

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

February 25, 2015
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Dean Gates
Art Delaune
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Brittney Howell

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 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 participating in diversity change agent training all next week in Anchorage. She also announced that there will be an event tonight regarding emergency preparedness for families and family members with disabilities.

Karli Lopez announced that her youngest child has turned 2. She also announced that there is a behavioral training class for parents of children with disabilities at Stone Soup Group on Thursday night.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Karli Lopez **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Karli Lopez **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2015 meeting as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart reported that all correspondence will be covered in other areas of the agenda.

REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson reported that he has been very busy. After the Council meeting, he went back to Juneau to present to the Trust, then attended an AADD meeting, and then went back to Juneau for Key Campaign.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Patrick Reinhart stated that he is going to Juneau tonight to participate in the Alaska Brain Injury Network board meeting.

He stated that the Council sent quite a few people to Key Campaign last week, and there was a lot of activity happening quickly in the legislature, including budget closeouts in the House that the Council is tracking very closely.

Patrick Reinhart stated that this year they did not budget to send anyone to the Disability Policy Seminar in April in Washington, D.C. He stated that CHD will be sending LEND fellows and a faculty member to this event. He also noted that the Council received approval for Christie Reinhardt and Taylor Gregg to attend an education conference. He reported that out-of-state travel is seeing greater scrutiny in these difficult budget times, and any travel will need to have a justification, such as a grant requirement, in order for the Council to attend.

Patrick Reinhart reviewed the financial statements with the Executive Committee members. He noted that as of February 23rd, the Council has expended about 53 percent of their funding at a time of year when they should be around 65 percent.

Patrick Reinhart also stated that through e-mail they have been hearing about an increase to their appropriation of federal dollars as a DD council. He noted that other minimum allotment states have received an increase, and although they have not received a letter stating so, he is hopeful the Council will also see the same increase as the other states have.

Patrick stated that the biggest issue he has been dealing with administratively has been filling the planner position. He stated that they completed a search and did everything related to that, but he just received a letter this morning from HR personnel in Juneau that they are declaring the search unfulfilled and are reposting the position.

Patrick Reinhart also reported that Michelle Jenkins will be retiring from the Council on April 15th. He stated that he has been looking at the administrative clerk I position to see if it is eligible to be a higher level administrative clerk II position so they can get higher caliber applicants. He

commented that the administrative position at the Council is becoming more and more important as far as the daily functions of the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports from the committees were presented to members of the Executive Committee in written form.

Patrick Reinhart commended Council members and staff for their participation on the committees, noting that a lot of work has been done at a very fast pace.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW OF JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Patrick Reinhart asked committee members to provide feedback from the January Council meeting. Suggestions were made as follows:

- More training for people for their meetings with legislators.
- Make a videotape of a mock presentation to a legislator beforehand and show the video on a break.
- Don't add last-minute partner presentations.
- Fly in a day ahead of time to do training for legislative visits.

REPORT FROM KEY CAMPAIGN

Patrick Reinhart reported that in addition to the \$5,000 the Council spends to send people to Key Campaign, they also used funding from the AIEI grant to send a Project SEARCH student and his mother to Key. He stated that next year they will need to prioritize Council members and staff they send to the Key Campaign.

Patrick stated that he provided some feedback to Key Coalition's president, John Cannon, about shoring up the length of time for some of their events, the Unity Dinner in particular. Britteny Howell stated that she, Kristin, and Johanna were thinking about providing feedback to Key related to the way they constructed their legislative packets. They heard from Key participants that the legislative packets were complex, and people got confused during their legislative visits. Ric Nelson stated that he is on the Key board and

has been saying that for the last six years.

