

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

August 6, 2012
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director
Teresa Holt
Jennifer Jones
Carrie Predeger

Prepared by: Sheryl Cobb
Administrative Assistant

Call to Order – 12:06 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 are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary today.

Millie Ryan announced that we worked with the Division of Public Health, Section on Women, Children & Family Health and they did get funded. They have set money our way for someone to work on the health promotion part of the plan. Patrick Reinhart is working on that for us. In fact, he is in Atlanta right now attending a grantee meeting. That is a three year grant that he will be working on.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Millie said that the minutes did not get sent out, but the budget recommendations did get sent out.

CORRESPONDENCE

Millie stated that we received the Legislative audit. It is the first management letter about SESA. She will forward it to Eric. It has a set of recommendations related to SESA's interactions with the Department of Education and Early Development and the Boards and updating of policies and procedures.

We submitted a grant to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, supported employment system change grant.

We should hear back sometime this month, but they are only giving 2 grants. Hopefully we will be among the 2.

We heard from the Office Against Violence Against Women that we were not funded for a grant from them but we still have funds from the Trust and Jennifer Jones is working on that project (ASPEN).

We wrote a letter of support for CHD who are working on a grant to the Mat-Su Health Foundation and it is looking at person centered planning and how they might use technology more.

Teresa Holt said that we sent in the DD comments for the waiver regulations.

Carrie also commented that we wrote a letter of support for HUD 811 funds for SDS.

Millie had correspondence with Senator Meyers' office. He is very much interested in championing a bill removing MR from all state regulations. It looks like Tennessee has a very easy user friendly bill that will be one that we will want to look at.

OLD BUSINESS

FY14/15 Recommendations to AMHTA

Eric Gebhart said that he has seen the PowerPoint presentation and he said good job. He felt that Millie articulated well the needs of the Council.

Millie commented that they made 5 recommendations for increments.

1. The Complex Behavioral Health Collaborative. Ongoing \$650,000
2. Infant Learning Program, Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act funding. \$3 million
3. Funding for Council Operations – the Council has unique, extraordinary costs that no other Board or Commission should have on an ongoing basis.
4. Funds for Employment grants within SDS. \$500,000 with \$50,000 carved out for Peer Power.

5. The Rural Transition Funding. There is money in the base from previous years. \$100,000 ongoing.

Capital is presented by all of the boards and we saw some changes. We need to spend some time thinking about our person centered tools, how it will work. The Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults may be able to help us with that along with Mat-Su Health Care Foundation.

The Neurodevelopmental outreach clinic database, I believe that the department is bundling a bunch of databases together.

Transportation – It is in the Governor’s budget as well.

Home modification is still there – the focus was on vision and hearing needs.

Deferred maintenance – slightly different twist, providers can’t get access to the existing state weatherization programs and energy efficiency kind of things because they are non-profit. This would be a way that they could do that.

We have not submitted our policy recommendations yet. That will be done at the September Trust meeting.

- Adequate funding for SESA
- Alternative route to a diploma
- Removal of the exit exam
- Adequate local staff for the disability determination services
- Remove MR from state regulations
- Employment First Initiative
- Beneficiary Board Select funding
- Microenterprise recommendation funding
- Early Childhood Social Emotional (bring the kids home)
- Self Advocate funding for Peer Power
- Related services therapy for regional hub

Millie stated that they are going to be presenting their recommendations to the Trust planning committee on the 8th at 2:30. The Executive Directors will be presenting the Capital Recommendations around 10:30 that day.

The Trustees will be meeting the 5th, 6th and 7th of September, finalizing their recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

October Council Meeting

Draft Agenda was sent out. Deadline is Sept. 21st for submissions of items for Council items. Discussion of Agenda. Change the public testimony time from 6:30-8 pm.

Millie asked for more input concerning the Council's desire for social media and social networking. Eric suggested that we get training in how to use it correctly and to be aware of the dangers are on how people can be duped through social media as well. Amy passed on information gathered at OSEP concerning digital stories like brief You Know Me stories. Kathy suggested education plus presentation of the short stories to show policy makers. Teresa suggested that another approach could be doing a blog.

Millie asked if we would like some time after lunch on Friday to talk what can the Council do based on the information they provide us. Would you like a mini-work session before we get into the special projects? The committee agreed that was a good idea.

