

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

December 2, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director
Amanda Cooper
Christie Reinhardt
Kristin Vandagriff

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

Lucy Odden mentioned that her mother had died about a month ago.

Taylor Gregg announced that she is going to Hawaii later this month.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson noted that under Old Business, a discussion of the budget needed to be added to the agenda. Teresa Holt reminded Ric that he wanted to add discussing a Council retreat under New Business. With these amendments, Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt stated that the Governor's Council sent a letter to Secretary Sebelius regarding the federal regulations for home and community-based waivers.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ric Nelson reported that they had met with the Trust and it went well.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Legislative Committee

Teresa Holt reported that they are almost done with the restraint and seclusion bill. Christie Reinhardt added that she planned to send it to the legal department this afternoon.

Teresa also reported that they had received the first draft of the Employment First bill, and it was different than they had expected. Teresa said that she and Christie have been going over it and will send it out to everyone when it is closer to a final version.

Teresa added that Hannah and Kristin have made a list of action steps for both of these bills, and the Legislative Committee will be looking at those and figuring out who will do what at next week's meeting.

Early Intervention Committee

Karli Lopez reported that the EIC has been having lots of fun reviewing the new regulations and getting ready to send in comments. Also, they are still working on getting a survey out to providers, and hope to meet with AILPA about the questions to be included in the survey.

Employment and Transportation Committee

Lucy Odden reported that the Employment and Transportation Committee met on November 12th. Rich Sanders e-mailed Lucy a list of things to mention, as he was not able to attend today's meeting.

Under the AIEI grant, the customized employment basic training for providers was held in Juneau on November 18th – 20th, and 12 providers attended from Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan. Follow-up for those providers will take place from February to April. Also, a Project SEARCH meeting was held in Juneau in early November.

Lucy reported that the survey on youth and parents was extended to allow for more responses, and Don Enoch with the Department of Education and Early Development agreed to send the survey out through their special education coordinators to get more participation.

Lucy Odden stated that Rich Sanders had met with SDS, Public Assistance, DVR, and other state agencies to talk about working together on the Trust employment focus area. The meetings went well, and the various agencies will be at the employment summit which is planned for May 29th and 30th, 2014.

Lucy stated that the Anchorage Assembly had held public testimony on the taxi ordinance, and a workshop will be held; Lucy noted that Ric Nelson said it would be good if the vote were postponed to give more time for the Council to educate Assembly members.

On Employment First, Lucy said that they are still waiting to see the draft, but Kristin and Hannah have been researching what other states have done and what works and doesn't work.

Kristin Vandagriff added that for the next Employment and Transportation Committee meeting, they will have a guest speaker, Wendy Parent, who was on the Kansas Employment First commission and then helped with the national movement as well. Wendy Parent will speak for the first 45 minutes of the meeting on what she knows about Employment First.

Housing

Teresa Holt stated that the housing focus area has not met.

Autism

Teresa Holt reported that the autism group met, and she wasn't there, but they were planning to go over drafts of their recommendations.

Health Grant

Amanda Cooper reported that the Health and Disability Program Committee has changed their regular meeting time to the second Wednesday of every month from 2 to 3 p.m. Amanda stated that they have been working really hard on beginning the strategic planning process, with the goal of having a draft of their strategic plan completed by the end of the

fiscal year in June. They have assigned leads for each of their focus areas who are pulling together people with expertise in those areas to contribute.

Amanda noted that later today, they are meeting with the Anchorage Police Department about developing some videos for police officers on disability awareness and how to communicate and work with people with disabilities.

Amanda added that she is on the steering committee for the Alaska Rural Health Conference, and she is disheartened over the fact that in spite of her efforts to incorporate some sort of disability presentation into the conference in April, she has been unsuccessful so far.

Amanda also stated that she is on the advisory team for Healthy Alaskans 2020, and that is moving along swiftly, with objectives and focus areas drafted. Amanda stated that they have grouped issues into about ten focus areas, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and child abuse in one group. Other focus areas include unintentional injury; mental health; obesity; cancer; cardiovascular disease; and others.

Finally, Amanda noted that her colleague on the CBC health and disability grant and their grant program manager, Laura Andersen, is moving back to Minnesota at the end of the month.

ASPEN Project

Amanda Cooper reported that the Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network (ASPEN) has gotten really busy. They have received contracts back from all of the agencies in their focus community, as well as staff lists and policies and procedures from each agency. They have sent out recruitment materials for their focus groups, and Amanda and some people from the Center for Human Development will be holding two full days of focus groups in that community on December 17th and 18th. By the end of December they will also have conducted interviews with a random sample of each agency's board members, directors, and staff.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power held their general membership meeting, and nobody came. They also had a board meeting, and Anna Attla is the new treasurer. Ric stated that they have flyers, brochures, and business cards at the print shop now, and the next meeting will be in January.

Developmental Disabilities

Art Delaune reported that the DD Committee met on November 6th, and they had good attendance. They are still trying to get more information from Maureen Harwood about how many people drawn for the waivers each month are found to be ineligible. Art stated that Maureen had told the DD Committee that the cost of the I/DD waiver is higher than the others, and Ric had asked her to bring more information about that.

Art mentioned that Key Coalition's lobbyist of 20 years, Clark Gruening, had resigned, and Key has appointed a task force to find a replacement.

Art stated that he and Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus are continuing to work on forming the FASD workforce committee, and they are going to meet in about a week to discuss the purpose of the committee and how the committee could help people with FASD, as well as how the Council could be involved.

