

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

March 10, 2011

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Dean Gates
Banarsi Lal
Steve Lesko
Kathy Fitzgerald
Eric Gebhart
Anthony Cravalho

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 10:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Introductions, Announcements or Good News

Committee members introduce themselves for Anthony Cravalho, a new member to the committee.

Approval of the Agenda

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Minute approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Correspondence

Patrick Reinhart stated that most of the correspondence has been the alerts the Council puts out.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that at the Council meeting in January, they met with the Governor's office and spoke about the Hub, the autism insurance bill, the State as a model employer, and transportation. They had an official response from the Governor's office that he did not add the Hub into his amended budget. The Governor's office representative said they are still working on the State as a model employer and there was interest in the transportation issues. He also noted that they are working on the momentum of the autism bill.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the Hub

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they have had a lot of conversation around the Hub issue. She spoke to Virginia in Reggie Joule's office, who said that she would take Kathy's concerns to Reggie.

Anthony Cravalho stated that Senator Donny Olson's aide seemed very interested in the Hub.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that she had a family call her the other day stating that they need the Hub.

Ric Nelson stated that he left a message for Costello the other day to put in an amendment, but he hasn't heard back from her yet.

Patrick Reinhart stated that Jeff Jessee mentioned that they are not going to get anywhere with amendments on the House side and they need to work on the Senate. He stated that the House passed a budget and it's out of their hands.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Council and Key Coalition need to have a Midwest Academy planning session on the Hub and then work the issue really hard when the legislators are at home this summer.

Patrick asked Jeff if the Hub or any other item they are pushing can fit into a capital budget. Jeff Jesse stated that it is a last resort, but it might work if it comes down to it. The group discussed past pilots they have done that began as capital projects. They discussed this as a possible strategy for selling the Hub to the Senate.

Ric Nelson suggested that another way to sell it to the Senate would be to show the cost savings.

Rate Review Update

Patrick Reinhart stated that he believes the increases are still in there and the House operating budget approved all the ones that the Governor had. He stated that they also approved a \$137 million contingency increment for Medicaid if the feds do not come back with the increased shared FMAP.

Discussion ensued regarding a \$3.7 million increment, and Steve Lesko explained that he believes it is to be used as leveling money for provider agencies that are below the mean in their rate methodology.

Further discussion ensued regarding the methodology and funding formula.

SESA Update

Teresa Holt stated that she didn't see anything introduced for SESA.

Autism Resource Funding

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that Tammie Wilson pulled out the funding for the Alaska Autism Resource Center.

Discussion ensued about following up with legislators who were in support of funding the AARC.

Key Campaign

Steve Lesko stated that Key Campaign this year set the stage for next year. He stated that Representative Cathy Munoz was interested in looking at a rate review in statute as opposed to regulation.

Steve reported that they got a lot of interest from legislators about the Hub funding, and he is hopeful that they will see some action by the next session.

Kathy Fitzgerald suggested that Anthony Cravalho host a meeting for Reggie Joule when he is back at home.

Legislative Bills of Interest to the Council

DD

- SB 74/HB 79 – Autism Insurance Coverage – **no movement**
- SB 11 – Hate Crimes – **moved to finance**
- SB 86/HB 150 – Protection of vulnerable adults – **moved to judiciary.**

Education

- SB 10 – Repealing HSGQE requirements – **no movement**
- SB 73 – Increase for intensive needs funding and base student allocation – **canceled scheduled hearing.**

Early Intervention

- HB 49 – Early Childhood: Parents as Teachers – **hearing scheduled.**

Transportation

- HJR – Transportation fund – **moved to judiciary**
- HB 30 – Dedicated transportation fund for public transportation – **moved to finance**
- SB 37 – Transportation infrastructure fund – **moved to finance**
- SB 77 – Public transit projects – **moved to finance.**

NEW BUSINESS

Federal Budget Issues

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they have been following some of the proposed cuts and changes in the President's budget. She stated that the House budget passed out at the extreme. Yesterday the Senate took up the continuing resolution HB 1. She stated that they did not get the votes they needed in the Senate. She noted that they are also due to discuss the Senate version of the continuing resolution. She needs to check to see the status of the bill.

Kathy stated she has also been tracking the TAPESTY grant that was awarded to the Center for Human Development last October. She stated that there is talk about TAPESTRY being cut.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Legislative Committee teleconference will be April 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.