

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

February 26, 2014
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Anna Attla
Art Delaune
Dean Gates
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karli Lopez announced her baby's one year birthday.

Teresa Holt announced that Amanda Cooper will no longer be with the Council as she has accepted a position with Public Health. Friday will be her last day with the Council.

Christie Reinhardt shared that she is closing on her new house today.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Committee members discussed amendments to the agenda taking off the discussion about purchase of the iPads. This issue will be moved to the next meeting agenda. There was also a correction to the date and time of the next meeting. Karli Lopez **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 21 and January 31, 2014 meetings. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt reported that the Alaska Brain Injury Network has asked for the Council's support on funding increments they are requesting from the legislature for approximately \$200,000 for office and technology upgrades. Teresa stated that she felt uncomfortable writing a letter of support for ABIN's legislative increments when the Council has asked for an increment for the Complex Behavior Collaborative, and during these tight budgetary times, she felt that the ABIN request may be competing with the CBC for state dollars.

After discussion among committee members, Karli Lopez **MOVED** that the Council write a letter of support for the request from ABIN to the legislature.

A vote was taken with five in favor and one opposed. The motion **PASSED**.

Teresa Holt reported that the other piece of correspondence is that SDS and ABIN are making a new application for a HRSA grant to receive federal funds to expand case management services for people with traumatic brain injuries. They are looking for a letter of support from the Council.

Karli Lopez **MOVED** that the Council write a letter of support. The motion **PASSED** unopposed.

REPORTS

Due to time constraints, reports will be made in written form and sent to Teresa Holt for distribution to Executive Committee members.

OLD BUSINESS

January Council Meeting Debrief

Council members shared their perspectives of things that worked or didn't work during the January Council meeting as follows:

- Review the schedule of legislative meetings to ensure that some people aren't overbooked with meetings while others seem to not have enough meetings.
- Reconfigure the meeting schedule so it is easier to read with the time and representative listed and then the Council members meeting with them listed underneath.
- Liked being asked which representatives the Council member would like to visit in addition to their district representative.
- It would be helpful for new Council members to have their first legislative meeting with a representative known to be supportive of Council issues.
- Would be helpful to have a practice session before legislative visits.
- Survey all Council members to ask for their feedback from the meeting.
- Instead of using the spreadsheet of legislative visits on the wall, it would be helpful to have the schedule e-mailed to Council members.

Teresa Holt stated that staff discussed working with a local provider to print off hard copy schedules for Council members when in Juneau. Many of the legislative appointments are scheduled at the last minute, so it would not be something that staff could do in advance of the Council meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the timing of the Council's visit to the legislature being the first week of the session. Committee members discussed other options such as overlapping the meeting with Key Campaign. Teresa Holt noted that other groups, such as the Trust, have scheduled their visits on other weeks, and it has been a successful opportunity to have the Council visit in January and then have Key visit a few weeks later to reaffirm the Council's positions. Another advantage to being so close to the start of the session is that there are not many other people in the halls of the Capitol, and the Council often gets good appointment times.

Ric Nelson suggested moving the meeting dates to the end of the week instead of the beginning, and Teresa Holt noted that they can't get airline reservations out on Friday.

Dean Gates also noted that many disability-related bills were filed right at the beginning of the session, and it would have been nice to be able to review those bills prior to their meeting so the Council could have taken a position on them while they were in Juneau.

Update from AADD Meeting on February 10

Teresa Holt reported that the Council did a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the AADD meeting and informed them of the Council's priorities. The two groups also discussed further collaboration, and the suggestion was made for the two executive committees from AADD and the Council to get together and work on collaboration.

Art Delaune added that most of the AADD meeting was spent dealing with Medicaid issues and the MMIS billing system, which is still not working right. AADD continues to be frustrated by the MMIS. The Department is stating that they hope to get the system fixed in the next year.

Key Campaign

Ric Nelson reported that Key Campaign was very small this year. In addition to meeting with legislators, they met with the Governor himself. Key Campaign asked for the DSP task force, and the Governor was receptive to that and asked Mike Lesmann to work on it.

Teresa Holt reported that the Council spent \$5,000 to provide airfare for 11 people to attend Key.

Art Delaune stated that he enjoyed attending Key Campaign. He was able to meet with some of the same legislators he visited while he was in Juneau with the Council, and it was just a matter of refreshing the legislators about the issues discussed during the January Council legislative visits. It also allowed them time to expand more on those same issues and even talk about other issues. He felt that Key following a couple weeks after the Council was effective.

Executive Director Supervision

Ric Nelson asked committee members to reference the letters regarding the executive director's supervision. Karli Lopez asked if the committee needed to go into executive session to discuss this issue. Teresa Holt requested the discussion stay on the record and the Executive Committee not go into executive session.

The Executive Committee and Teresa Holt engaged in a discussion regarding some of the details of her response letter to the original letter from the Executive Committee regarding her performance. Teresa Holt took the opportunity to clarify some of her responses.

A discussion ensued regarding the Executive Committee communicating with Teresa Holt by the use of face-to-face weekly meetings versus Teresa's suggestion of weekly reports to the Executive Committee. Committee members were in favor of continuing the weekly meetings and rotating committee members that participate in those weekly meetings.