APPROVAL OF THE TRANSITION PLAN

Patrick Reinhart stated that the comments regarding SDS's transition plan for home and community-based settings has been reviewed and amended multiple times by a committee. Britteny Howell added that they constructed a 16-page document of comments, and although it has already been reviewed several times, Executive Committee members should let her know if they have any feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

12-MONTH MEETING CALENDAR

- May 5 – 6, 2015, Anchorage – Special Olympics
- October 7 – 8, 2015, Anchorage – Special Olympics
- February 2 – 4, 2016 Juneau - Centennial Hall

Karli Lopez stated that at the last Executive Committee meeting they talked about having their May meeting in Mat-Su, Kenai, or Fairbanks. Talkeetna was also suggested as a meeting location. Ric Nelson commented that Mat-Su is not preferable because Council members and staff will need to drive back and forth from Anchorage, because it is inside of the 50 mile distance the State requires to pay for travel expenses.

Patrick Reinhart stated that staff will look into the costs of various locations and provide a report back for the next Executive Committee meeting. Dean Gates asked Patrick Reinhart to provide a cost comparison of a meeting in Anchorage to a rural meeting, as well as a cost comparison for a two-day meeting as opposed to a three-day meeting for the next Executive Committee meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS REVIEW

Patrick Reinhart directed Executive Committee members to the handout containing questions from a company called Public Works, which is a company the State has contracted with to determine essential services within the various state departments. He stated that they have finished with the Department of Labor and are beginning work on the Department of

Health and Social Services. Because the Council falls under this department, they will need to go through the same review. Patrick stated that he has been preparing for this meeting, and on Tuesday, March 3rd, they will be coming to the Council offices to ask them the questions in the handout. He stated that he and Ric Nelson will be attending that interview.

SB 49 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Patrick Reinhart stated that they received a request for a letter of support for a bill from Senator McGuire to create a civil legal services defense fund by attaching a percentage of fees paid to the court for civil lawsuits. He stated that this funding would fund Alaska Legal Services, which many of the Council's constituents use for legal services. He stated that the Council wrote a letter of support for this bill last year. Dean Gates stated that he reviewed the letter of support, and he is in support of it. He did question how much funding this would provide to Alaska Legal Services if it passes. Patrick Reinhart reported that he hasn't seen any numbers yet, but if he finds out, he will let the committee know.

Dean Gates **MOVED** that the Executive Committee approve this letter of support for SB 49. The motion **PASSED**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Feb 26 – 27 – ABIN board meeting, Juneau
- Feb 27 – Autism Work Group, 9:00 – 12:00, Trust office
- Feb 27 – CFCM Work Group, 1:00 – 3:00, Trust office
- Feb 28 – Council comment on HCBS setting transition plan due
- March 3 – Public Works Performance Review, 8:00 – 9:00
- March 3 – FASD Work Group meeting, 3:00 – 4:30
- March 4 – DD Committee 1:00 – 3:00
- March 4 – Health and Disability Program meeting, 1:00 – 2:00
- March 6 – 7 – Stone Soup Group Parent Conference
- March 11 – EIC meeting, 10:00 – 11:30
- March 11 – FASD Partnership, 3:00 - 4:00
- March 11 – Peer Power meeting, 5:15 - 7:00
- March 12 – AADD teleconference, 11:00 - 12:00
- March 12 – Legislative Committee, 12:00 - 1:00
- March 19 – Education Committee, 1:30 - 3:00

- March 21 & 27 – Housing Barriers focus groups, Stone Soup Group
- March 23 – 27 – Erin Riehle, Project SEARCH tour around state
- April 16 – 17 – Full Lives Conference
- May 11 – 12 – AIEI Beneficiary Employment meeting.

Karli Lopez suggested that the Full Lives Conference might be a good place to recruit for new Council members. She noted that there are nine Council members whose terms are expiring.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Lucy Odden mentioned that Kristin Vandagriff will be on vacation March 2nd through the 3rd.

Karli Lopez stated that she received an action alert from the Down Syndrome Society asking people to support the federal legislation HR 5, the Student Success Act, because there is a new provision that students assigned to alternate standards and assessments are not precluded from completing the requirements of a high school diploma. Patrick Reinhart stated that the Education Committee has been reacting fairly regularly to action alerts regarding education. He stated that he can check with Christie Reinhardt to see if the Education Committee has taken action on this issue.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.