

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

February 13, 2012

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Eric Gebhart recited the Council's mission statement: Improving the lives of people with disabilities.

GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

No good news or announcements were reported.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson requested that a discussion of the Disability Policy Summit be added under new business. Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. Approval of the agenda **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 9th, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt reported that they are sending letters this week in support of a permanent FASD day and the vulnerable adults bill, HB 86.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Bylaws

Eric Gebhart reported that the bylaws passed the first reading at the January Council meeting. Eric has received some written comments from Heidi Haas, and Eric advises David Flynn and anybody else who wishes to make comments or suggestions to send them to Eric so he can compile them to send out to the full Council along with the bylaws. The bylaws may be amended and/or adopted at the meeting in Girdwood in May, and may take effect immediately or at a later date to be set by the Council.

January 2012 Council Meeting Debriefing

Eric Gebhart reported that it appears that the Council's visit to Juneau was successful and generated some notice. Eric Gebhart, Millie Ryan, and others discussed the Council's legislative priorities:

Autism Insurance

Millie Ryan stated that several legislators had asked for more information on costs, and they are going to send the latest information out to everyone. Millie urged people to follow up and thank legislators for supporting autism insurance, and Teresa Holt reported that she heard last week that the sponsors weren't putting it to a vote yet because many legislators were still wavering.

SESA

Eric Gebhart reported that they had the SESA hearing before House Finance. The Finance Committee had a lot of questions, for which answers have now been provided, and SESA is up for a second hearing soon. Eric and Millie agreed that they should try to get school board members and superintendents to speak at the next hearing.

Complex Behavior Collaborative

Eric Gebhart stated that the hope is that the Complex Behavior Collaborative will make the Governor's amended budget, which will be out soon.

The committee went on to discuss ways to improve the Juneau meeting next year, including having a staff person debrief Council members as they come out of meetings with legislators and compile notes on a computer. Another idea was to give people signing in for public testimony a flyer introducing the Council itself and individual Council members, including photos, their hometowns, seat designations, and e-mail addresses. Millie and Teresa agreed to work on preparing something for review before the Girdwood meeting in May.

Trust Advocacy Summit

Millie Ryan stated that the Trust Advocacy Summit was held in Juneau on January 30th and 31st, the week after the Council meeting, which was good because it repeated the message about the Complex Behavior Collaborative. The timing was also good on the transportation issue, because they were able to thank the House for passing a bill to establish the Community Transportation Advisory Board and tell the Senate it was coming. That bill has now moved out of the Senate Transportation Committee and is on its way to Community and Regional Affairs.

Teresa remarked that this was the first time that Trust Advocacy Summit participants went to talk to legislators, and they did pretty well. Eric Gebhart added that having the Trust and the Council visits back to back helped to show the relationship between the two.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Transition Plan

Eric Gebhart explained that he and Millie Ryan would like the Council to develop a succession plan for the executive director of the Council in case of retirement or emergency. The executive director of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities sent Millie the succession procedure that they developed. Eric Gebhart said that the Texas plan could serve as a template for Alaska's plan, so Eric will send it out to Executive Committee members to read and comment on, after which he will summarize the comments and draft an initial document for the committee to consider.

Disability Policy Summit

Millie Ryan explained that the Disability Policy Summit is two days in Washington, D.C. in April, going through federal legislation and budget situations and visiting the congressional delegation, sponsored by the NACDD and others. The Council's out-of-state travel plan budgets for sending four people. The committee discussed who might go, and Ric Nelson said that he would like to attend.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart stated that he will be in Anchorage on February 21st for lunch and a presentation at ASSEC.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee didn't have a quorum at the last meeting, but they had a good discussion of what they learned from the January Juneau Council meeting and how they could improve their efforts next year. David also stated that Teresa Holt sent out an e-mail today asking people to send out Valentine's Day cards to legislators as a follow-up to the Christmas card campaign, or thank-you notes as appropriate. Finally, David mentioned that the Legislative Committee is looking for new members.

DD Committee

Ric Nelson reported that the DD Committee met last Monday and went over the regulations for the Medicaid waivers. Teresa Holt added that there are three opportunities to give comments on the regulations:

- SDS is holding a teleconference on February 15th from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Duane Mayes is meeting with providers on Tuesday the week of Key Campaign
- From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesday morning, the first day of Key, families and self-advocates are invited to talk with Duane and SDS staff

Education Committee

Tonja Updike reported that at the last meeting, the Education Committee mostly talked about the inclusive practice award nominations. Tonja Updike and Eric Gebhart will present the awards at ASSEC.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson reported that the Early Intervention Committee has not met, so she has nothing to report.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt stated that the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee met last week, and came up with a survey for providers of developmental disability services about their use of technology, which they hope to get sent out by the end of the month.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform had to cancel their last meeting because it was too close to the Juneau trip, and they are scheduled to meet on February 28th.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan reported that she, Eric Gebhart, Patrick Pillai, and P.J. Ford Slack had worked together to answer all of the questions that the House Finance Committee had on the SESA bill, and they also did a two-page double-sided write-up which addresses the major issues that were brought up. Millie added that she does not think it will be possible to get the sunset removed.

Millie Ryan reported on other upcoming activities:

- Bring the Kids Home February 22nd and 23rd in Juneau
- Key Campaign last week of February, with four items on the platform:
 - Reduce the wait list
 - Complex Behavior Collaborative
 - Autism insurance
 - \$3 million for Infant Learning Programs
- Millie and Eric Gebhart are invited to speak to Senate HSS Committee about the Council and its issues March 5th at 1:30 p.m.
- Project SEARCH fidelity review March 5th to 9th

- Project SEARCH statewide meeting April 16th and 17th
- Administration on Developmental Disabilities self-advocacy summit May 10th and 11th in Seattle: Josie Boggs is assembling a state team.
- Office of Disability Employment Policy is offering an opportunity for three states to be protégé states and three to be mentor states around Employment First.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 12th, 2012, noon to 1:30.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

David Flynn asked if the gentleman who had the son who was deaf and blind had ever contacted the Complex Behavior Collaborative or if anyone knew how to contact him.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.