Committee members and Teresa Holt discussed the conflict that currently exists between the chair and the executive director. Committee members

and Teresa agreed that one option would be to work with Foraker Group, who has expressed a willingness to participate in a solution, and the Trust has offered to pay for it.

The committee members also expressed concern that they have no guidance on how to operate, and everyone they have asked for assistance has told them that the Council is a unique group and has offered no suggestions. Teresa Holt added that this may also be something Foraker Group may be able to help the Council out with. She also noted that the Council has no operating policies or procedures. Dean Gates further suggested the Council put something in writing to the Department of Law to get a legal opinion on how the Council is supposed to operate in regards to the relationship with the executive director. Teresa Holt suggested contacting the NACDD technical assistance person and asking for assistance with this matter.

Teresa Holt referenced the Executive Committee's request to have a meeting between the Council members and the Trustees arranged no later than May 31st. She noted that due to scheduling difficulties, the first potential meeting may not take place until May of 2015. She stated that at the direction of the Executive Committee, she will draft a letter to the Trustees and present it to the Executive Committee for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Budget: Council Travel, Disability Policy Summit, Transcription Costs for Peer Power

Teresa Holt reviewed items in the Council budget including personnel issues, transcription, and PCA and respite. She reviewed the transcription costs with committee members. A discussion ensued about transcription and minute preparation, and Ric Nelson noted that Peer Power is not a committee of the Council and should not be receiving transcription and minute preparation. They also discussed the Council paying for the conference calls for Peer Power meetings, and Teresa Holt stated that staff can research the cost of the calls the Council is currently covering. Ric stated he thinks there is a cost-free option for Peer Power to do the teleconference calls.

Teresa Holt then reviewed the Council travel budget noting that not all of the travel expenses from the January Council meeting and the Key Campaign have been logged into the system yet, so budget actuals are based on 1/14/14 amounts. Teresa also reviewed the upcoming meetings that also have travel associated with them.

The Council travel budget will be finalized for approval at the June face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee. She will have the travel budget itemized by travel, PCA/respice, and conference fees so the Executive Committee can more easily track expenses.

A discussion ensued regarding the Disability Policy Summit to be held in Washington, D.C. in April. Teresa Holt stated that Patrick Reinhart will be attending as staff to the Council. Karli Lopez **MOVED** that the Council send Dean Gates to the Disability Policy Summit.

April Meeting Planning

Teresa stated that the April Council meeting will be held at the new Special Olympics building in Anchorage at no cost. The Council will also be able to spend less money on food for the meeting because catering is not required at this location.

Discussion Regarding Agenda

Teresa Holt stated that the spring Council meeting is typically a planning meeting, and they review past accomplishments and recommendations from each committee about the next year's work plan. She stated that she will draft an agenda based on last year's agenda for review by the Executive Committee. She noted that Foraker Group will be available to do a board training on the morning of April 28th.

Karli Lopez stated that they need to have an agenda item during the April meeting regarding the retreat discussion of a one-stop shop. Teresa Holt asked Karli Lopez to e-mail her information regarding that issue, and she will add it to the agenda.

Committee members discussed having their April Executive Committee meeting after the first day of the meeting before the start of public

testimony. The committee agreed that the theme for the public testimony should be education. Dean Gates suggested ensuring the public testimony is well advertised. Karli Lopez stated that last year there was an actual Facebook event created for the Council's public testimony, which was really nice.

Council's Position on Current Bills in the Legislature

Dean Gates stated that the Legislative Committee discussed some of the current disability-related bills in the legislature and had asked the Executive Committee to take a position for the Council.

Dean Gates stated that the Legislative Committee asked the Executive Committee to vote on a motion to support all the education bills that include the repeal of the removal of the HSGQE. Christie Reinhardt added that the Education Committee reviewed the House and Senate bills for the removal of the HSGQE and made a recommendation that the Council endorse those bills. Christie further stated that the larger comprehensive Governor's bill has some pieces in it that the Education Committee is not in support of.

Dean Gates **MOVED** that the Executive Committee of the Council support passage of House Bill 220 and the Senate companion bill. The motion **PASSED** unopposed.

Dean Gates **MOVED** to support House Bill 232, the disability designation on a state ID.

Teresa Holt informed the Executive Committee that the bill is to voluntarily designate on an identification card that a person has a disability. It also requires disability training for first responders and court officers and staff. Teresa stated that the Council asked Representative Thompson to amend the bill to have the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority as the designated agency and not the Governor's Council. She stated that they have not heard a response yet.

A vote was taken with four in favor and two opposed. The motion **PASSED**.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- DD Committee – 3/5/14, 1:00 – 3:00
- Employment & Transportation Committee – 3/11/14, 1:00 – 2:30
- Peer Power – 3/11/14, 5:15 – 6:30
- Early Intervention Committee – 3/12/14, 10:00 – 11:30
- Health and Disability Committee – 3/12/14, 2:00 – 3:00
- Education Committee – 3/20/14, 1:30 – 3:00
- Executive Committee – 4/1/14, 1:30 – 3:00
- Legislative Committee – 2/27/14, 12:00 – 1:30

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- SESA Board meeting, March 13 - 14
- Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., April 7 – 9.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 1, 2014 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

Karli Lopez **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.