

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Legislative Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

October 5, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Attendees:

David Flynn, Chair
Eric Gebhart
Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
Dean Gates
Kathy Fitzgerald
Lucy Odden
Ric Nelson
Steve Lesko
Fred Villa

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Millie Ryan
Jasmine Woodland

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 11:30 a.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

David Flynn began the committee meeting by reciting the Council's mission statement.

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements or Good News

Lucy Odden announced her participation in both the Executive Committee as well as the Alliance for Full Participation.

Fred Villa announced that the president of the university has hired a facilitator to hold 30 to 40 conversations around the state as public forums for people to provide input for the strategic direction of the university going forward. He encouraged the Council to share this information with everyone and to encourage people to testify in those forums about issues where the university could support people with disabilities. David Flynn suggested they make this an upcoming agenda item for the next Legislative Committee meeting. Fred Villa will provide the committee with the schedule of the forums when it becomes available.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts of interest to declare.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Super Committee Information

Teresa Holt explained that a Super Committee has been formed at the federal level that has been tasked with determining budget reductions. If they cannot agree on budget reductions, the reduction will go to a default amount as an across-the-board cut.

Patrick Reinhart further explained that the issue the states are dealing with on the Super Committee is that there may be severe cuts to the Medicaid budgets in what states are required to put in and the federal government is required to put in. Mandatory services such as skilled nursing care are included, but home and community-based services are not mandatory services to be included. There will be a lot of issues in the lives of people with disabilities that will be impacted by these cuts.

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that the Council will advocate on issues with the Super Committee through the Congressional delegation.

Fred Villa noted that they need to consider how all sources of funding for people with disabilities will be impacting all parts of people's lives from DHSS to DVR, et cetera.

Dean Gates noted that cutting costs doesn't always save money. He also noted that John Katz, a lobbyist for Alaska, is leaving. He stated that they need to be aware of who his replacement will be and be in contact with him. David Flynn would like to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Teresa Holt stated that the Super Committee will make their decision by November 23rd. Essentially they are going to cut \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years.

Steve Lesko commented that the Key Coalition is considering sending a united letter of concern to the Super Committee as well as the delegation. They would like to have that letter come with the force of the Council, Key and the community providers.

An extensive discussion of the Super Committee is scheduled for the

last day of the full Council meeting, but David Flynn will add information about the Super Committee to his Legislative Committee report to prepare the Council members in advance and give them time to think about this issue prior to the Friday discussion.

POSITION PAPERS

David Flynn asked if a fourth position paper has been identified in addition to the ones on the Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative, autism insurance, and SESA that have already been drafted.

Teresa Holt explained that they are still waiting to see what is going to make it into the Governor's budget. They will also need to see what the Super Committee decides.

David Flynn asked for committee members to volunteer to be the lead on each of the position papers to ensure that all changes are made to the draft and they are prepared in their final form. The following people were identified:

- Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative – Kathy Fitzgerald
- Autism Insurance – Kathy Fitzgerald
- SESA – Dean Gates.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

David Flynn stated that they need to adjust their meeting times to accommodate Jasmine Woodland's schedule. After some discussion, it was decided that the Legislative Committee will meet on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.