

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

March 25, 2015
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Dean Gates
Art Delaune
Karli Lopez
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Rich Sanders
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

Britteny Howell announced that today she was appointed as a commissioner to the Anchorage ADA Advisory Committee.

Ric Nelson announced that next week he'll be getting his Top 40 Under 40 award. He also announced that in April he will hopefully be done with his master's degree.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the amended agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 25, 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.

He noted that the Council has been giving a lot of testimony related to the budget and bills, such as support of HB 77, questions answered on HB 76, and testimony given at the State Board of Education.

REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson reported that the recommendations to the transition plan were submitted on February 27th. He also attended the conflict-free case management stakeholders meeting with AADD and the State to go over the

State's ideas for conflict-free case management. He also attended the public comment period for the conflict-free case management.

Ric Nelson stated that the State has narrowed the conflict-free case management down to two options; option one being to have care coordinators be independent and possibility group together as coordinators in small cooperative units. Option two is to have agency-based care coordination, but the providers cannot serve their care-coordinated clients within their own agency. The intention of this option is to support current care coordinators who are not comfortable having their own care coordination business. Ric stated that the conflict-free case management has to be in place and implemented by July 1, 2016.

Brittney Howell added that the State is offering a webinar for providers to talk about conflict-free case management on Friday at 1:30. AADD is also having a hot-topics teleconference for providers tomorrow where they will also be discussing conflict-free case management. Senior and Disability Services will have two more community events on this topic, similar to the one done in Anchorage, in Juneau and Fairbanks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Patrick Reinhart directed Executive Committee members to the updated financial report and stated that they are currently at 56 percent of their budget for the year, and they are currently at 73 percent of the year. They will be looking at their state and federal grants to see where things can be shifted in terms of what can be spent before July 30th and what can be carried over. He stated that they are doing well financially this year, and he will be spending a lot of time putting together a budget for next fiscal year.

Patrick stated that Michelle Jenkins researched having the May meeting in Talkeetna or Kenai, and there were no options available for hotel rooms. The expense for meeting in a remote location was approximately three times more than Anchorage, so the May meeting will be held in Anchorage.

Patrick Reinhart reported that in terms of staffing issues, Rich Sanders has been hired as planner for the Council. Michelle Jenkins has resigned and will be leaving as of April 15th. Marilee Rivas, former Council employee, is making a lateral move from SDS to the Council and will start working on Monday on an alternative basis with Michelle until Michelle leaves. Marilee

will become the permanent administrative assistant as of April 17th. The Council staff plan to hold a good-bye party for Michelle on April 14th.

Patrick stated that they will have a vacancy in Rich's old position that they will work with the Trust on how to fill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports from the committees were presented to members of the Executive Committee in written form. Patrick Reinhart reported on the following highlights from the various committees:

ASPEN

- Looking for FY'16 community for the next ASPEN project.

Employment & Transportation

- Erin Riehle from Project SEARCH is here now, and she has been visiting the various Project SEARCH sites. Have had discussions with Nome about possibly opening a site there.
- Certificate of Employment Service Training hosted by the Center for Continuing Education and Rehabilitation. Looking to have this become an Alaska-based class in the future.
- CinemAbility showing at Tikahtnu Commons May 11 and 12.

FASD Work Group

- Working on the evaluation of the FAScinating Family Camp.
- Helping them create a work plan.

Early Intervention Committee

- Christie Reinhardt testified at the State Board of Education on the importance of early literacy screenings. The issue was contentious for some school districts, but the Board of Education voted against early literacy screening waivers for school districts.

Developmental Disabilities Committee

- AHFC is finishing their fair housing analysis.
- Strong emphasis on telepractice, and they have had some guest speakers.
- Britteny will be looking at the AHFC consolidated housing and

development plan and writing comments.

Education Committee

- Christie Reinhardt met with Representative Kito to address some confusion regarding removing the word “gifted” from the Council’s enabling statute.
- Reviewed a bill on residential treatment center education funding. The Council has not taken a position on this issue, which is quite controversial.

Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee

- Produced a final draft of suggested bylaws revisions to the Executive Committee. Executive Committee members need to give their comments on the revisions by April 2nd.

Autism Work Group

- Working on convening a face-to-face meeting in May. They are working on a plan to come forward to the Council to move this group from a work group back to an ad hoc committee where it used to be.

Health and Disabilities Program

- Working on the application to the Centers for Disease Control.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

Patrick Reinhart directed Executive Committee members to the draft resolution in support of Medicaid expansion. He stated that every health-related group in the state has been asked to move such a resolution, which they have, and the Council has not.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Council staff is very much in support of the Governor’s Medicaid expansion and reform bill, which also includes all the reform ideas the Council has talked about for the last two years. The Governor’s bill includes looking at the 1915(i) and (k) State Plan options, which would mean an end to the waitlist. It also includes greater use of telepractice.

Patrick reminded committee members that Alex Gimarc had some concerns that the expansion would dilute services to people with disabilities, and he directed Executive Committee members to Alex's letter, which was included in their meeting packet. Patrick stated that it is the Council's job to ensure that service dilution doesn't happen, and it will be something the Council would continuously monitor going forward.

Art Delaune shared a concern that Alaska doesn't have the infrastructure in place to support another 40,000 people on Medicaid. Patrick addressed this by stating that the bill has a lot of moving parts that will all need to come together functionally as each phase moves forward. Patrick noted that the reform component of the bill will also be a part of the structure going forward, and there is a commitment that the MMIS and ARIES systems will be fixed before they move into expansion. Patrick noted that there are a lot of moving parts, and it may be rough at times, but with all the new federal money flowing into the system, there is the hope that rates will be addressed and the workforce will grow.

Based on a question from Dean Gates, Patrick Reinhart stated that Senator Kelly's bill, SB 74, is a reform-only bill, which is quite a bit different than the Governor's. The theory is that if expansion starts moving, they negotiate and try to include some of Senator Kelly's items in the Governor's bill. Britteny Howell added that SB 74 does not include any of the ideas the Council has in terms of reform such as telepractice, the new State Plan options, or reuse and recycle.

Karli Lopez **MOVED** that they approve Resolution 101 in support of Medicaid expansion. **SECONDED** by Amy Simpson.

Further discussion ensued. Dean Gates suggested that they amend the resolution to just support the reform components of the Governor's bill, which has always been the position of the Council.

A roll call vote was taken with 3 in favor and 2 opposed. The motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

MAY COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

Patrick Reinhart pointed out that they will be starting later and ending later on the first day for people to fly in early that morning, thereby saving the Council money on hotel expenses for an extra night.

Committee members engaged in a discussion about the draft agenda and made amendments as necessary.

The Executive Committee discussed educating Council members on the upcoming bylaws revisions. Amy Simpson suggested scheduling a couple of full-Council educational teleconferences to fully explain the bylaws changes prior to the full Council meeting. Patrick stated that if people still need assistance understanding the bylaws, staff can coordinate one-on-one meetings with anyone who wants follow up prior to the May Council meeting.

Dean Gates also suggested that they keep in mind the possibility of a teleconference meeting should it be necessary if the legislature goes into a special session regarding Medicaid expansion.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the amended May Council meeting agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- March 26 – Education Committee - 1:30
- March 30 – Seward’s Day – Council closed
- March 31 – April 1 – Reducing Recidivism Conference
- April 1 – DD Committee meeting – 1:00
- April 3 – SESA Board meeting
- April 7 – FASD Work Group – 3:00
- April 16 – Trust planning meeting
- April 16 – Education Committee – 1:30
- April 16 – 17 – Full Lives Conference
- April 19 – Last day of the session
- May 5 – 6 – Full Council meeting, Anchorage
- May 11 – 12 – AIEI Advisory Board, plus showing of CinemAbility
- May 13 – 14 – Trust Meeting, Kenai.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Patrick Reinhart will send an e-mail to Executive Committee members confirming that this date will work for most members.

ADJOURNMENT

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.