



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Health & Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
& SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Teresa Holt, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5924  
Main: 907.269.8990  
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990  
Fax: 907.269.8995

### GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### FASD Workgroup

##### LOCATION

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education  
3601 C Street, Suite 740  
Anchorage, Alaska

November 18, 2014  
3-4:30pm

#### CALL TO ORDER

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus called the meeting to order. Thank you for your patience while we've rescheduled this meeting. Christie cannot be here, Britteny Howell is staffing.

#### WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Jeanne welcomed the group. Teri announced that the FASD conference is now called a Family Voice "Forum."

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **DD Eligibility:**
  - Mental Health Board to talk about FAS in statutes. Attorney in LA trying to get states to use common language of DD eligibility. Need courts to abide by statute which includes FAS in Alaska. People w FASD cannot get the same eligibility currently.
  - This group needs to get legislators to add the "D" to FAS in statute. Could sue the state for not serving ppl with FASD? This attorney is coming up for the FASD Family Voice Forum in Feb and will also do a training at the DLC.
  - Jeanne – DD eligibility is not the same thing as waiver eligibility in Alaska. FAS are not getting based on diagnosis. Barb – ppl with low IQs still get denied eligibility, high IQ can also get waiver, there's lots of variation. Teri – courts need to focus on adaptive functioning. She will send the group more information.

- Christie looking into other state's definitions of "physician" for the diagnosis of "Other health impairment" on IEPs. Contacted PACER center and was sent a complicated document from Minnesota, who diagnoses, what tests, outlines transitions. AK is the only state expanding their definition of a physician rather than contracting it. PACER officer looking into other states policies and language. Doc doesn't diagnose FASD specifically, need to change the definition of a doc. Most states have teaching hospitals to diagnose. AK may be unique in multidisciplinary teams to diagnose, but these teams often do not have MDs on them. Use same def of physician that autism uses in AK? MD, DO, licensed nurse practitioner. This group needs to make a recommendation. School districts are making their own rules, needs to be codified in regs at the DEED level. When write recommendations and send to DEED, make sure on school board agenda for quarterly meetings and follow-up. If you do not follow-up with them, it may not happen. May need to gather public testimony at school board meeting. Get issue to a legislator? Planning for May meeting.
- **Educational Services:**
  - Special Education conference in Anchorage on Feb 7, may need to reschedule if it conflicts with Family Voice Forum. Jeanne will present at the SPED conference in Anchorage.
  - Jeanne – SESA board FASD survey to teachers and paraprofessionals, 25% reponse in initial inquiry. What do they need to serve children w disabilities, including FASD?
  - Teri – Kenai school district gets sped teachers together. Does great work in Anchorage, too. Districtwide approach. She gives updates/recommendations on FASD partnership.
  - Jill – superintendent fly-in to Juneau? Easy way to disseminate surveys in Feb or Jan. Plan a year in advance to get ont eh schedule.
- **Birth through Life Supports, Accommodations and Services**
  - **Prevention of Secondary Disabilities:**  
 Jill – teachers in sped need to know what this means. School-related issues? Jeanne – more general, like getting supports early to improve school success. Jill – 2004 initiative "Response to Intervention" prevent labeling and cascading effect of poor performance in schools. Mostly remediation. IN AK, we say inquiry approach but doesn't go well. Transition plan = prison, homeless. Lots of miscommunication, not just sped educators. Schools have dismissed this topic, attitude that RTI is not that teacher's problem. Lack of understanding in schools about what this program means. Move away from IQ pigeonhole. Adaptive behavior approach vs. IQ.

- **Self-Advocacy**

- Christie updated group on SAFA in Anchorage at the Arc. Site visit with Christie and Anna, kick-off after Jan 1.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm, with the next meeting to be held the first Tuesday in September.

*Creating Change That Improves the Lives of Alaskans with Disabilities*