

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 1, 2013  
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director  
Patrick Reinhart  
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 12:02 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Amy Simpson read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS**

Ric Nelson announced that he will graduate with his bachelor's degree in business administration in about a month.

David Flynn announced that he shot his first caribou last weekend.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Teresa Holt reported that Carrie Predeger sent a letter in support of House Bill 134, the bill to keep providing medisets under Medicaid.

Amy Simpson reported that last Friday the Early Intervention Committee submitted public comment on the state Part C policies and procedures.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Legislative Update**

David Flynn stated that the Legislative Committee had a meeting last week and went through all the bills of interest to the Governor's Council. The Legislative Committee plans to present a summary to the full Council at the May meeting and to recognize people who contributed to items that affect the DD community.

Teresa Holt stated that the budget conference committee should meet next week, and one item they will be taking up is the Complex Behavior Collaborative, which is in the Senate budget for \$450,000 but is not in the House budget. Teresa urged Council members to contact their legislators and ask senators to keep the CBC in the budget, and ask representatives to include the \$450,000. Eric Gebhart added that he would draft a letter and send it out once the budget conference committee is finalized.

Eric Gebhart gave an update on SESA, which was reauthorized on Friday with a new four-year sunset provision and half of the previous funding.

### **Reorganization of Council Committees**

Teresa Holt explained that the PPR has changed the way the Council is required to report on the eight priority areas. Teresa suggested rearranging the committees to better reflect the eight focus areas, noting that the Council has been relying on the Alaska Mobility Coalition for information about transportation, and that there should be a committee to focus on employment. Discussion ensued about how the Governor's Council might reorganize its committees to cover the gaps in the required reporting. Executive Committee members requested something on paper showing possible ways to divide the areas of responsibility, and the issue was tabled without resolution.

### **Sequestration**

Teresa Holt reported that the DD Council funding has been reduced by 4.24 percent, not a full 5 percent because Alaska is a minimum allotment state. The ICC, the SEAP, the Integrated Employment Initiative, and the

health grant will all take a 5 percent cut in funding, and the cuts are cumulative, so it could be 10 percent in the next fiscal year. Teresa noted that there is a training coming up for new executive directors, at which she hopes to find out more about what to expect next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **May Council Meeting Agenda**

The agenda for the May Council meeting was sent to Executive Committee members. Eric Gebhart stated that he has received confirmation from Governor Parnell's office that the Governor will sign HB 88 at the May meeting, although the time has not yet been determined.

Teresa Holt reported that the Commissioner will not be able to attend the May meeting, but plans to come to the October meeting. The Commissioner's Report will be removed from the May meeting agenda. Teresa also noted that they have added under Public Testimony a presentation of awards to two Council staff members for 5 and 20 years of service.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to accept the May 2013 Governor's Council meeting agenda with the amendments that were discussed. The motion **PASSED**.

### **Autism Insurance Follow-up**

Teresa Holt explained that even though the autism insurance bill took effect in January, the work isn't done yet. A task force was formed in November 2012 to work out the logistical details. Heidi Haas represents the Governor's Council on the task force, and the Autism Ad Hoc Committee is involved in helping gather information on best practice models from other states. Amy Simpson suggested asking Representative Saddler's office to give a progress report at the October meeting; Teresa and Patrick agreed that that might help motivate the task force to keep going.

### **Travel to NACDD/ITAC**

Eric Gebhart remarked that the Council needs to monitor travel costs more closely with the budget cuts, so only three people would go to Washington,

D.C. for NACDD and ITAC in July. Eric stated that the incoming chair, Ric Nelson, should be one of them, and Teresa Holt, the new executive director, should be another. The committee agreed that the planner who will be hired soon should be the third, and Ric will have an attendant as well. Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve this decision. The motion **PASSED**.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair's Report**

Eric Gebhart stated that he had already discussed what he has been working on: legislation including HB88 and SESA, and communicating with the Governor's office.

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

Teresa Holt reported that they will be interviewing two people for the planner position this week, and should make a decision by next week on which one to hire. Teresa also stated that the non-permanent position had to wait to be posted until the Workplace Alaska system update is complete, so that opening will close on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and so far they had only received three applications.

Teresa added that Dave Fleurant will soon post the position for an advisor for Peer Power. The advisor will work 20 hours a week, and will be housed in the Governor's Council's back office.

Teresa stated that the Alaska Integrated Employment meeting went well and was attended by many people. Patrick Reinhart added that working groups will start meeting next week as a follow-up.

Teresa reported that they had a "lunch-and-learn" for legislative aides, and about a dozen people benefited from it, although it should be held earlier in the session if they do it again.

Teresa Holt explained that the ASPEN project didn't work out this year because some of the key agencies in the Fairbanks area pulled out at the

last minute. The Governor's Council will not be able to fulfill this obligation to the Trust this year, but they will try again next year.

Teresa reported that she attended a long-term care strategic planning meeting coordinated by Agnew::Beck, and the Council will be following the issue and giving input as the planning proceeds.

Teresa concluded by stating that she has a telephone meeting scheduled with Commissioner Streur on Wednesday, as he has asked her to check in with him every month.

Patrick Reinhart added that the Health and Disability Summit is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>, the day before Full Lives. They are hoping for 50 or 60 people to attend, but not that many have signed up, so Patrick is going to send out an e-mail with information and asked people to spread the word.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***DD Committee***

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee met today, and Teri Tibbett, the FASD Partnership coordinator, came and spoke to them. They discussed gaps in services for people with affected by FASD, and how FASD can present in ways that are functionally similar to developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. Kathy stated that at their next meeting they will plan their presentation to the full Council in May.

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

Amy Simpson reported that the Early Intervention Committee reviewed the state policies on early intervention and provided feedback, particularly about the idea of extending eligibility past the age of 3. The EIC wants to support the 619 program in being able to accommodate children past the age of 3 to open up space for younger kids to get into early intervention programs.

### ***Legislative Committee***

David Flynn reported on the Legislative Committee's activities under Legislative Update, above.

### ***Education Committee***

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Education Committee received a great report from Sam Jordan about graduation rates of students with disabilities and how that relates to the high school exit exam. The Education Committee has a subcommittee on the exit exam, which will give a report at the May Council meeting.

### ***Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee***

Teresa Holt reported that the group has not met since last month.

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

Ric Nelson stated that he had nothing new to report.

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

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the autism ad hoc committee was covered under Autism Insurance Follow-Up above.

### ***Employment Activities***

The Alaska Integrated Employment Meeting was covered under the Executive Director's report above.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

- Full Lives Conference, Anchorage, April 11 and 12
- Disability Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C., April 14 – 17
- Governor's Council meeting, Anchorage, May 7 – 9
- NACDD/ITAC, Washington, D.C., July 8 – 10

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

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 3rd, from noon to 1:30. At that meeting the committee will set a date for the budget FFR meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.