

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
3745 Community Park Loop  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Face-to-Face Meeting**

**Meeting Date  
October 6, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Eric Gebhart  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
David Flynn  
Ric Nelson  
Tonja Updike  
Amy Simpson  
Lucy Odden

**Guests:**

Taylor Gregg  
Fred Villa

**Staff:**

Millie Ryan  
Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

### **Reading of Council Mission Statement**

Lucy Odden recited the Council's mission statement.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the September 6, 2011, meeting were not discussed at this meeting.

### **Discussion on Co-Chairs**

Eric Gebhart stated that Tonja Updike asked to invite Taylor Gregg to participate in the Executive Committee meeting for leadership development purposes. He noted that he believes it is a good idea, but their bylaws do not address this. He feels this is a great opportunity for all committees to develop leadership within their committees, and he invited other committee chairs to do the same. Co-chairs may be invited to participate in information sharing, but they do not count towards the quorum and will not be able to vote.

### **Committee Membership**

Eric Gebhart asked committee chairs to touch bases with their committee members to determine people's level of interest in remaining on the committee. Council members no longer interested in sitting on their assigned committee may choose to sit on another committee, while community members, who have not been participating regularly, may wish to give up their positions.

Eric Gebhart further stated that he would like to be of assistance to any committee chair in recruiting membership for their committee.

Amy Simpson noted that as the ICC, the EIC is required to fill certain seats for their committee, and although their membership is rather large, they still have

vacant seats that remain empty that they are required to fill.

Amy also asked how they should go about notifying committee members, who do not appear regularly for meetings, that the Council would like to fill that seat with someone else.

Eric Gebhart asked committee chairs for lists of their committee membership with contact information, and they could personalize a letter thanking people for their membership. Millie Ryan stated that if it's a person who fills a particular seat, they could also ask that person if they have a suggested replacement to fill the seat.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that in the past, the Council used to send letters to people informing them of their appointment to the committee, and when they were discharged from service, sent them another letter thanking them for their service and discharging them.

David Flynn stated that they can be clear on the expectations when they are sent their letter of appointment, and inform them of their responsibilities as noted in the bylaws.

Jennifer Jones stated that the Education Committee and the EIC need some assistance in filling some of the more challenging seats that have not been filled. Eric Gebhart stated that he is happy to send out an invitation to groups they need representation from.

Teresa Holt summarized by saying that any community members who are interested in committee membership should first contact the chair or the staff of the committee, and Eric Gebhart as chair can send the letter telling the person that they have been selected for participation.

### **Autism Midwest Academy**

Millie Ryan stated that Lorri Unumb from Autism Speaks will be available with her colleague, Mike Wasmer, to share strategies and information about what has happened in other states with regard to autism insurance. She stated that instead of holding the Midwest Academy this week, they will teleconference with Lorri and Mike during that time on the agenda. Millie noted that they will set up a separate work session for strategic planning at a later date.

## Discussion on Bylaws

Eric Gebhart stated that he would like to get some things finalized today in regards to the bylaws and then in November, the Executive Committee can vote on presenting the bylaws to the full Council.

### Terms of Office

The way the Executive Committee decided to phrase the bylaws under term limits is to read: "Upon proper application, Council members may be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. Persons in designated seats or those publically appointed are exempt from the three consecutive term limit."

Amy Simpson shared her concern that capacity building should be done within the designated seats as well as other seats on the Council. Eric Gebhart agreed that it would be good to have a transition plan for designated seats.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** that they change it from three consecutive terms to four consecutive terms.

Discussion ensued.

After a vote of four to two, the motion **PASSED**.

David Flynn stated that he feels they should define the length of time off a Council member needs to take before they are allowed to apply for reappointment.

Millie Ryan noted that the usual time off is one year. Amy Simpson suggested tracking it by calendar year.

### Election of Committee Chairs

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to have all committee chairs appointed by the Council chair with input from the committee members. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

## Other Information for the Good of the Order

Ric Nelson **MOVED** that the Council form an ad hoc committee on Medicaid.

Kathy Fitzgerald shared her concern that it might overlap some of the current duties of the DD Committee. Ric Nelson clarified that it would be to address the issue brought up by Commissioner Streur regarding Medicaid waste. Millie Ryan also pointed out that Medicaid issues cross all committees, so it would be broader than just the DD Committee.

Ric Nelson further clarified that the committee would address not only things as a result of the Super Committee, but other long-term issues that are relevant to Alaska.

The motion **PASSED**.

David Flynn shared a concern regarding last night's public testimony. Eric Gebhart reminded the Executive Committee members that public testimony is a time to hear from the public. He noted that the Council began to engage and have a conversation with the public last night. Council members should address people's concerns outside of public testimony during the reception afterwards and not engage in conversation during the public testimony proceeding.

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next teleconference is scheduled for November 7, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.