

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes

LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Teleconference
October 27, 2015
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson – Chair
Sandra DeHart
Art Delaune
Edna DeVries
Angie Fraize
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
David Kohler
Sara Kvem
Lucy Odden

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director
Rich Sanders
Kristin Vandagriff
Ric Nelson

Minutes prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:30 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus announced that they had an awesome community forum in Kotzebue.

Patrick Reinhart welcomed the following new Council members who introduced themselves and gave some brief background information:

Sandra DeHart – program coordinator for DHSS and a parent of a child that experiences disabilities. She is interested in serving on the Education and Early Intervention Committees.

David Kohler – recently retired from special education and is interested in serving on the Education Committee.

Sara Kveum – receptionist for REACH, Inc. She is a self-advocate interested in serving on the Education and Early Intervention Committees.

Edna DeVries – semi-retired educator who is filling the Council seat as the Commission on Aging representative.

Patrick Reinhart announced that a fifth appointed Council member is Maggie Winston, a long-time member of the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center board of directors and self-advocate. The final appointed Council member is John Cannon, from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, who will be filling the DVR seat on the Council.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Angie Fraize. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2015 meeting, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart referred Executive Committee members to the e-mailed handouts containing official correspondence from the Council related to comments on Medicaid regulations and SDS policies that were reviewed by the DD and Medicaid Ad Hoc Committees.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Amy Simpson reported that she continues to work on Patrick Reinhart's annual evaluation. The evaluation will incorporate anonymous survey feedback from Council members, partners, and stakeholders. She will compile the data and bring it back before the Executive Committee at the next meeting for review before presenting it to Patrick.

Executive Director's Report

Patrick Reinhart reported that with the new Council member appointments, the Council has been filled with 24 members, which is four less than last year.

In terms of staffing, this is the first time the Council has been fully staffed for a couple of years. The new administrative assistant, HalleliYah Yisra'el, has a background in HR from working at Alaska Psychiatric Institute and will be an asset to the office.

Patrick reported that the Council office will be closed for an all-staff retreat on Friday, October 30th, and then he will be on vacation from November 2 – 13. He also noted that he will be meeting with Stephanie Wrightsman-Birch

when he gets back in November about some shared staffing duties relating to the health and disability program.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the new IRIS system is up and running after a lot of issues. At this time he is unable to run a report on the Council's various grant categories, but he hopes to have a budget report to show the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

The 2017 draft budget is currently in process, and he is aware that the Council will have \$100,000 less in one of their Trust budgets that was pass-through dollars. At this time he is unaware of any other cuts to the Council's budget.

Patrick stated that staff will be getting ready for the big Trust meeting on November 18th. He also reminded members of the Executive Committee to let staff know if they are interested in attending Key Campaign in February 2016. Lucy Odden expressed her interest in attending.

Committee Reports

Amy Simpson referred committee members to the Committee Reports attachment they received by e-mail. Patrick Reinhart highlighted a few of the activities and encouraged Executive Committee members to review the report.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Meeting Recap

Amy Simpson opened the floor to committee members to comment on the October 2015 Council meeting. She stated that one thing they will need to address is the poor turnout at public testimony and their ability to use that data as the Anchorage Community Forum for the Five-Year State Plan with only one community member appearing. Lucy Odden encouraged greater use of reaching out to the community through media.

Patrick Reinhart noted that there are other community feedback efforts going on right now through SDS, and they may try to utilize some of this

feedback to inform their State Plan. If this information is not sufficient, the Council will need to determine a new time and place to hold another Anchorage Community Forum.

Executive Director Evaluation Process

Previously reported on under the Chair's Report.

Forum Questions/Answers

Amy Simpson stated that a number of the forums have been completed, and there have been some wonderful community turnouts. The Council received feedback via a letter from a community member in Cordova about the lack of Council members attending the forum, that it was just staff, and a concentrated effort to engage local provider agencies was lacking from that visit. Patrick Reinhart and Amy Simpson noted that they appreciate that feedback and have reflected on the information to make some adaptations to future forums.

NEW BUSINESS

Leadership Conference

Kristin Vandagriff stated that she participated in the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities as well as an Alaska Leadership Consortium Training sponsored by AADD. She stated that the people that attended felt the experience was transformative. One speaker in particular, Lynne Seagle, from Virginia, was phenomenal. The focus on Lynne Seagle's presentation was that service provision comes down to three core facets of people-first mentality: People want to have a home, want to be loved, and want to be employed or otherwise meaningfully engaged. There was also a big concentration on what it means to be person-directed in their planning and not person-centered, that the person receiving the supports needs to be directing the plan. Kristin noted that the Trust is looking at having Lynne Seagle come up to present to providers as they are looking forward to providing person-directed services because of the new changes to the system through CMS.

Kristin Vandagriff added that she was able to do a presentation about Alaska's journey through the implementation of Employment First.

Patrick Reinhart added that new Council member Sara Kveum also attended the training.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- Oct. 28 – Community First Council and 1915(i) and (k) focus groups.
- Oct. 28 – Bethel forum
- Oct. 29 – SDS Form on Medicaid Reform at The Arc
- Oct. 30 – Staff retreat, Girdwood
- Nov. 2 – 13 – Patrick Reinhart vacation
- Nov. 4 – EIC meeting, 10:00 – 11:30
- Nov. 4 – DD Committee meeting, 1:00 – 3:00
- Nov. 6 – Autism diagnosis meeting
- Nov. 9 – 10 – Trust-sponsored Peer Support Conference
- Nov. 10 – Medicaid redesign work session
- Nov. 10 – Peer Power board
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day, office closed
- Nov. 12 – AADD meeting
- Nov. 13 – Veterans Job Fair
- Nov. 16 – 17 – AIEI Advisory Board Statewide videoconference
- Nov. 17 – ABIN board meeting
- Nov. 17 – Accessible Outdoor Recreation Webinar
- Nov. 18 – Trust meeting
- Nov. 19 – ADRD Roadmap Stakeholder meeting
- Nov. 19 – Education Committee meeting
- Nov. 19 – Eagle River Community Forum
- Nov. 23 – Complex Behavior Solutions Group
- Nov. 23 – APSE board
- Dec. 1 – Homer Community Forum

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rich Sanders stated that a meeting has been set on November 9th for the three departments affected by the Employment First Act to define the reporting mechanism for the law.

TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden **MOVED** for adjournment, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.