

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 28, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson – Chair
Anna Attla
Dean Gates
Taylor Gregg
Margaret Kossler
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director
Amanda Cooper
Tracy Golly
Patrick Reinhart
Christie Reinhardt
Rich Sanders

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Teresa Holt announced that the Trust has decided on two new focus areas, one of which is beneficiary employment, and since the Council will be the lead, the Trust will pay for a staff person for five years.

Ric Nelson announced that he starts his master's program next week online through UAS. He will be studying public administration.

Lucy Odden announced that her mother is doing better, though she still has good days and bad days.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Teresa requested that the first item under New Business, Approval of FY 14 Budget, be changed to "Discussion of Budget". Teresa explained that with changes in the finance staff at DHSS, the budget wasn't finished in time for this meeting, but she wants to talk about what kind of budget items people would like to have shown in the budget document she is preparing.

Lucy Odden noted that her name was misspelled on the agenda, and should contain two Ds.

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt stated that there was no correspondence to report on.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ric Nelson said that he didn't have much to report on from the past month, but the group needed to arrange a meeting to go over the executive director evaluation. Two possible times discussed were Tuesday, October 1st, in the afternoon or evening before the Council meeting, or Wednesday morning, October 2nd, before the Council's new member orientation. Anna, Lucy, and Taylor stated their preferences, and Ric planned to talk to Dean and Art separately, then decide which time works best.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power met three weeks ago, and they decided to change the bylaws to have general membership meetings quarterly instead of every month. The group also worked on the first half of their work plan, and will finish it at the next meeting.

Ric also announced that Peer Power is going to do their first job fair on September 27th at the Egan Center, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Developmental Disabilities/Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Patrick Reinhart reported that the DD Committee has had difficulty finding times when everyone could meet, but Carrie is working on it. A work plan has been prepared that the DD Committee can pass at the next meeting, which is scheduled for September 11th from 1-3 p.m.

Ric reported on the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee that they had sent the letter to the Commissioner for the fifth time, and this time he received it.

Ric stated that Teresa talked to Commissioner Streur yesterday, and he said he needed a month to review the letter and research the options.

Ric stated that he and Carrie Predeger are planning to visit the Restore at Access Alaska. Patrick Reinhart added that he ran into Jim Beck, who said that they are very interested in looking into options for Medicaid to recertify and resell equipment, and suggested setting up a meeting including Misty from ATLA.

Education Committee

Taylor Gregg reported that they went to the OSEP conference, and she felt she learned a lot. Christie Reinhardt added that at the last Education Committee meeting, the HSGQE subcommittee had given a report with a couple of recommendations. The first recommendation was to lower the age at which a transition plan must be started from 16 years old to 9th grade or 16 years old, whichever comes first. The second recommendation was that at the meeting to create the transition plan, the IEP team should determine the requirements for the student to graduate so the student can just work toward those requirements and avoid high-stakes testing.

Christie Reinhardt noted that the Education Committee is collecting information and comments on the restraint and seclusion legislation, and they are thinking of having a Midwest Academy session the day before the Council meeting to work on how to handle the reporting requirements without too much trouble or expense.

Christie Reinhardt stated that Margaret Kossler is the new co-chair of the Education Committee.

Early Intervention Committee

Karli Lopez reported that at the most recent meeting, Beth Kaplan from Early Hearing Detection and Intervention spoke to them about some of the processes involved in obtaining services and how agencies could collaborate more effectively.

Karli reported that the OSEP conference was awesome, and she learned a lot about telemedicine and what other areas of the country are doing. Karli said that she realized that many other states are also struggling with engaging young parents and making them aware of their rights.

Christie Reinhardt noted that at the next meeting, Mary Arey from SESA with the GAINS project is going to speak to the committee about workforce development and about the social curriculum that they have for early learning, with materials available in three languages.

Karli Lopez added that the group is also looking into opportunities for insurance billing around the state to try to generate more revenue for Part C. Christie Reinhardt noted that Jean Kincaid of AILPA has offered to write a grant to come up with some funding to pay for these Medicaid guidelines, and she would love to have input from the Governor's Council.

Legislative Committee

Dean Gates reported that the Legislative Committee met on July 31st, and meets again the day after this Executive Committee meeting, on August 29th. At the July 31st meeting, Patrick Reinhart shared a letter to Senator Murkowski about the Workforce Investment Act and Rehab Act. Also, Teresa Holt reported on meetings she had attended about the Complex Behavior Collaborative and how to keep it going.

Dean reported that Akis Gialopsos from Representative Millett's office came to the July Legislative Committee meeting and gave a presentation about the Employment First legislation, and the information and input was greatly appreciated.