In closing, Art Delaune noted that Mark Romick had attended the last meeting on behalf of AHFC, and AHFC is looking for a replacement for James Wiedle.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson reported that on Friday, he, Patrick Reinhart, Carrie Predeger, Heidi Frost from SILC, and Jim Beck from Access Alaska are planning to meet to go over what Patrick found out in Wisconsin about restoring equipment and how it works. Also, Ric and Teresa Holt are going to meet soon with Duane Mayes from SDS and Margaret Brodie from Medicaid.

Education Committee

Taylor Gregg reported that the Education Committee has been working on the restraint and seclusion bill. Christie Reinhardt added that she is going to give testimony for the second time to the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt reported that the Council is fully staffed for the first time in several years. Also, staff have been working with the Trust on the scorecard, which is a measure of indicators of whether Trust beneficiaries are doing better or worse. Teresa said that most of the indicators are pretty generic, but they had asked the Trust to change the ones around graduation rates to show a comparison between students with disabilities and students without disabilities.

Teresa stated that they are working on the Program Performance Report which is due December 31st, in which the Council is required to show what has been done on the indicators in the Five-Year Plan. Teresa noted that the data given is required to be backed up with information on how they got those numbers, and Patrick Reinhart is responsible for that, so he will be under a lot of stress this month.

Teresa Holt also reported that she has been frustrated in trying to get year-to-date budget information from SDS, which she wanted to bring to this meeting. In the process of trying to obtain that information, it was discovered that a list of salaries that Teresa was given in June did not include the fringes for a couple of positions, which amounts to about \$40,000. However, Teresa said that the Council has about a hundred thousand dollars in unspent funds from previous years in the federal bank account, but she has not been able to figure out how to pull it down yet because the lady who is responsible for that has been on vacation for three weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

PCA Policy Review

Ric Nelson led a discussion of the draft of a PCA policy, on which Dean Gates had submitted some suggestions. The policy instructs personal care attendants not to interfere or voice their personal opinions during Council meetings. Ric questioned the purpose of having a policy if there are no consequences for breaking it. Others replied that outlining expected behavior could help people behave more appropriately so there would be no need for punishments. The Executive Committee decided to discuss it with the full Council at the January meeting.

Rate Regulation Update

Ric Nelson stated that they got a letter back from the Office of Rate Review saying that they are not going to change the regulations until July of 2015, so there will be more time to talk about it. Teresa Holt added that the commissioner said at the Trust meeting that they decided to postpone the rate changes because of concerns about the cost study, which they wanted to address.

Executive Director Evaluation

Ric said that the committee couldn't discuss the ED evaluation without Teresa, who had already left for another meeting. However, Teresa was still on the phone, and she said that she didn't understand why this was on the agenda, since Ric had told her that the evaluation was going to be kept the same. Ric replied that they were going to keep the same format, but change it to be more user-friendly.

Discussion of the Budget

Ric noted that the budget had been discussed under the Executive Director's report, and asked if anyone had any questions. Karli Lopez asked where in the state budget does the Governor's Council money come from, and who the Council would talk to to get the numbers. Karli expressed concerns about the number of different layers and spreadsheets

involved in the budget, and noted that many Council members have business backgrounds and would be able to decipher a complex budget.

Teresa Holt explained that SDS is the agency that handles the Governor's Council finances and does the federal financial reporting, and Ric Nelson added that they have been fighting on this issue for five or six years. Teresa said that it is an inherent conflict across the nation with all of the DD councils that are part of state government, but the bonus is that as part of the state government, the state does not charge for all of the financial services that they provide. The only way to get out of it would be to become their own nonprofit, but fiscally it would probably not survive, Teresa said.

NEW BUSINESS

January Council Meeting Agenda

Ric Nelson and Teresa Holt reviewed the agenda for the January Council meeting in Juneau. Ric noted that they are asking everyone not to leave until the end of the day on Thursday.

Ric Nelson said that the Executive Committee had talked about having a retreat to help everyone focus on the reason why they are on the Council. Ric suggested doing it in Juneau on the Monday before the Council meeting. Ric noted that Teresa had informed him that it could not be a closed-door retreat, so they would allow the public to attend, but not to give comments.

Teresa Holt cautioned the committee that it would be quite expensive to add a day to the Juneau meeting, and it might require the Council to cut the travel budget elsewhere. However, Ric and other committee members felt that the retreat could not wait until May, and another benefit of doing it in Juneau is that they would have a captive audience.

With five years and one day, it was decided to hold the retreat on Monday, January 20th, in Juneau. However, approval of the agenda for the January Council meeting was tabled until the Executive Committee's next meeting on December 20th.

Update from AADD Meeting

Teresa Holt had to join another meeting at this time, so she could not give the update.

Update from Trust Meeting on November 21

Ric Nelson reported that he and Teresa presented to the Trust on the Governor's Council's priorities from last year and this year. Teresa gave an update on the I/DD waiver, and they talked about Employment First legislation.

Possible Purchase of iPads for Council

Ric Nelson explained that he would like to start running meetings electronically to make things easier and more efficient. He suggests buying iPads for each Council member, which would cost around \$36,000, and the Council could ask the Trust to help pay for them, with the Council paying only for the service plan.

Karli Lopez pointed out many problems that could arise, and suggested that it be done only on an as-needed basis for individual Council members, and others could use their own devices. Ric said that he hadn't thought about all of that, and he suggested tabling the idea until the next meeting.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Peer Power:** No meetings in December
- **Developmental Disabilities Committee:** 12/4 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Employment & Transportation Committee:** 12/10, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Early Intervention Committee:** 12/11 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Health and Disability Committee:** 12/11 from 2 to 3 p.m.
- **Education Committee:** 12/19 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- **Legislative Committee:** 12/05 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- **AADD Meeting** by telephone on December 12

- **Trust Planning Committee** in Anchorage December 18

TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for December 20th, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Dean Gates **MOVED** for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.