

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

January 9, 2012

Attendees:

David Flynn  
Eric Gebhart, Chair  
Amy Simpson  
Tonja Updike

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 12:11 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Amy Simpson recited the Council's mission statement: Improving the lives of people with disabilities.

**GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Millie Ryan announced that the Program Performance Report was submitted on time. Eric Gebhart told about his vacation to Las Vegas with his family in which they went to the Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, and found out about a new program similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters for people with disabilities. Eric's son and daughter signed up to be matched with someone.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Millie Ryan reported that the Council sent a letter of support to Senator Harkin for his restraint and seclusion bill, and that she had received the no-cost extension from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for the Alaska Works Initiative.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Council Bylaws**

Eric Gebhart reported that the bylaws have been sent out and now belong to the full Council, so any changes people want to suggest now cannot be made until the January Council meeting, after which they will be approved for the first reading, and then at the May meeting they can be finally approved and made official. The bylaws are on the agenda for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> of the full Council meeting. Eric reminded committee members to be prepared to answer questions, and he will be happy to help people through the process of proposing a change if necessary.

### **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 three main topics will be the Hub, transportation, and the psych residency program. Eric Gebhart, Kathy Fitzgerald, and Ric Nelson are planning to attend. For staff there will be Millie Ryan and Teresa Holt. They plan to discuss the issues on Monday and meet with legislators and staff on Tuesday.

The Complex Behavior Collaborative did not make the Governor's budget. Some representatives from the Trust and executive directors of boards are meeting with Commissioner Streur on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, to discuss what can be done about it.

### **January 2012 Council Meeting Agenda**

Eric Gebhart stated that the draft agenda has been sent out. Millie Ryan added that she will change the bylaws review to first reading of new bylaws, and the time has been changed for when the Legislative Committee gives its report.

Millie Ryan stated that they are updating the annual report, the newsletter is done, and other than a few changes to fact sheets, the legislative packets are ready. Jasmine is working on appointments, trying to set them up for Wednesday, although there will most likely be people coming and

going on the other days. Karaoke will be at the Gold Belt at the hotel on Tuesday night.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FY 14 and 15 Recommendations to the Trust**

Millie Ryan reported that the Council can actually recommend how the Trust spend its money as well as increments, so they usually do a survey. At the June 4<sup>th</sup> face-to-face meeting the Executive Committee can go through those recommendations and write them up for the Trust. Usually people from other state agencies are invited to participate.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair's Report**

Eric Gebhart stated that although he took work along on his vacation, he didn't touch it, so he's still catching up, but he does hope to present some information at the full Council meeting about the organization that his family discovered while in Las Vegas that is like Big Brothers and Big Sisters for people with disabilities.

Eric also stated that he and Millie will be meeting with Commissioner Hanley the day before the Council meeting in Juneau, and they are also trying to set up a meeting with Bruce Johnson, the head of the school administrators association, who is supportive of a lot of what the Governor's Council does, and he hopes to strengthen that relationship.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Early Intervention Committee***

Amy Simpson reported that the Early Intervention Committee is working to finalize a plan and get membership in line, and they have a couple of potential new members. Also, Amy read over the Annual Performance Report that ILP sent to the federal government. Amy Simpson also stated that since children in the child protection service who have substantiated reports of harm have been made Part C eligible because of the ACE study,

more funding will be needed to serve them. With the Governor's fight against domestic violence, the \$3 million ILP increment was expected to be in the budget, and ILP is dismayed that it was not.

### ***Education Committee***

Tonja Updike reported that the Education Committee met last Thursday and had David Tarcy speak on the parent involvement survey. Don Enoch's whole team was on line, and a lot of good information was exchanged.

