

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

August 1, 2011

Attendees:

Eric Gebhart, Chair
Ric Nelson
Kathy Fitzgerald
Lucy Odden
David Flynn

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Lucy Odden announced that she was chosen to go to the Alliance for Full Participation in November along with Anna Attla.

Ric Nelson announced that he applied to be a member of the National Alliance for Full Participation, but he was not accepted.

Eric Gebhart announced that he was in Sitka having just officiated a wedding for a former youth group member.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson added a discussion of the long-term care stakeholder's meeting under old business.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Approval of the previous meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie Ryan reported that they sent a notification that they plan to apply for the Employment Systems Change grant that the Administration on Developmental Disabilities is offering.

Millie stated that she is also getting the Governor's office the assurances they need for approval of the Council's five-year State Plan.

Millie Ryan stated that they applied for and received a \$103,000 supplemental award for the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to look at what Kansas has done and TO bring people up from the Medicaid office in Kansas to see what they have in their package of services that are only available to people on the working disabled Medicaid Buy-In.

OLD BUSINESS

Five-Year State Plan

Teresa Holt stated that they are working on the five-year State Plan. They put the draft out for comment and received only 30 comments, none of which were very substantial. If Executive Committee members would like to see the comments, Teresa stated that she can forward them on.

Teresa stated that the plan for the week is to get the parts of the State Plan approved by Millie and turn it in by the 15th.

Millie Ryan stated that in September she will be part of a group that will be reviewing other state's plans.

FY'13 Request for Recommendations – Alaska Mental Health Trust

Millie Ryan stated that she went to a meeting in Juneau and presented the Council's recommendations to the division directors and people in the commissioner's office. There aren't going to be any decisions made for a while in terms of what the department is going to prioritize. Millie noted that Melissa Stone, the director of the Division of Behavioral Health, has the Complex Behaviors Hub as a priority for her department. Millie also noted that the Commission on Aging and the Alaska Brain Injury Network have the Hub on their list of priorities as well.

Millie stated that they submitted their recommendations to the Trust on Friday. She provided them the same write up that was provided to the Department of Health and Social services with the addition of the recommendation for Project SEARCH and the recommendations for rural transition. The next step will be working on a PowerPoint presentation for next week.

October 2011 Council Meeting

Lucy Odden suggested having someone present the Alliance for Full Participation at the October Council meeting.

Millie Ryan stated that she will put together a draft agenda for the committee to review.

Bylaws

Eric Gebhart stated that he has received some comments about the bylaws, and he has seen some revisions that need to be made. His plan is to make changes to the bylaws that reflect the actual current practices of the Council.

Eric stated that they will need to have a conversation about term limits at the next Executive Committee meeting as well as at the October Council meeting. Teresa Holt noted that each of the committees has it on their agenda to do revisions to the bylaws in the next couple of weeks. By September he should have all the comments.

Long-Term Care Stakeholder's Group

Ric Nelson stated that Duane Mayes received direction from the commissioner to get reorganized. The commissioner wanted the directors and organizational directors to be at the "big table" so he can get input.

Millie Ryan stated that she is on the committee representing the Council; Denise Daniello represents the Commission on Aging; Kate Burkhart from the Alaska Mental Health Board is there; Karen Purdue represents the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association; Sandra Heffern, who represents the PCAs; and Millie believes there is also a representative from AADD in the group.

Ric Nelson added that there is no consumer seat at this table, and the response he got from Duane Mayes is that Duane doesn't want to grow the group larger.

Millie Ryan stated that she can receive direction from the DD Committee as to her participation in this working group. Kathy Fitzgerald felt that Council members should do the business of the Council, not staff members. She further stated that if they really believe in self advocacy, they need to push the administration to ensure that stakeholders are involved in the development of services.

Millie Ryan further explained that she believes this group is not the stakeholders' group, it's more of a steering committee. She stated that

there is an SDS stakeholders' group to give input directly to the Division on policy issues.

Ric Nelson asked Duane Mayes if he was going to reconvene the SDS stakeholders' group, and Duane stated that he plans to but doesn't know when.

Eric Gebhart stated that it might be appropriate for the Executive Committee to discuss coming up with an advocacy plan for this at the next meeting. Millie Ryan stated that she will be scheduling meetings in August for Eric to meet with the commissioner of Health and Social Services. She noted that Duane Mayes may also be invited to these meetings.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart reported that he attended the Technical Assistance Institute in Washington, D.C., and will complete a more formal report when he returns from Sitka.

Eric also stated that he received the calendars from staff that they discussed at the last meeting, and Executive Committee members should be expecting an e-mail from him regarding the calendars. This will be committee members' cue to reach out and connect with Council members they have been assigned to.

Eric Gebhart stated that on Wednesday of last week they had an opportunity to meet with the congressional delegation. The delegation members positive and in support of all their issues. Congressman Young will sign onto the Combating Autism Act.

Committee Reports:

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the DD Committee is scheduled to meet right after the Executive Committee meeting.

Kathy stated that there is an issue around Intensive Active Treatment and some cost containment stuff that is starting to seep into the overall service

system. Kathy stated that she and Millie and David Fleurant and people from the Center for Human Development are going to meet to discuss whether or not people's rights are being impacted.

Legislation Committee

David Flynn stated that he met with Ric Nelson and Teresa Holt to get the historical view of the Legislative Committee, and they will also be meeting tomorrow at noon to finalize the agenda for Thursday.

David stated that one of the agenda items is to look at last year's presentations to the legislature and highlight the key points of those packages to keep Ric's momentum moving forward.

Millie Ryan noted that she and Kathy Fitzgerald met with John Cannon from Mat-Su Children's Services about getting some families of children with autism together so they could approach Representative Wes Keller in terms of the autism bill. She noted that Wes Keller has been reappointed to the Council for three years, and he stated that he will try to come to the October Council meeting.

Millie Ryan also noted that they have a complication with the autism bill from the Golden Heart Autism Society, who wants to introduce their own bill. She stated that they are hoping to persuade them to wait until a later time. Kathy Fitzgerald explained that they are frustrated because legislation hasn't moved forward. Kathy further explained that the Council's bill is in a position to move quickly when the session opens because it is poised as such.

Teresa Holt suggested harnessing the Golden Heart Autism Society's energy in a more coordinated effort and give them specific tasks they can do.

David Flynn suggested inviting them to the October Council meeting. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that a Council Executive Committee member present to them at their next meeting.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson was at OSEP and unable to attend the meeting.

Education Committee

Tonja Updike was at OSEP and unable to attend the meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee on Autism

Millie Ryan stated that the committee has met and formed a couple of subcommittees such as education, family services, and technology.

Millie stated that former Council member Chris Saddler's son is attending a school in Connecticut, and the school board in Connecticut voted to open a school in Anchorage. They will be coming at the end of August to recruit families and put on a workshop.

Rural Services Committee

Teresa Holt stated that they are meeting next week. The committee decided to meet every other month.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan stated that August 15th is a big date, the buttons get pushed on the State Plan and the Employment Systems Change grant.

Millie stated that SESA is having staff training, and she will be doing some work with them on what the board does so they have a better understanding of their role.

Millie Ryan stated that the Midnight Sun Assistive Technology Conference is next week, as is the presentation to the Trust finance committee. The full Trustees will make their decision in September during their full meeting.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2011, at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.