

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

March 12, 2012
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Ric Nelson read the Council's mission statement: Improving the lives of people with disabilities.

GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Simpson announced that she believes she has five new Early Intervention Committee members.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 13th, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie Ryan reported that the Council received an invitation to the ADD self-advocacy conference May 10th and 11th, and they are working with the Disability Law Center, the Center for Human Development, and Peer Power to assemble a team to go. Millie stated that there has also been a lot of e-mail correspondence about legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

Transition Plan

Eric Gebhart explained that he created a draft based on the Texas transition plan, tailoring it to Alaska, and sent it out to committee members this morning. Eric suggested approaching the Trust about help with the labor involved in a job search for a new executive director, since Council members are all volunteers. Discussion ensued about ensuring that the

hiring decision would still belong solely to the Council. Kathy Fitzgerald pointed out that it would probably be best to hire from within Alaska so the person would be familiar with Alaska's systems.

Eric Gebhart noted that his draft directs the Executive Committee to review and revise the executive director job description and qualifications to ensure that they reflect the Council's current and future leadership needs, including minimal knowledge, proven abilities, experience, and education requirements. Eric requested that Executive Committee members look through the draft and send him comments by e-mail so that he can revise it before the April meeting and it can be ready to present to the full Council in May.

Legislative Updates

Complex Behavior Collaborative

Eric Gebhart stated that he called in to Fairbanks and spoke a little to the House committee about the Complex Behavior Collaborative and is going to follow up with an e-mail. Ric Nelson reported that he testified last Tuesday to the House Finance Committee about the CBC. Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the CBC will be in the budget on the Senate side and will go to committee, so the focus now is on keeping it in, and Jeff Jessee is also pushing for it.

Autism Insurance

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that 16 representatives are cross-sponsoring the Senate Bill on autism insurance, and people should continue to target legislators who haven't signed on yet.

SESA

Eric Gebhart reported that Millie and Patrick answered all the questions from the House Finance Committee. Eric stated that the hope is that SESA will come up again soon in House Finance, and Eric and Patrick will go testify when it does, if possible.

NEW BUSINESS

May Council Meeting

Eric Gebhart stated that the agendas from the past two years' meetings were sent out for everyone to look at, and the bylaws will be scheduled for approval early in this year's meeting. Millie Ryan pointed out that last year was different because of the five-year plan, and that typically in May the Council hears from some of their partners about their past year's accomplishments and upcoming year's priorities and then have committee discussions. Millie stated that the three days will be pretty full with that, public testimony, the bylaws, going over the five-year plan, and the succession and transition plans. Discussion ensued about the order of items on the agenda, and Millie stated that she will work on it and send out a revised copy to committee members.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart stated that he has been busy following the legislative session and working on the transition plan. He also needs to confer with David Flynn and Heidi Haas, who missed the bylaws discussion at the January Council meeting, and get the bylaws ready for the May meeting.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee met on Thursday and had a quorum, so they were able to catch up on some old business. David stated that the thank-you and Valentine's cards are generating feedback in Juneau and were a respectful way of reaching out to legislators. David also mentioned that a suggestion came up of taking a position on replacing the term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in state laws and regulations, which entails little cost; the committee tabled the idea to consider for next year.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee has been focused almost exclusively on the proposed Medicaid regulations that were pulled, trying to make sense of them, trying to schedule meetings with Duane Mayes, and working on compiling comments. Kathy stated that the Trust has hired an attorney to work with all of the beneficiary groups to look at the proposed regulations and write their own suggested regulations. Kathy stated that the DD Committee also discusses the wait list every month, and is following the Complex Behavior Collaborative as well as some housing and assistive technology issues. Millie mentioned that James Wiedle from AHFC would like to attend a meeting and talk about working together.

Education Committee

Tonja Updike was not present to give a report.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson reported that the Early Intervention Committee had been struggling to get a quorum lately, and at the February meeting she and Jennifer Jones reviewed the committee membership and made a list of people to contact. Amy stated that she is meeting tomorrow with five people who said they would like to be part of the EIC to orient them on the committee and its work plan so they can start in April.

Amy also reported that she has been working with Stone Soup Group on a plan to get an Early Intervention Family Alliance group going in Alaska.

Amy stated that her agency has been unable to hire an occupational and a physical therapist for almost a year, and has heard from many qualified people that they would take the job if it included student loan forgiveness. Therefore, Amy proposes development of a loan forgiveness program as a possible legislative priority for the Council for next year.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt was not present to give a report.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform met and came up with a list of what they want to focus on, and they are going to look at the different regulations and see how they are going to affect those areas. The Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee's main focus is how to cut down on waste and save money in Medicaid.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan reported from Baltimore, where she is attending a meeting that CMS has with different associations where they will discuss many issues which will be of particular interest to the Developmental Disability Committee. Millie stated that she and Eric Gebhart presented to the Senate Health and Social Services Committee about the Governor's Council, and the HSS Committee said they should do that every year; Millie stated that being better known and understood would improve the Council's advocacy.

Millie also reported that the Council has been working a lot with SESA on a committee substitute bill, and the hope is that it will be scheduled for a hearing this week or next.

Millie Ryan reported on other activities:

- Project SEARCH just did its fidelity review, and Erin Reilly will send a written report to the Council.
- Josie Boggs is working with Peer Power to organize self-advocates statewide.
- Millie and Nancy Burke are going to be on a committee to evaluate proposals next week for an agency to run the mini-grant program.
- SESA board meeting, March 29th
- Early Childhood Mental Health Conference, April 11th and 12th
- Project SEARCH statewide meeting April 16th and 17th
- Disability Policy Seminar the last full week in April
- Jennifer Jones is on medical leave until May 1st.

Millie Ryan concluded by stating that the Trust's program and planning committee is trying to get a better understanding of what the boards do and the populations they represent, so Millie is scheduled to present about the Council on March 27th at 1:30 p.m. The presentation will include data and an explanation of the five-year plan, and Millie suggested that the information might be useful to incorporate into the orientation materials that the Council prepares for new members. Millie will share it with the Executive Committee in April.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 2nd, 2012, from noon to 1:30.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.