

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

February 9, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

David Flynn, Chair
Art Delaune
Eric Gebhart
Margaret Kossler
Steve Lesko

Staff:

Teresa Holt
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

No one had any announcements or good news.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There was not a quorum, so the agenda could not be approved.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

There was not a quorum, so the minutes from January 12th could not be approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Update on Current Legislation

Autism Insurance

Teresa Holt reported that since the Council's visit to Juneau in January, a lot of senators and representatives have signed on to the autism insurance bill, and she has heard that Senator Ellis is feeling like he could now take it to the floor. The Council now plans to send thank-you notes to those who have signed on and to target other key legislators to try to win them over. The committee discussed some strategies, including sending Valentine's Day cards and promoting the bill at Key Campaign.

Vulnerable Adults

Teresa Holt also reported that the vulnerable adults bill, SB 86 and HB 150, has moved to Rules in the Senate and has not moved in the House.

SESA

Millie Ryan reported that the SESA bill, HB 198, had a hearing in House Finance on Monday, February 6th; there were lots of questions, so they are busy getting the answers and hope to send them out very soon. Millie reported that it may be necessary to bend on the issue of getting rid of the sunset, as most legislators seem to think positively of sunsets. The sunset on SESA is 10 years, which is the longest possible period, and there have been two audits, in 2004 and 2007, to see if recommendations had been implemented. Millie said that she is preparing a two-sided, single-page information sheet on special education with help from a SESA committee, and the Legislative Committee doesn't need to take any action until the information is sent out and the new hearing is scheduled.

Transportation Bills

Teresa Holt reported that there are at least six transportation bills for various purposes: to create infrastructure, to fund coordinated transportation, to set up an advisory board, to fund mass transit, and related issues. Teresa noted that House Bill 131, which would establish the Alaska Community Public Transportation Advisory Board, passed the House and has moved to the Senate. It had its first reading on January 30th, then was referred to Transportation and CRA, and has a hearing today at 1 o'clock. Teresa also reported that the Governor's budget did include \$1 million in matching funds for coordinated transportation.

Complex Behavior Collaborative

Steve Lesko noted that Senator Olson added the Complex Behavior Collaborative bill to the operating budget. The amended budget will be released around the middle of February.

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Proposed Home and Community-Based Waiver Regulations

Teresa Holt noted that the Department has withdrawn the proposed home and community-based waiver regulations, and will reissue them around March. SDS is hosting an informational question and answer webinar/teleconference on February 15th from 1 to 4 p.m. If anybody wants to attend, send Teresa an e-mail and she will send the call-in information. There will be a second opportunity for families and waiver recipients to talk about the regulations with SDS in Juneau just before Key Campaign.

DISCUSSION OF JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNEAU

Follow-up with Legislators and Thank-You Cards

Teresa Holt reported that they have e-mailed each Council member noting whom they visited, and reminding them that if they didn't sign the group cards, they should send their own. The Legislative Committee is requesting that people send Valentine's Day cards with thank-yous to legislators who are supportive of Council issues and targeting others for further persuasion with messages similar to the Christmas card campaign. David Flynn suggested that Council members include photos of their visits with legislators in the cards whenever possible. Teresa Holt reported that she and other staff will also make sure to follow up on getting information that Council members said they would provide to legislators.

Suggested Improvements for Next Year

The Legislative Committee brainstormed some ways to make the Juneau Council meeting smoother and more productive next year:

- Pre-schedule the legislative visits, asking Council members which legislators they would or would not prefer to meet with.
- Suggest that the Trust Advocacy Summit be scheduled a week later, so there is a week in between that and the Council visits.
- Include on the talking points sheets who sponsored and co-sponsored bills and where each bill is in the legislative process.
- Discuss team leaders' responsibilities beforehand, and share

experiences and strategies for difficult situations such as if the legislator changes the subject or refuses to listen.

- Station a second intern in the lounge to take debriefing notes immediately after Council members' legislative visits.

Suggestions for Additional Legislative Committee Members

David Flynn asked committee members to suggest anyone else they can think of who might be interested in joining the Legislative Committee.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

David Flynn noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.