

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Legislative Committee Meeting

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date  
July 1, 2010

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair  
Banarsi Lal  
Dean Gates  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Steve Lesko  
Chris Saddler

Guests:

Dayna McGuire

Staff:

Duane Mayes  
Rich Sanders  
Patrick Reinhart  
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

***Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes***

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the previous meeting's minutes.  
The motion **PASSED**.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Review of Final Draft of FY'11 Work Plan***

Duane Mayes stated that one change they were not able to make to their work plan is to use CapWiz because the Council no longer subscribes to it, although they could use it through the Trust. The Council also has a Twitter account, Facebook account, and they have access to a variety of listservs.

The group discussed the wording that is used when sending information out on listservs regarding issues of importance to the Council. They discussed making sure the wording explains that the Council "supports" whatever issue is being addressed. They may also not say the Council supports one candidate over another. Dean Gates suggested requesting some guidelines on advocacy that may be present in other administrative offices in the State. Kathy Fitzgerald explained the Council's role in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities that will promote good outcomes. Rich Sanders suggested that they can put together a disclaimer that they can use that will meet all their needs.

Teresa Holt had some changes to the work plan. Under Goal II, promote national and state legislation, letter B, advocate for the reauthorization of the DD Act, she asked if they can add to that the IDEA, which will be reauthorized before the DD Act. Teresa also suggested adding "follow and support restraint and seclusion" under bills of interest, item A, Goal II. Patrick Reinhart commented that the Council follows many bills of interest that aren't all spelled out in the work plan. Teresa's final suggestion was that under Goal II, D, the ILP eligibility change from 50 to 25 percent does not currently need the Council's advocacy and could be put on hold. Kathy Fitzgerald

suggested leaving it on there to monitor it, but there will be no action items.

Rich Sanders asked the group for clarification on Goal III, A, ISIS general fund increment increase for DD and an increase for seniors. Steve Lesko suggested having it state: General fund increment for ISIS and then general fund increment for DD community grants.

Rich Sanders asked if the goals are ranked in order of importance. The group discussed all of the issues as being equally important, but noted that there was also a need to rank them with the Trust due to past funding restrictions. Rich stated that for the work plan they could just bullet them to show they are of equal importance.

Dayna McGuire suggested that under advocate to the legislators to increase wages for direct service providers and care coordinators, change it to wages and benefits.

Dayna McGuire also asked if under D it is called the Joint Advocacy Summit. Kathy Fitzgerald suggested they call it the Trust Advocacy Summit.

Steve Lesko suggested that they come up with a formalized tracking system to have concrete information that shows the process used to complete work plan tasks. Duane Mayes stated that there is a really nice web-based system called DD Suite that can track grants or projects.

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the work plan. The motion **PASSED**.

### ***Review of FY'10 Council Priorities***

Duane Mayes stated that the following priorities from last year have been carried over to this fiscal year. They include:

- Statutory rate review
- Autism Insurance
- High school qualifying exit exam
- ISIS.

Duane stated that the general consensus is to begin working on the position papers as soon as possible for Council members to use over the summer and then tweak them and adapt them as needed. They are also going to do some very basic PowerPoint presentations for Council members to share with their representatives. Patrick Reinhart suggested incorporating testimonials into the presentations. Rich Sanders also suggested that they give legislators what they've been requesting which is data, cost, cost benefit, and how it will fit into the system. Dean Gates also suggested coming up with specific alternatives to the HSGQE and the cost benefit of those alternatives.

Duane stated that Teresa Holt will be the lead on the HSGQE, Kathy Fitzgerald will be the lead on the private autism insurance, Duane Mayes and Steve Lesko will be the leads on the rate review, and staff will work together in house on ISIS.

*Action: Update the position papers and create PowerPoints on the four priorities prior to the next Legislative Committee meeting.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***SOARS Project***

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Commission on Aging got the SOARS Project through the legislature, which was a project with some similarities to ISIS, and he was wondering if there was something they could learn from that to apply to ISIS. Banarsi Lal stated that he will contact Denise Daniello and Leslie Thompson with ACoA to have them provide the Council with the specifics.

### ***Council Listserv and Tweet Discussion***

Rich Sanders asked how the Legislative Committee can put Twitter and Facebook to good use. Duane Mayes added that a lot of the legislative body has a Facebook account. Dean Gates suggested adding all of the legislators to that page of the Council's Facebook. Duane suggested that the new legislative intern could put together a spreadsheet of all of the legislators who are on Facebook and then send out a request to be their friend. Patrick Reinhart suggested that

the chair of the Legislative Committee should be the person who reaches out to the legislators requesting to be their friend. Dean Gates also reminded committee members that there may be a social networking policy about using Facebook and Twitter.

### ***Debriefing on Trust Budget Meeting***

Duane Mayes explained that the budget subcommittee consists of the chairs of all the difference committees within the Council, as well as Erin Kinavey, Christine Green, Marcy Rein, and Art Arnold. The following recommendations were made:

#### ***MHTAAR:***

- \$100,000 Alaska Autism Resource Center
- \$80,000 Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Supports/Positive Parent Training Project
- \$75,000 Autism Workforce Development Project
- \$350,000 employment for DD Trust beneficiaries
- \$100,000 disability program navigators
- \$100,000 Council operations support staff person as a liaison between the Council and the Trust
- \$75,000 autism surveillance registry and identification system
- \$50,000 Alaska Transition Training Initiative – early childhood transition
- \$70,000 to promote funding to implement policies
- \$100,000 deaf advocate.

#### ***GF/MH:***

- \$650,000 ISIS or an increase in DD community grants
- \$70,000 early childhood positive behavioral supports
- \$150,000 Alaska Autism Resource Center
- \$330,000 SESA funding
- \$150,000 policy recommendations around FASD
- \$150,000 ATOP rural transition project.

#### ***Capital Projects:***

- FY'12 - \$1.5 million (half MHTAAR, half GF/MH) for deferred maintenance
- FY'12 - \$800,000 transportation (\$250,000 MHTAAR, \$550,000 GF/MH)
- \$500,000 program equipment (half MHTAAR, half GF/MH)
- FY'13 - \$1.5 million for a beneficiary study.

*Policy Recommendations:*

- Increase SESA funding
- Transportation operations
- Develop program standards for DSDS
- Recommend quality and assurance standards
- Public Assistance programs to be 200 percent of the federal poverty level
- Child care assistance on a sliding fee scale
- Advocate for an FASD waiver.

***SESA Funding Update***

Teresa Holt reminded the Legislative Committee that SESA has less funding than they had 10 years ago. There are fewer students enrolling in the school throughout the state of Alaska, but there are more special ed kids than ever.

***Workforce Report***

Duane Mayes noted that there is a wages and benefits subcommittee of the workforce focus area of the Trust. Duane noted that he believes most of the priorities determined at the Joint Advocacy Summit will revolve around workforce issues.

***Federal Legislative Issues***

Duane Mayes stated that there are a variety of federal issues that have position papers on them that would be interesting and worthwhile for them to discuss one at a time at each Legislative Committee meeting.

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Legislative Committee teleconference was scheduled for August 12th at 1:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED** and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.