

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

July 24, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson - Chair

Art Delaune

Dean Gates

Taylor Gregg

Karli Lopez

Lucy Odden

Eric Gebhart

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director

Patrick Reinhart

Christie Reinhardt

Amanda Cooper

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order –1:00 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**  
**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS**

Lucy Odden announced that her mother is in the hospital, and Lucy would appreciate it if committee members kept her mother and family in their thoughts and prayers.

Taylor Gregg announced that her brother from Portland had recently visited, and it was nice to visit with him.

Karli Lopez announced that Stone Soup Group's Annual Picnic is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Kincaid Park. The event is open to the public.

Teresa Holt announced that a retirement party for Kathy Fitzgerald is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 from 3:30 to 5:30 at CHD. She noted that Kathy Fitzgerald has been on the Council for 20 years.

Art Delaune announced that Wall Busters in Fairbanks will be hosting a ribbon cutting at the fairgrounds to celebrate the paving of the fairgrounds. Legislators and disability advocates have been invited to attend the event which is being held July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. He also announced that Wall Busters and Access Alaska will have an ADA Celebration at the fair and noted that there are ten local disability organizations involved for a total of about 80 people.

Patrick Reinhart announced that approximately two years ago the Council got involved with a committee of parents of children with disabilities to make Cuddy Park the first large accessible playground. The project is finished and the ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are expecting a large crowd to attend.

## **APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

## **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes for the past meeting were not available for approval and were tabled until the next meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Patrick Reinhart stated that there was follow-up correspondence with Senator Murkowski's office on the work the Council did on the Workforce Investment Act that the Senate Health Education Labor and Pension Committee is working on. The committee was very appreciative of the Council's efforts.

Patrick Reinhart stated there was correspondence with Representative Young's office as follow up to a meeting where he and Ric Nelson provided information comparing the Senate and House versions of the Education Bill. The versions of the bill are so far apart that Patrick suspects that the Council will be asked for more input when the bill goes into conference.

## **REPORTS**

### ***Chair's Report***

Ric Nelson discussed a few changes he would like to make to the meeting structure. He would like to remove the reading of the mission statement at each meeting. He stated that he does not want the mission statement to lose its impact by becoming common. He would like to have it read only at the full Council board meetings instead of every committee meeting. He has also changed the meeting agenda format to have the reports at the beginning of the meeting, which will allow time to discuss important matters that may arise.

Ric Nelson stated that the trip to Washington D.C. was good. He met with Senator Begich's staff and Representative Young's staff, and then also met with Senator Murkowski in person for about an hour. They had a long conversation about the education bills and the Employment First legislation. They also discussed the UN treaty and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and Senator Murkowski suggested that people from different states talk with their senators to garner support for it, and suggested that Ric talk with the congressmen who are in opposition and educate them.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### ***Peer Power***

Lucy Odden reported that Joe Pichler chaired the last meeting of Peer Power, and the group had good attendance at the Board of Director's meeting, but not at the general membership meeting. Ric Nelson announced that Peer Power has hired an advisor, Tracy Golly, who is being educated on what Peer Power does.

### ***DD Committee***

Art Delaune reported that the DD Committee did not meet in July. The next scheduled meeting of the DD Committee is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

### ***Education Committee***

Taylor Gregg reported that the Education Committee did not meet in July. Christie Reinhardt reported that the focus of the committee in the June meeting was the draft regulations on restraint and seclusion, of which they submitted written comments. The draft regulations with comments went to the Legislative Legal Department and came back with all additions intact. The next scheduled meeting of the Education Committee is August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Karli Lopez reported that the Early Intervention Committee did not meet in July. The next scheduled meeting of the Early Intervention Committee is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

### ***Legislative Committee***

Dean Gates reported that the Legislative Committee will meet the fourth Wednesday of each month, which makes July 31<sup>st</sup> the next scheduled meeting date. He reported that the committee is going to be getting organized, producing guides, and making plans to speak with Senator Murkowski about the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization. Some of the priorities the committee will be working on include the regulations on restraint and seclusion, Employment First legislation, and community, state, and national public transportation.

### ***Employment and Transportation***

Lucy Odden reported that the next meeting to discuss Employment and Transportation is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Council office.

### ***Housing***

Teresa Holt reported that the Trust Housing Focus Area met and discussed the long-term care committee report. The report has been forwarded to the DD Committee for review. The DD Committee will be looking at the whole spectrum of services relating to housing.

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

Teresa Holt reported that the Autism Taskforce is looking to develop a comprehensive plan and is looking to the ad hoc committee to identify experts to report on the status of early screening/diagnosis, services, funding, and other systemic services.

## ***Health Grant***

Amanda Cooper reported that at their last meeting they finalized their first year priorities, which are to continue the breast and cervical health project and work on tobacco cessation with the Chronic Disease Center.

