

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date

September 25, 2014  
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair  
Dean Gates  
Art Delaune  
Karli Lopez  
Lucy Odden

Staff:

Teresa Holt  
Patrick Reinhart  
Brittney Howell

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo,  
Peninsula Reporting

## Call to Order – 12:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Ric Nelson welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

### ***Announcements and Good News***

Lucy Odden announced that she will be working in Fairbanks the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>, and it will be her first business trip. She will need Tracy Golly to complete the minutes of the October 9<sup>th</sup> Peer Power meeting in her absence.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

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

Lucy **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from August 27, 2014 as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Dean Gates asked for clarification from the August 27<sup>th</sup> minutes about the letters of support that were requested by Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation. Teresa Holt explained that they were sent out for the last meeting, and the minutes reflect that those letters had been sent.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart reminded the Executive Committee about the Council's concept of promoting the reuse and recycling of Medicaid and State-purchased durable medical equipment. This information was forwarded to DHSS, and the office of Medicaid Health Care Services put out draft regulations earlier in the summer that would allow Medicaid to engage in this process. The package of draft Medicaid regulations was somewhat controversial in the provider world, so the issue has been set aside. The Council has written a letter of support to get this topic moving forward again.

Teresa Holt further explained that she forwarded the letter to Tara Horton

and the DHSS Commissioner, and Tara replied stating that the letter had been forwarded to Deputy Director Josh Applebee.

## **REPORTS**

### ***CHAIR'S REPORT***

Ric Nelson reported that he attended the Home and Community-Based Services Conference last week. He learned a lot about the new regulations coming into play from the federal CMS. He stated that the regulations are changing dramatically. States only have five years to comply, and they have one year to give the feds a plan.

Ric stated that the PCA association and SDS are making suggested changes such as PCA electronic visit verification, and a way to catch up on the backlog of assessments by allowing people to come into the SDS office to do their assessments.

Teresa Holt added that the electronic visit verification stems from the number of fraud investigations taking place in the state. She stated that there are numerous types of systems available, and the state hasn't decided which one they are going to pilot yet. Ric Nelson also added that they are looking into changing the Medicaid coupons to be a Medicaid credit card or Medicaid on the smart phone.

### ***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT***

Teresa Holt reported that the Alaska Brain Injury Network has hired a new executive directory, Tawny Buck.

She stated that she did an orientation with the new Council members, and Britteny Howell put all the information up on the website instead of using the big orientation notebooks.

Teresa reported that the staff has been preparing all the materials for the Council meeting next week.

Teresa stated that she is still working on getting all the reimbursable services agreements finalized and signed. And then as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, they can turn in their carryover money for the AIEI grant.

Teresa Holt reported on the highlights from the Trust budget meeting as follows:

- The FY'16 budget for the Trust is \$28,124,800.
- DD mini-grants received a \$49,700 increase.
- Coordinated communications received a \$50,000 increase.
- Cognitive impaired offenders conference received a \$7,500 increase.
- The Trust Training Cooperative received a \$29,000 increase.
- ADRCs received a \$175,000 increase.
- ASPEN will continue to be funded at \$150,000.
- The Council research analyst position saw an increase to \$122,800 for FY'15, and it will stay the same for '16 and '17.
- Microenterprise funds received an increase of \$25,000.
- The Trust Employment Grant will stay at \$200,000 for '16 and '17.
- Alaska Autism Resource Center will stay at \$100,000 for '16 and '17, but by '17 the project will need to have another source of funding.
- ILP, early childhood positive behavioral supports program will be funded at \$80,000 for '16, and \$40,000 for '17, and then no funds after '17.
- Autism training money through CHD will stay at \$75,000 for '16 and '17, and then they will be done after '17.

Teresa Holt reported that the Trust is also talking about program-related investments, which means they would loan money to projects that support Trust beneficiaries, and the money would be a loan that would be repaid. She stated that the Trustees have been discussing building an 18-story building over by The Arc, with possibly two floors being for beneficiary projects that would receive free rent, but the rest of the building would be rented out as a for-profit venture. Another project the Trustees are discussing involves the purchase of the Long House in Anchorage and refurbishing it to be Housing First housing.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ric Nelson commented that the EIC and Education Committees did not submit written reports for this meeting. Patrick Reinhart noted that the Legislative Committee did not submit a report because they have nothing new to report on.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING***

Teresa Holt reported that all the PowerPoints have been loaded to the Council's webpage. Ric Nelson stated that he can ask Apple why they are not able to download the materials on their iPads.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Debbie McDonald will be taking photos of the Council members before lunch on Wednesday. He also reminded Executive Committee members that the public testimony will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Dean Gates appreciated the public testimony flyer including information that sign language interpreters will be provided. He also noted that there may be members from the deaf community in attendance to provide public testimony regarding the recent, somewhat controversial, hire of the new executive director for the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the public testimony will have a focus on housing, and they may receive telephone calls during public testimony from people engaged in the Housing and Homelessness Conference in Juneau.

