

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

January 12, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

David Flynn, Chair
Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
Eric Gebhart
Margaret Kossler
Steve Lesko
Fred Villa

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Patrick Reinhart
Millie Ryan
Jasmine Woodland

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

David Flynn recited the Council’s mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements or Good News

Teresa Holt announced that the comment period for the new DD regulations has been extended 30 days, until the week of Key Campaign, though the exact date will be announced later today.

Eric Gebhart announced that Margaret Kossler has been appointed to the Legislative Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Eric Gebhart **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 5th, November 10th, and December 8th, 2011 meetings. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

DD Regulation Changes

Teresa Holt stated that the rewritten DD waiver regulations propose some substantial changes, including lowering the limit for day-hab hours from 18 to 10. Members of the Council will meet at 9 a.m. on January 18th to draft comments about the new regulations, followed by the DD Committee’s regular meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. at which they will summarize what they have so far. Now that the comments period has been extended, they will probably have a second session later to go

over what they've drafted.

Federal Restraint and Seclusion Bill

Teresa Holt reported that the Council had received a letter from a coalition asking for support for the bill. The Council supported the bill that was introduced last year and this one is pretty much the same. Teresa has a lot of information on it that she will send on to anyone who is interested.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Teresa Holt reminded committee members that Carrie Predeger sent out an e-mail in December listing about 40 items in the Governor's budget. The entire budget can be viewed online through the State website.

The Council's funding priorities were:

- The Hub (Complex Behavior Collaborative Consultation and Training)
- Project SEARCH
- Rural transition services
- Services for the deaf
- Transportation
- Funding for assistive technology
- Funding for the ADRC pilot project

The ones that got funded were Project SEARCH, rural transition services, and services for the deaf. Millie Ryan met with Commissioner Streur about the Hub's not being funded, and he said that it was a matter of prioritization of funds, but he is going to bring it up with the Governor's office and try to get it into the amended budget. The Council will continue to advocate for the Hub in Juneau, but it need not be a top priority since the Trust and other groups will also be advocating for it.

POSITION PAPERS

Teresa Holt and Jasmine Woodland led a discussion of the position papers, seeking feedback particularly on the talking points to make sure they are helpful and accurate. Margaret Kossler suggested revising the

format of the talking points to be consistent among all three papers, and offered to work with Teresa and Jasmine to do that. Last-minute suggestions from committee members could be e-mailed tonight or in the morning, but the documents have to be sent out for printing on January 13th. The committee discussed the “what”, “why”, and “recommendations” parts of each position paper.

Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative

Steve Lesko suggested proposing the Hub as a pilot project as a strategy to overcome skepticism in the legislature. Eric Gebhart suggested that part of the training and preparation for people advocating for the Hub should be to listen and understand the reasons for the skepticism to decide if a defined-timeline pilot project might be a good approach. The committee agreed that they should emphasize how the collaborative can benefit communities, not just individuals. Teresa Holt noted that it is not necessarily cheaper to serve people in Alaska instead of Outside, but it is the right thing to do.

Autism Insurance Reform

David Flynn pointed out that many people who have never dealt with autism don't understand the importance of having access to services during the first six years of a child's life. Anthony Cravalho suggested that people should be prepared for a common question: Would these services actually be available if they were covered by insurance? David Flynn added that if people could bill for these services through their insurance, it would attract service providers to Alaska.

SESA funding change and sunset removal

The committee did not have time to specifically discuss the SESA position paper and talking points, but members may submit suggestions by e-mail by noon on January 13th.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

David Flynn noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.