

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes

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

Teleconference
Meeting Date
April 12, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair
Art Delaune
Angie Fraize
Mallory Hamilton
David Kohler
Lucy Odden

Guests:

Evelyn Alsup

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director
Rich Sanders
Kristin Vandagriff

Minutes prepared by: Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –12:02 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Lucy Odden announced that she had received two Regional Director's Excellence Awards at work.

Patrick Reinhart announced that a retirement party for Rich Sanders would be on April 18 from 3 to 5 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Amy Simpson noted that a guest speaker was expected and would be added to the agenda under New Business. Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended, **SECONDED** by Lucy Odden. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 8th, 2016 meeting, **SECONDED** by David Kohler. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart included numerous pieces of correspondence in the meeting packet, commenting that a lot of them were about regulations that the DD Committee and Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee have been working on. Also, the Education Committee sent a position letter on HB 102 and SB 103, and Patrick said that he had sent a follow-up letter with some clarifications. Patrick remarked that toward the end of the legislative session is always a busy time for the Council, and he appreciates everyone's hard work.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Patrick Reinhart noted that 60 percent of the budget is expended, while the year is about 76 percent through, so the Council is well under budget. Patrick explained that he submitted a request several weeks ago to hire someone for the planner position that Rich Sanders is leaving open, but he hasn't received a reply. Currently every hire must be specifically permitted by the Governor's office and cannot be advertised until approved.

Patrick gave updates on legislative bills that the Council is following, and said that the Council would be prepared to answer questions in the hearing of the ABLE Act later on the day of this Executive Committee meeting.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were included with the meeting documents; however, not every committee had submitted a report. Some quick verbal updates were given; Angie Fraize, Patrick Reinhart, and others also discussed the transition of the ILP from OCS to SDS. Patrick noted that the Council appreciates being included in the weekly transition meetings.

Patrick Reinhart said that the budget for the next fiscal year is the biggest concern right now, with likely large cuts to Medicaid, and SDS and other organizations are trying to prepare for new guidelines which will go into effect July 1st. Patrick commented that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee won't be finished until they figure out what it all means.

Lucy Odden reported that the Alaska Disability Benefits 101 Calculator is scheduled for September 12 through 16 in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

OLD BUSINESS

State Plan Development

Rich Sanders presented the draft of the Five-Year State Plan, which he based on what all the committees have given him, and invited feedback from committee members. Rich explained that he is still working on the opening comprehensive review and analysis and the last part, the analysis of state issues and challenges. Rich commented that he thinks it is going to be outstanding, and it seems that the plans get a little more energetic each time. After the May meeting, the plan will go out for public comment, and the final document is due in August.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the preliminary draft of the State Five-Year Plan, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. With no objection, the draft was approved.

May 5 Council Meeting Draft Agenda

The committee discussed the upcoming one-day teleconference meeting. There will be hubs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau where people can attend in person, and a few Council members who live elsewhere and may have connectivity problems could be authorized by Patrick to travel. Committee members agreed to ask everyone to read the meeting materials beforehand and prepare questions to improve efficiency since time will be short. Those who would like a printed copy as well as electronic were asked to let staff know so they could prepare only as many as needed.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the May meeting draft agenda. **SECONDED** by David Kohler. The agenda was approved.

Regarding travel, Mallory Hamilton said that she had been contacted by people in the disability community who asked if any funding was available to help constituents travel to Juneau and speak to their legislators. Since Patrick said that he could authorize travel with federal dollars, Mallory asked the Executive Committee whether they would support the use of travel funds for legislative advocacy. Committee members were supportive, so Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to authorize Patrick Reinhart to

use federal dollars for advocacy purposes, **SECONDED** by David Kohler. With no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

NEW BUSINESS

Guest Speaker: Evelyn Alsup, North Star Behavioral Health

Evelyn Alsup, education director at North Star Behavioral Health Systems, called in to the meeting to discuss Senate Bill 103. Evelyn went over some points on which there seemed to be some misunderstanding. She explained that SB 103 does not require rural districts to contract with any residential psychiatric treatment center (RPTC). Only districts where an RPTC is established would contract with the RPTC for educational services, and Ms. Alsup said that this is already happening successfully in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. She added that when children go to a treatment facility, they are automatically enrolled in the district in which that facility resides, because the law is that wherever a child is residing for 30 days or more, that district is responsible for the child's education.

Evelyn Alsup further noted that IEP teams do not place children in RPTCs; a doctor must make the referral, though an IEP team might recommend seeking services. She explained the distinction between a secure acute care facility and a semi-secure residential facility, emphasizing that the students are confined to the facilities and do not attend public schools. The average length of stay is 40 to 45 days.

Evelyn Alsup stated that SB 103 does not pertain only to North Star, but to all RPTCs within the state; however, it does affect mainly the Anchorage School District because the majority of RPTCs are in Anchorage. She said that the bill does not move funding around or create budgeting hardships for schools as they are already budgeting for those students. Ms. Alsup said that the funding in the Fairbanks contract is based on the OASIS count.

Ms. Alsup thanked the Executive Committee for the opportunity to speak to them, and they thanked her for her time.

Member Expirations June 30, 2016

Patrick Reinhart requested that Council members who have been notified that their term is expiring please respond and say whether they wish to continue serving or not. Also, those who want to serve need to fill out the ethics disclosure form so that their outside employment is on record.

June 9-10 Trust Large Stakeholder Meeting

Patrick Reinhart explained that the Trust has new leadership, and their focus will be on two main areas: Medicaid reform and the criminal justice and re-entry issues. The Trust requested some Council representatives to participate in their June 9 -10 meeting on how they might direct funding. Patrick asked committee members who want to attend to send him an e-mail.

NACDD Conference, Washington, D.C., July 5-8

Patrick Reinhart said that the timing of this year's NACDD Conference is not good for staff, and he asked anyone on the Executive Committee who is interested in going to let him know.

Other New Business from the Floor

Patrick Reinhart informed everyone that there is now another Rinehart (ph) in the office, the new MASST volunteer.

Kristin Vandagriff mentioned that North Star Behavioral Health and their lobbyist organization, Ray Gillespie and Associates, had requested the minutes and transcript from last month's Education Committee meeting. Since the Education Committee hasn't yet met to officially approve them, the Executive Committee was asked to authorize their release.

David Kohler **MOVED** that the Council forward the Education Committee meeting minutes and transcript from March as requested, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. With no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- **Community Transit Conference:** April 12 – 14 (Patrick, Fairbanks)
- **FASD Partnership Meeting:** April 13, 3:00 – 4:30
- **Trust Planning and Finance Meetings:** April 14
- **AADD Meeting:** April 14, 11:00 – noon
- **AIEI Management Team:** April 14, 1:00 – 2:00
- **Last Day of Legislative Session:** April 17
- **Rich Sanders Retirement Party:** April 18, 3 – 5 p.m., Room 890/896, Frontier Building
- **Employment and Transportation Committee:** April 19, 1:00 – 2:30
- **Alaska Disability Partners and Emergency Management Meeting:** April 19, 8:30 – noon
- **FASD Workgroup:** April 19, 3:00 – 4:30
- **Education Committee Meeting:** April 21, 1:30 – 3:00
- **Alaska Brain Injury Network Meeting:** April 26, all day
- **Trust Meeting:** May 3 – 4, Anchorage
- **DD Committee Meeting:** May 4, 1:00 – 3:00
- **Council Videoconference Meeting:** May 5
- **Community Inclusion Council:** May 6, 1:00 – 3:30

TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lucy Odden **MOVED** for adjournment, **SECONDED** by Angie Fraize. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.