and Alaska Natives. She met with Karen Ward, Dave Fleurant and people who run the Native American Protection and Advocacy grant, and they discussed how they might partner together under the grant.

Millie stated that she applied for a supplemental grant that is tied to the Affordable Health Care Act.

OLD BUSINESS

May 2011 Council Meeting Debriefing

Kathy Fitzgerald felt the planning process was good, and she liked the small group things.

Millie Ryan received an e-mail from Julie Broyles who wanted to recognize the work that Teresa Holt did to facilitate that meeting.

Committee members enjoyed karaoke night and liked seeing people outside of the Council meeting.

Five-Year State Plan

Millie Ryan stated that they have been getting lots of public input on the Five-Year State Plan. Staff will be working on putting the data into a format that Council members can review.

FY'13 Request for Recommendations – Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Millie Ryan stated that a group will be meeting on July 11th to discuss recommendations that they will make to the Trust.

Other Business for the Good of the Order

Ric Nelson suggested that the Council become an organizational member of TASH. The cost is \$225 for five people in the organization to become members. Kathy Fitzgerald stated that she would support that. Millie Ryan stated that she will look into it.

Millie Ryan stated that they need to discuss out-of-state travel plans for the various committees. She has asked staff to come up with the list of conferences the committees are required to attend as well as other conferences they think would be worthwhile to attend. They can discuss this list at their face-to-face meeting July 11th.

Millie asked if they still would like to continue to pay for a member of AILPA to attend a conference with the EIC. Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson felt it would be fair to tell them that their travel budget isn't what it used to be and they are no longer able to help out.

NEW BUSINESS

May 2012 Council Meeting Location

Committee members discussed meeting in either Talkeetna or Girdwood. The Cooper Landing location was not available. Everyone agreed that they would meet in Girdwood.

Millie Ryan stated that they will need to further discuss whether or not they want to have any Council member training at the October meeting.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2011.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.