

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

December 5, 2011

Attendees:

Eric Gebhart, Chair  
Ric Nelson  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
David Flynn  
Tonja Updike  
Amy Simpson

Guests:

Dayna McGuire  
Dean Paul

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 12:04 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Kathy Fitzgerald recited the Council's mission statement.

**GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kathy Fitzgerald announced that Ric Nelson looks really professional today because he just came from presenting his business plan for a class at UAA. The professor selected Ric's plan for a for-profit disability service provider agency as one of three to enter in a competition in April.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING**

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Millie Ryan reported that the committee received a letter from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities saying that the Council did not receive the employment system grant, and another letter from the ADD approving the State Plan for one year, with suggestions for changes. The ADD is planning to offer technical assistance and training in writing the plans. Millie described the review process and said that ADD will send the summary to everyone. Kathy Fitzgerald asked where the big change is coming from, and Millie Ryan replied that she thinks they want to collect data to show Congress the value of councils.

Teresa Holt noted that the committee received a request from the University of Alaska Southeast to write a letter of support for their four-year

special education teacher program. Millie Ryan suggested some points to include in the letter, which is due Friday.

Teresa Holt also reported that SDS sent out 31 pages of regulation changes about waivers, and comments are due on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Millie Ryan added that there will be two information sharing sessions with SDS to help people understand the regulations, on December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Council Bylaws**

Eric Gebhart reported that he sent the bylaws out to the Executive Committee, with major changes highlighted in orange and updates in yellow. Eric requested that the staff prepare that to send out at least 30 days prior to the first reading at the January meeting.

Millie Ryan suggested that people should be discouraged from trying to participate in Council meetings by phone, although it should be in practice, not in the bylaws. Eric Gebhart agreed that people are not able to fully contribute to or gain from a meeting by telephone, but it would be better not to prohibit it in the bylaws because there may be times when it is necessary.

Eric Gebhart reminded everyone that changes to the bylaws as sent out cannot be made until the January meeting.

### **Trust Advocacy Summit**

Millie Ryan stated that the Trust Advocacy Summit will be in Juneau on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the week after the Council meeting. The two main topics will be transportation and the Hub. Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson are planning to attend. Eric Gebhart said that he plans to stay for the summit, but his plans are not final yet. David Flynn will be there, but Tonja Updike can't make it. For staff there will be Millie Ryan, Teresa Holt, and Patrick Reinhart.

## **January 2012 Council Meeting Agenda**

Millie Ryan reported that the agenda is still the same as was discussed last month, but there is a change of location to the National Guard Armory next door to Centennial Hall for the last day, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Information will be included on where it is and how to get there.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **IAT Update**

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee has been following the Intensive Active Treatment issue, and there were some major concerns about how the proposed regulation changes would affect nursing level of care. However, at least until February, nothing is changing.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Chair's Report**

Eric Gebhart reported that his big project has been the bylaws, and he is grateful to be able to turn it over to the Council now. Eric also stated that Nenana has hired a new principal, which should alleviate Eric's duties so that he can give more time to the Council.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### ***Legislative Committee***

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee is organizing a holiday card campaign, trying to get Alaskans who are affected by autism to send holiday cards to their legislators along with a personal story and a photo. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that everyone also send one to Wes Keller.

Millie Ryan reported that Shelley Hendrix, a national grass roots organizer for autism, is going to help come up with a variety of ideas for an Alaskan grass roots campaign to get the legislators' attention, and Millie will share those ideas with everyone.

## ***DD Committee***

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the DD Committee meets after the Executive Committee, and she has a hard time remembering what they did at the meeting a month ago. They talked about the proposed regulations and looked at their work plan. Teresa Holt added that they also discussed emergency preparedness. Eric Gebhart suggested that Kathy start reporting on what they are going to do at the meeting later in the day, which would be easier for her and more helpful to the Executive Committee.

## ***Education Committee***

Tonja Updike reported that at the last meeting, the Education Committee talked about ASSEC, and Jennifer Jones gave an overview of the three presentations the Council will be doing there. They discussed who would be attending ASSEC and who would do the presentation of the Inclusive Practice Awards. They decided to have an optional lunch meeting to review the nominations for the awards. Eric Gebhart said that he would probably be available for ASSEC.

Tonja Updike reported that they also spent some time on their work plan. Their next meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup> and they will be working on the APR.

## ***Rural Committee***

Teresa Holt stated that the Rural Committee meets again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and hasn't done much. They are waiting for the Online With Libraries project to get going so they can use more of the public Internet access.

## ***Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee***

Ric Nelson reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee met last Monday for the first time and planned how they will do the meetings. The committee members will gather information about people's concerns on Medicaid costs, then discuss it in the committee to try to find solutions.

## **Autism Ad Hoc Committee**

Millie Ryan reported that the training coordination and collaboration group meets this Friday, and all of the various autism organizations will be there to try to find out what each one is doing and work to meet needs without duplicating trainings.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Millie Ryan reported that she, Karen Ward, and Dave Fleurant are going to send a letter to the commissioner about the application process for the grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, which the Council did not get, explaining that because the period closes at 4 p.m. Eastern time, Alaska gets four hours less than other states, which puts Alaska at a disadvantage.

Millie Ryan also reported on recent and upcoming activities:

- Peer Power statewide meeting will be in Fairbanks on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Millie Ryan and Kathy Fitzgerald are making a presentation to the ASES union on December 14<sup>th</sup> about autism insurance.
- The SESA board meets December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Conferences Attended**

Kathy Fitzgerald went to the AFP national conference to support Lucy and Anna and thought it was useful for the Alaska state team to have a chance to meet and talk. Kathy noted that Employment First was a major topic, and the pros and cons of demanding versus leading people to work.

Eric Gebhart stated that he also went to AFP, and to the National Council on Developmental Disabilities before that, which helps him understand the DD perspective.

Ric Nelson reported that he also went to both AFP and NADD, and learned a lot.

Teresa Holt reported that she went to a training by the Board Resource Center of California, and picked up some good stuff on putting information

in “plain language” and using illustrations to make complex ideas simple. Teresa suggested bringing the presenter to the Council’s training meeting in October. She will post some examples online.

Millie Ryan reported that she presented at the TASH conference on Alaska’s Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. Lisa Mills of Wisconsin presented some best practices that states used to assess themselves, and some of the information from other states could be incorporated into the DD Committee’s comments on the regulations.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, noon to 1:30.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.