

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

April 2, 2012
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Kathy Fitzgerald read the Council's mission statement: Improving the lives of people with disabilities.

GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Gebhart announced that he and his wife will become grandparents in the fall. Teresa Holt announced that she became a great aunt, and Tonja Updike announced that her oldest son turns 11 today. Teresa also noted that yesterday was Millie Ryan's birthday.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 12th, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie stated that they have written letters in support of various legislation, including FASD as a mitigating factor in sentencing, the Governor's abuse reduction bill, and the locating vulnerable adults bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director Transition Plan

Eric Gebhart explained that he made changes to the draft based on the discussion at the last meeting, but forgot to send it out to committee members, so he will do that later today. Eric requested that Executive Committee members look through it and send him comments by e-mail so that he can have it ready to present to the full Council in May. Only the

Executive Committee needs to approve the transition plan, but it should be introduced to the full Council so they understand what will happen when a transition is necessary.

May Council Meeting

Millie Ryan reviewed the agenda for the May Council meeting that she created following input from the last Executive Committee meeting. Millie emphasized that the Council needs to go over the five-year plan and make the changes that are due August 15th, particularly revising objectives to make them more specific. Millie requested that anyone doing PowerPoints at the May meeting give those to staff by April 20th so staff will have enough time to prepare everything for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart stated again that he has the revised transition plan done and will send it out to Executive Committee members today. Eric also stated that he has exchanged some e-mails with David Flynn about the Council bylaws, but still needs to communicate with Heidi. Tonja Updike said that she will have Heidi get in touch with Eric soon about the bylaws.

Eric Gebhart reported that he has also been in contact with Representative Alan Dick and has sent him more information in an effort to get him to cross-sponsor the autism insurance bill. Millie added that her understanding is that it is going to be heard on April 10th.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee had a good meeting last time, but now they need to wait for the legislative outcomes to plan

what to do next. Millie Ryan provided some updates: Senate Bill 74 on autism insurance has a hearing on April 10th, and the committee substitute for House Bill 198, SESA, is now in House Finance and she hopes it will be heard. Also, Millie stated that two budget items are going to conference: the Complex Behavior Collaborative funding, and the funding for rural transition services. Teresa Holt added that the vulnerable adults bill passed both the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee has continued to work on the proposed waiver regulations. Kathy, Ric Nelson, Carrie Predeger, and Teresa Holt met with Duane Mayes and Angela Salerno two afternoons and went over the top dozen issues that AADD and the providers had given to the Department, but the Council had some additional issues that they also discussed. Kathy noted that one big issue raised by the Council and not by the others was that providers or the State would be allowed to immediately disenroll individuals receiving services under some circumstances. Kathy noted that Alzheimer's groups also are concerned about the disenrollment issue, and Millie added that it is already happening.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they also discussed with Duane and Angela the reduction in day hab hours and supported living, and various other issues. Kathy noted that there are some good changes around supported employment. The State is going to meet again with Millie Ryan, Ric Nelson, and more providers, then will put the regulations out for comment again.

Education Committee

Tonja Updike reported that she missed the last Education Committee meeting, and it was short due to telephone problems. Tonja reported from the meeting minutes that Geri Benshoof spoke about the State Board of Education's upcoming meeting, and Patrick Pillai gave an update on SESA. The Education Committee meets again on April 5th and will be doing the annual review of the work plan and deciding on priority recommendations for the May meeting.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson reported that the Early Intervention Committee had to cancel the last meeting, but Amy and Teresa Holt met last week to review the work plan. Amy stated that she has been working on boosting EIC membership and now has four or five names to give to Eric for appointment. Kathy Fitzgerald mentioned that she also met someone who is interested in the ICC, and she will pass on the contact information.

Teresa Holt added that the federal regulations governing early intervention came out, so now the State has to change its regulations to match, which will keep the EIC busy. Amy Simpson noted that she has also been working on workforce development, how to recruit and retain more OT, PT, and speech specialists for infant learning programs.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt reported that the last meeting was in February, and the next one is on April 11th. The committee has prepared a survey about technology use to be sent to providers, but Carrie Predeger wants to wait to send it out until the Council survey goes out.

Teresa Holt stated that Online With Libraries is up and running, and the Council should look for opportunities to facilitate use of the system.

Teresa reported that the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee initiated an update of the memorandum of agreement between the Department and DVR on transition services. The committee also is doing presentations on transitions at Full Lives as well as at ASSEC and the DVR conferences.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform met in February and hopes to meet again next week. Committee members are examining federal and state regulations to try to figure out whether wasteful practices that the group has identified are mandated in the regulations.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan reported that the Council has submitted a continuation grant application to the Office on Violence Against Women to replicate ASPEN, the Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network, in another community.

Millie stated that the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse have been added to the partnership, and the State Independent Living Council has also been invited to be a partner.

Millie Ryan reported on other activities:

- The CDC has a grant application out for health promotion for people with disabilities. Millie and Marcy Rein are meeting today to talk about that.
- The Project SEARCH audit came back saying that all three sites are doing a good job. Some areas for improvement were identified and will be addressed at the statewide Project SEARCH meeting April 16th and 17th.
- SESA is having its legislative audit. Millie spoke with the auditors earlier today, and Eric Gebhart will talk to them this afternoon.
- Full Lives conference, April 18th and 19th
- Disability Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C., week of April 23rd: Millie, Teresa, Kathy, and Ric are going.
- The Trust has a meeting on May 9th to talk about FY '14 and '15 budget recommendations.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 4th, 2012 in Anchorage. It will be an all-day meeting including partner groups to discuss priorities and recommendations for FY '14.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.