Amanda Cooper stated that other focus areas for this group include obesity and adaptive PE, health promotions, a health calendar that will publish health-related events, and local and statewide sponsorship of health-related activities. She noted that they have a Facebook page, *Alaska Health and Disability Programs*, and they have doubled their followers in the past five weeks. She encouraged committee members to check it out and “like” the page.

Amanda Cooper reported that they have been working on an emergency preparedness toolkit that is almost ready for dissemination, and they are also working on some training for first responders and caregivers. They did a training session at Hope Community Resources for the home alliance coordinator that was well received.

Amanda Cooper stated that she will be traveling to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the CDC Mandatory Grantee Training in August, and then to Fairbanks with a display for the Fairbanks Emergency Preparedness Expo, as well as the Fairbanks Vulnerable Adults Awareness Resource Fair at the end of September.

Amanda Cooper asked committee members to consider adding a health committee to the GCDSE, and would like to have a discussion about that at a future meeting.

## ***ASPEN Project***

Amanda Cooper reported that the Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN) is a project that goes into communities to work with various agencies to advocate for women with disabilities who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. The program was piloted in Ketchikan and Dillingham, and they are coming to their two-year mark. There is an ASPEN retreat scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup> at which

time they will gather data to put into report form, and they will disseminate that information as to what impact the pilot project has had on the communities. She noted that Homer will most likely be the next community selection as a replication community.

Amanda Cooper stated that she attended the Disability Justice budget meeting a few weeks ago, and it appears the Trust is going to fund the ASPEN Project through FY15, after which time the funding will most likely move to general funds.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Teresa Holt reported that most of the activity at the Council has been directed towards the budget and streamlining the coding systems. With all the changes in staffing, it had become difficult to track the coding, but with help from Senior and Disability Service, the budget and coding will soon be satisfactory.

Teresa Holt reported that regarding staffing, they still have one person out on leave for at least another month, and will also be interviewing for the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Project coordinator.

Teresa Holt stated while at the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), she received good information relating to developing policies and procedures for the Council. Since the Council does not have a comprehensive document regarding policies and procedures, she and Ric Nelson will be working on developing those for the Council.

Teresa Holt reported that while at the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) meeting, she learned that they are creating new accountability measures for councils. She noted that there is an opportunity to be a pilot group in the next three years piloting the new measures and giving feedback. She and Patrick Reinhart will be weighing the pros and cons of participating in that pilot program.

Teresa Holt attended the big picture meeting hosted by the Department of Health and Social Services where everyone presented their budgets for the year. She reported that the overwhelming message was that there was not going to be any new money. She noted that the Council will need to be proactive in monitoring the changes relating to the DD waivers because the DD waivers increased by 24 percent last year without adding new people.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Five-Year Plan Update**

Patrick Reinhart reported that the draft amendment of the Five-Year Plan went out for comment about a month ago, and thus far they have only received one comment. The plan is due August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Council GF/MH Request for the Complex Behavior Collaborative**

Teresa Holt reported on data she received from Reta Sullivan. There have been 42 people served through CBC, of which 2 were discharged. Currently there are 27 people: 15 adults, 7 adolescents, and 5 children. The majority of people served are people with developmental disabilities and mental health issues or people with only mental health issues. She shared some pre and post CBC cost data with the Executive Committee members.

Teresa Holt stated that the data will be used to garner support for the CBC, which will include not just the individuals served but a training component as well.

### **Capital Recommendations with other Boards**

Teresa Holt reported that the only capital recommendation they have for this year is for essential program equipment for \$500,000, \$250,000 GF and \$250,000 MHTAAR. She noted that these funds are basically for equipment that providers need to replace what they do not have the funds for.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Council Appointments and Re-appointments**

Teresa Holt reported that the re-appointments to the Governor's Council include: Art Delaune, Ric Nelson, Eric Gebhart, and Heidi Haas. The new appointments include: Alexis Henning, David Fleurant, Angelina Fraize, Alex Gimarc, and Christine King.

### **Trust Regional Summits**

Patrick Reinhart reported that in the past the Trust has held the Advocacy Summit in Juneau, but this year the Trust has decided to go out into the community to do mini advocacy summits targeting the communities where Trust beneficiaries reside, then also contact members of House Finance Committee that reside in those communities. The Trust schedule for the mini summits are as follows:

Fairbanks	October 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mat-Su	October 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>
Anchorage	November 5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Juneau	To be determined

### **Reports from ITACC, NACDD, Employment Grant Meetings**

Ric Nelson reported that the ITACC meeting was very informative. There was a discussion about the 5 percent cut to councils, and information about how to talk to congressmen and representatives about more funding for councils. Teresa Holt reported that she attended a session on a logic model, which she found to be useful, and she and Patrick Reinhart attended a session on social media. They were fascinated by the impact some councils were having using social media, and they will be looking into the potential this council may have by participating in more social media.

Teresa Holt and Ric Nelson attended a training related to Alzheimer's and people with developmental disabilities, specifically people with Down's syndrome, and they got some really good information that they will be sharing.



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

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Art Delaune **MOVED** for adjournment. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.