Tonja also stated that Geri Benshoof reported on the State Board of Education, and wanted to make sure everyone knew that the public comment period for the state standards for math and English is open until May. Geri emphasized the importance of the standards in the standards-based assessments, and urges everyone to look at them and submit written comments or give testimony at their May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tonja said that they also talked about the inclusive practice awards and decided that she and Eric will present them at ASSEC. Tonja reminded everyone that ASSEC is at the same time as Key, and Council members should e-mail Teresa and Jennifer to let them know which event they would like to attend. The inclusive practice committee will meet during lunch the first day of the Council meeting to talk about the awards.

### ***Legislative Committee***

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee spent quite a bit of time trying to get people to send holiday cards to legislators to support the autism insurance bill. They are hoping to expand the card campaign to other holidays now.

David Flynn invited Millie Ryan to talk more about the Hub not being in the Governor's budget, and she suggested that the Legislative Committee should discuss the best approach to that issue in Juneau, whether it should be addressed by both the Council and the Trust or just left to the Trust Advocacy Summit. Millie added that she will be in a meeting later today where she will get a sense of how many provider agreements have been

submitted, and that information could be useful to demonstrate to the legislature that the collaborative is ready to go.

Millie Ryan explained that three of the Council's six recommendations made it in the Governor's budget.

In the budget:

- Project SEARCH
- Deaf community services
- Funding for rural transition services

Not in the budget:

- The Hub
- Funding for Council operations
- Money for employment services for people with developmental disabilities

David Flynn concluded by saying that the job of the Legislative Committee is to be prepared for Juneau in two weeks, and they have been working on the position papers and talking points. They want to send things out early if possible so people will have time to look over the material before they arrive in Juneau.

### ***DD Committee***

Millie Ryan reported that the DD Committee will be meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> to review the regulation changes to the home and community-based waivers. Hearings are scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, and written comments are due by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. Teresa added that the entire chapter on waiver regulations has been rewritten, and going over them and drafting comments has been the main focus of the DD Committee recently.

### ***Rural Committee***

Teresa Holt stated that the Rural Committee has not met since October, but they are going to meet next Wednesday. She explained that committee members have been preparing some transition presentations to do at Full Lives, ASSEC, and the state regional DVR meetings. Another goal for this year is to work with the Department of Education on the transition portion of the special education handbook that is being revised.

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

Millie Ryan stated that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee had their organizing meeting, and will meet again when Ric Nelson is back. Millie said that she had attended the Assistive Technology Consortium recently, and is going to get some good information on how assistive technology can reduce Medicaid costs and pass it on to the Medicaid Committee. Eric Gebhart stated that the Council needs to make sure to tell Commissioner Streur about the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee so he will know that he has a helpful resource there, since he was the one who requested ideas on how to reduce costs.

### ***Autism Ad Hoc Committee***

Millie Ryan reported that they had the training and education meeting with various autism organizations, and were pleased to find that there was no duplication of services. They identified some gaps in services and made a plan to address those.

Millie also reported that the Education Committee is going to resurvey school districts to find out what kinds of school-based programs and interventions they are using, a survey that was last done in 2006.

Millie further stated that Autism Speaks is moving forward with hiring a lobbyist, and is looking for someone business oriented to help appeal to Republicans more.

### ***Executive Director's Report***

Millie Ryan reported that SDS established a Community First committee, which is a potential way to broaden the personal care assistance program to include people who need assistance with cueing and direction more than hands-on physical assistance.

The Council is still working with the Center for Workers with Disabilities to make changes to the Medicaid Buy-In to add long-term employment support, which might help the buy-in to attract more people.

Millie also reported that she has information from a survey of people on the Adults with Physical Disabilities program that she is going to share with SDS showing that there are people who are not eligible for supported employment services who would be interested, and they are looking at what can be provided under the waiver regulations.

Millie Ryan reported on other recent activities:

- Millie went to the meeting with Commissioner Streur.
- The start-up grant from the feds is up for a higher-level evaluation, and Millie and Rich will be meeting with the evaluators on Wednesday.
- A one-time increment for assistive technology made it into the capital budget.
- The Program Performance Report has been submitted to the feds, and they are using that information to put their annual report together.

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

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, February 6th, 2012, noon to 1:30.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.