It was suggested to have assigned seating so that we can have established Council members near new members. Staff are to work up an arrangement.

Transition Plan for Midwest Academy

Do we have a plan in place for the Midwest Academy planning? How do we sustain that? How are we thinking about we transition and sustain that? Millie commented that we have trained staff.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart reported that when he went to the Superintendent's Conference in Juneau last week, he got a personal meeting with the Commissioner and with Director of Finance Nudelman. They mentioned the SESA report but couldn't give any details. Millie asked if it indeed gets in the department budget we not actually need a bill since there was not support in removing the sunset. Eric will be traveling to Anchorage next Monday for SESA and he and Millie will be doing a presentation on the Council.

Eric thanked Millie again for the explanation for why the Council needs extra funding.

David asked if we need a position paper on SESA and Eric commented that he has been thinking about that and he wasn't exactly sure. We want to have our ideas together and justify what we are doing but he feels that we should allow other meetings with Patrick to occur first.

David also asked for a clarification of what RFR stood for. It is Request For Recommendations.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the committee has been on hiatus. They will be catching up with this week's meeting.

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD committee has been on a single focus phase on the DD regulations and the Conditions of Participation. Carrie and Teresa looked at what the Council wanted to recommend and the letter went out on Friday. She is hoping that they will listen to us. She thought that Disability Law's letter was very nice and raised some legitimate concerns as well. In general, our focus has been in a response mode in dealing with this that it has been hard for us to focus on some of the other areas.

We have done a Midwest Academy on the Employment First stuff and I see the DD committee getting more and more involved in that. In general, the community is feeling that we are going down a medically modeled road and the feeling is we need to work with the Council to dialog with the state with the direction we are going.

Eric asked if the group thought that developing a sub-mission specific to what is happening with regulations since moving towards medical model is moving away from the Council's mission would be something to consider.

Kathy mentioned that there is a meeting the first part of September where the Council will be invited to participate with community members to discuss the direction we are going.

Education Committee

Teresa commented that they are transitioning Patrick into the committee to be the staff member. Teresa and Patrick have been working together. They commented 2 weeks ago about UAS getting approval from the State Board for the 4 year degree on Special Education. They got approved for both undergraduate 4 year degree and a master's degree program for people who had a degree already, just didn't have a teaching or special education certificate.

The next EED stakeholder meeting will be attended by Teresa, Julie and Eric that is going to have a focus on improving graduation rates for student's disabilities.

Teresa mentioned that we lost Taylor as our committee chair and Eric is going to appoint a new person.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson reported that they had done the Midwest Academy on the Early Intervention Funding. We will be able to report on that at the Council meeting.

At the OSEP Conference we had some sessions that we can support where we need to, whether it is with the Governor or beyond for Early

Intervention funding. At the federal level it is a funding doom and Washington D.C. is deadlocked infighting. It made me happy for what we have in Alaska for intervention.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt reported that the committee had not met for a while. They are still working on getting out their survey on technology to DD providers and senior providers.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that they met in June. The committee discussed what they wanted to do. Ric and Carrie are going to meet next week to work on the details. The Committee is going to meet on August 20th to review the final details and write a letter to Commissioner Streur. There was a discussion as to whether to share this letter with the Governor or his health aide. It was decided to wait until letter has been drafted to decide.

Autism Ad Hoc Committee

Millie reported that the group has not met but are planning to survey the school districts to get a better idea of approaches they are using. The last one was done in 2006, so we think things have changes quite a bit.

Executive Director's Report

Millie Ryan reported that she had looked at some changes to staff structure. Patrick Reinhart will be staffing the Education Committee and working on the Health Promotion project. Jennifer Jones will be staffing the Early Intervention Committee and working on our ASPEN project.

She reported that we will be receiving hopefully on a continuing basis from Vocational Rehabilitation, the Project SEARCH increments. One of the particular things we want to do is do some training on how job coaches can better use technology like smart phones to increase people's independence.

Senate Bill 74 celebration at Hope Community Resources that Key Coalition put together.

Millie attended an assistive technology reuse summit. We are looking at how we can increase the scale of how items can be reused. The vision and hearing technology request that has gone to the Trust also has a reuse component.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 10th, 2012 at noon in Anchorage.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.