Teresa Holt stated that they need to assign mentors to the three new Council members. Amy Simpson will mentor Mallory Hamilton, but they need to determine mentors for Jill Burkert and Anthony Cravalho. Teresa suggested Susan Kaplan might be a good match with Jill.

### ***EMPLOYMENT FIRST POLICY FOR THE COUNCIL***

Teresa Holt stated that she sent out the policy to the Executive Committee for feedback, and she received a suggestion from Art Delaune to change the word "expect" to "require" in the sentence that reads: The Council will also **expect** contractors and suppliers with which it does business to actively recruit, hire, promote, and retain qualified applicants and current employees that have a disability.

Discussion among Executive Committee members ensued about the intent

of the language of the sentence. The consensus was that the language is not meant to be exclusionary of businesses or to tell people how to run their businesses, but is rather making a statement of the Council's belief and preference. The committee will keep the word "expect" in their presentation on Employment First during the Council meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***ORIENTATION PAGE ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE***

Brittney Howell stated that the orientation page is on the Council website, but is slightly hidden on the site. She then reviewed the variety of information contained in the section. Dean Gates suggested keeping the orientation page publically available so that people who are interested in applying for the Council can know the details of what the Council is all about.

### ***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION PLAN***

Teresa Holt directed Executive Committee members to the transition plan document. She stated that the requirements for the executive transition committee are to have two Executive Committee members, three Council members, Council staff are optional, and then a DHSS representative who is the hiring manager. Patrick Reinhart stated that their budget person from SDS, Emy Ribao, is also a hiring manager.

Teresa Holt then described the duties of the executive transition committee.

A discussion ensued about the difference between an acting and an interim director. Ric Nelson stated that he can ask Tara Horton what the difference is.

Teresa Holt also brought up two conflicting statements within the transition plan. The first statement on page 1, Guiding Principles, states, "A competitive search will be conducted unless the Council concludes that a current Council staff member is appropriate, qualified, and available for the job." On page 2, bullet 2 it says, "In conducting the executive search and hiring process for the executive director position, the Council will follow the job posting and recruitment procedures of the designated state agency." She stated that she is checking with HR so that the Council will know their

options by the time the transition committee meeting is set, because these two items seem to conflict.

Dean Gates stated that the Council has already gone through this process not too long ago. It seems like a long process, so the ability to promote within seems like a good option if they are able to go that route. He also noted that during the last go around, they had other staff who had applied for the position as well.

After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to ask Council members on the morning of the first day of the meeting whether or not they are interested in being on the transition committee. The Executive Committee can then meet at 8:00 a.m. the morning of the second day of the meeting to select transition committee members.

Dean Gates further suggested that he would like to present the option to the Council of appointing a current staff person to the executive director position, thereby avoiding the competitive hiring process, given that they receive approval from HR. If the Council votes to promote from within, they can forego the committee appointments. Teresa Holt also noted that if the Council decides to approve this method, the entire Council could also take a vote on the hiring of the executive director during this October meeting and not have to wait until the January meeting.

## **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- **11/5** from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. - Developmental Disabilities Committee
- **10/21** from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. – Emp. & Transportation Committee
- **10/9** from 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. - Peer Power
- **10/8** from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - Early Intervention Committee
- **(Date)** from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Health and Disability Committee
- **10/16** from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. – Education Committee
- **10/29** from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
- **10/23** from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – Legislative Committee

## **Upcoming Meetings/Conferences:**

- **9/30 – 10/2** – Statewide Transit Conference, Anchorage
- **10/1 – 10/2** – Council meeting, Anchorage

- **10/7** – FASD Workgroup, 3:00 – 4:30
- **10/8 – 10/9** – AADD meeting, Anchorage
- **10/14 – 10/16** – ILP Fall Coordinator’s meeting, Anchorage
- **10/15** - Trust Finance Committee meeting
- **10/22** - Trust Planning Committee meeting
- **10/29** – Medicaid Reform Advisory Group
- **11/9** – Trust board meeting

**OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Karli Lopez stated that Focus is hiring a supported employment coordinator to oversee all the job coaches. She suggested that Lucy Odden could announce the position opening to the members of the Employment and Transportation Committee to see if anyone is interested.

Dean Gates announced that this week is International Week of the Deaf. The Denali Deaf Community Center will be having an open house tonight, and he invited Executive Committee members to attend. Patrick Reinhart stated that if staff know about events in advance, they can send out the invitations on the Council listserv.

Patrick Reinhart stated that they are going to miss Teresa Holt, and she has been great to work with. Lucy Odden agreed.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dean Gates **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.