Other topics discussed at the July meeting included the restraint and seclusion legislation, advocating for a state match for community transportation, the HSGQE, and the accessible taxi ordinance being considered by the Anchorage Assembly. Ric Nelson added that he and David Levy spoke at a meeting of the Transportation Commission on Monday, and were advised to get a hold of Dick Traini as soon as possible to make him understand the importance of accessible transportation in Anchorage.

Employment and Transportation

Lucy Odden reported that not many people came to the first meeting; Rich Sanders added that they need to find more members for this committee, and Ric said they could talk about that at the October meeting.

Lucy stated that the Employment First meeting for September was cancelled and they hope to reschedule for November.

Rich Sanders explained that Roger Shelley, the training coordinator at the Center for Human Development, has developed six courses that will be part of certification for providers to become customized employment providers for DVR and other state agencies. They plan to offer quarterly trainings.

Lucy Odden stated that at the next meeting, the committee will work on their work plan.

Housing

Teresa Holt reported that the Housing Committee has stalled out and has not met. However, at the Trust Planning Committee meeting, they discussed making long-term care the next project of the housing focus area.

Ad Hoc Committee on Autism

Teresa Holt reported that she spent four hours with the Autism Taskforce the day before this meeting, and it was a difficult meeting because everyone used different language and terminology, so a lot of time was spent on explaining what certain terms mean to different people. The main topic of discussion was procedures for screening, early identification, and diagnosis, and trying to come up with recommendations. One main idea was to try to get all providers to start using the Ages and Stages screening tool that the Infant Learning Program has made available for free online, so one standard assessment would be used as children transition through different programs and services.

Health Grant

Amanda Cooper reported that she attended the CDC health and disability grantee meeting in Atlanta, but she will give that report under New Business. Amanda further stated that she and Laura Anderson, her colleague with Women's, Children's, and Family Health, have decided to collaborate with ATLA and Access Alaska on emergency preparedness videos for people with disabilities. The videos will include sign language and voiceovers, and they are currently looking for a film production company that will do it either pro bono or at a discounted rate.

Amanda stated that the Health and Disabilities Steering Committee will meet on Friday, August 30, to discuss activities for the upcoming year. Also, Amanda and Laura Anderson were selected to co-present on the health and disability program at the Alaska Public Health Association Summit in December.

ASPEN Project

Amanda Cooper reported that the Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN) had their face-to-face retreat last week, with five of six agencies represented. Amanda stated that she followed up with Teri Tibbett, who was not able to attend the meeting. They have decided on their focus community for this year, and have received confirmation that all of the local collaboratives are going to participate. Amanda declined to name the community in an effort to keep specific cases confidential, but said that people can find out on a need-to-know basis.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt thanked Patrick Reinhart for going through the hiring manager training. Teresa and Patrick discussed the postings of the employment position and Sheryl's office assistant position. Teresa noted that they hope to rearrange some job duties so they would be able to hire a person with a developmental disability through provisional hire to "walk the walk" for Employment First.

Teresa stated that she and Michelle have been creating an orientation booklet for new Council members. Also, they plan to do things a little differently before the October Council meeting. This year they will get the materials sent out two weeks ahead of time, then follow up with a phone call from staff to each Council member to make sure they received the materials and to answer any questions in the hope that people will feel more prepared for the meeting.

Teresa reported that she met with Mike Lesmann from the Governor's Office, and he committed to do three things to try to help with employment:

- Consider what he can do internally to make provisional hire part of the official hiring process, so a hiring manager would be required to think about whether they had contacted DVR, etc., about potential job candidates.
- Work with staff in the Governor's Office to try to get the Governor to sponsor Employment First legislation.
- Work with the Department of Administration to find some potential partners in Juneau to make the State of Alaska the business that hires people with disabilities for the next Project SEARCH site.

Teresa added that she and Ric are going to present at the Trust meeting next week, and they hope to make it official that beneficiary employment will be the next focus area and that the Governor's Council gets to provide guidance on how to spend a million dollars in this area.

OLD BUSINESS

Five-Year Plan Amendments

Patrick Reinhart reported that the draft amendment of the Five-Year Plan went out for comment quite a while ago, and they have received only one substantial comment. The plan was due August 15th, and it has been submitted online. Now one of the administrators at the federal agency has requested a "what did you change" summary, so Patrick is preparing that to send tomorrow.

Trust Regional Summits

Patrick Reinhart explained that the Trust has done advocacy summits the past several years in which all the beneficiary boards get together to go over the legislative agenda items. Now they've started having advocacy summits in different regions, and one is scheduled at the Fairbanks Resource Agency on October 1st and 2nd, the same days as the Governor's Council meeting. The first day will consist of training on how to be effective advocates, and each beneficiary group is asked to identify five people from their group that can participate. The second day will be occupied with presentations to legislators and site visits.

Another advocacy summit is scheduled for October 8th and 9th at the Wasilla Senior Center. There will also be summits in Anchorage and Juneau this fall, but those have not been scheduled yet. Patrick stated that the Council's job is to try to arrange some of the site visits and to find five people to participate in the summits, despite the scheduling conflict with the October Council meeting.

Approval of Letter to Nenana School Board

Ric Nelson explained that Eric Gebhart had requested a letter from the Governor's Council thanking the Nenana School Board for giving him time to serve as Council chair over the past year. Teresa commented that the name Jason Hooley under Boards and Commissions needed to be changed to Elizabeth Giardina, and Dean Gates suggested sending a copy of the letter directly to Governor Parnell instead of addressing it to Boards and Commissions. Ric Nelson remarked that he liked that idea.

Dean Gates **MOVED** to approve the letter with these revisions. The motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of FY 14 Budget

Teresa Holt explained that she doesn't have the budget ready to present yet, but she would like to make it more detailed than the five lines it has

been in the past. Teresa asked Executive Committee members for input about what kind of things they would like to be able to see in the budget. Teresa said that as they create a new system for tracking the budgets in the Council office, it could be designed to be able to calculate the cost of a Council meeting, or to show how much is spent on rent, for example. Ric noted that he would like to be able to see the costs for the October and January meetings and for the CART services. Karli said that she would like to see the hard-to-decipher ALDER report and then talk about it more.

Approval of October meeting agenda

Ric Nelson noted that the agenda had been sent out and asked if everyone had reviewed it. Dean Gates requested that the Council's mission be read first thing in the morning instead of at 1:00. Ric noted that 1:00 is the official start of the meeting, but he will read the Council mission at the new member orientation earlier and at other times throughout the meeting.

Karli Lopez asked when they would talk with new members about joining committees, and it was noted that that needed to be added.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda for the October Council meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Trust Planning Committee Meeting

Ric Nelson and Teresa Holt noted that this was discussed earlier.

Report from OSEP and CDC Conferences

Christie Reinhardt reported that it was fun to go with Karli's baby into a room full of 800 early intervention specialists at OSEP. Christie remarked that the most powerful part for her was Arne Duncan talking about the cosmic alignment of the White House and the Department of Education working together to be very supportive of early education. Also, Christie noted that someone remarked that equal access to quality education is the next battleground in the civil rights movement.

Amanda Cooper reported that the CDC conference included topics on health and disabilities surveillance, health promotion activities for people with disabilities, emergency preparedness, and disability-related health policy initiatives, including how the Affordable Care Act will affect people with disabilities. Amanda stated that two highlights for her were workshops on utilizing appropriate communication methods for your audience, and on strengthening disability emergency planning.

Amanda reported that significant time was spent on state grantees sharing their projects so people could hear what others were doing. Also, they toured the CDC's Emergency Operations Center, and they were informed that the CDC is currently responding to an outbreak of polio in Somalia; without this intervention polio would be worldwide again in three years. Amanda concluded by saying that it was a great conference that really solidified their passion for what they are doing.

Taylor Gregg reported that she learned a lot of things that she didn't know, and the breakout sessions were really interesting. Karli Lopez added that it was nice to see that other states are confronting similar issues and to make some connections with people from other states and agencies and talk about how they are handling those challenges.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ric Nelson noted that he and Teresa had decided to include the times and dates of all the committee meetings on the Executive Committee's agenda in case someone wanted to attend another meeting. Karli Lopez requested that this list be sent out to the entire Council with contact information for committee chairs, and Ric thanked her for that idea.

- **Peer Power:** 9/3 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- **Developmental Disabilities Committee:** 9/11 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Early Intervention Committee:** 9/11 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Health and Disability Committee:** 9/12 from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Employment & Transportation Committee:** 9/16, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Education Committee:** 9/19 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- **Legislative Committee:** 9/26 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- **Trustee Meeting** in Anchorage 9/4 – 9/6
- **SESA Board Meeting** in Anchorage 9/9
- **Home and Community-Based Services Conference** in Washington, D.C. 9/10 through 9/13
- **State Board of EED** in Nome, 9/24 – 9/25
- **Governor’s Council Meeting** in Anchorage 10/2 – 10/4

TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for September 25th, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden **MOVED** for adjournment. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.