

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

April 12, 2012  
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Anthony Cravalho  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
David Flynn, Chair  
Eric Gebhart  
Banarsi Lal  
Steve Lesko  
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Teresa Holt  
Patrick Reinhart  
Jasmine Woodland

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 1:09 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***

None were reported.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Banarsi Lal **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

**APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES**

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Teresa Holt reported that they have written five or six letters of support for legislation, but only for things that the committee had previously decided to support, nothing new.

**UPDATE ON THE LAST WEEK IN THE LEGISLATURE**

***Autism Insurance***

Teresa Holt reported that Senate Bill 74 on autism insurance was heard on April 10<sup>th</sup> and is still in the HSS Committee, with the session scheduled to end on Sunday at midnight. Teresa urged committee members to send e-mails and get their friends to send e-mails to the House majority leaders and members of the HSS Committee asking them to support SB 74 for autism insurance. Teresa said that they are going to send out a legislative

alert later today about this.

## **SESA**

Teresa Holt reported that House Bill 198 never made it out of the House side. It did move from the Education Committee to the Finance Committee, but it is clearly not going to get through the process before the end of the session. SESA will have to be kept on the plan for next year.

## ***Complex Behavior Collaborative***

Teresa Holt reported that the Complex Behavior Collaborative was in the Senate budget as a \$650,000 one-time increment, but was not in the House budget, so now it is in conference committee. They are also going to send out a legislative alert on this, to try to get people to e-mail conference committee members and ask them to keep the Complex Behavior Collaborative in the FY 13 budget.

## ***HCBS Waiver Regulations Update***

Teresa Holt reported that SDS has gone back through the regulations, considering some of the comments they received, and there will be an informational webinar tomorrow at 1:00 or 1:30 to share the changes they've made. After that they'll put out draft regulations, probably in early May, then later the new regulations will go into effect.

Steve Lesko added that a group from The Arc and Hope met with Jack Nielson and Randall from the Office of Rate Review and tried to show that the new rates were calculated incorrectly. Steve added that he thinks it made an impression, and Jack and Randall said they would go over the rates again and get back to the group. Steve Lesko will keep the Legislative Committee informed of how this turns out.

## ***Other bills of interest to the Council***

Teresa Holt reported that the \$100,000 increment in the Senate budget for rural transition services will go to the conference committee.

House Bill 150, the vulnerable adults bill, passed and is on its way to the

Governor.

Senate Bill 179, to develop and coordinate a prompt response and notification plan for missing vulnerable adults, has gone through the Senate and is at its last House committee, so it might make it.

Senate Bill 127 permanently establishing September 9<sup>th</sup> as FASD Day has passed and gone to the Governor.

Senate Bill 151 allowing FASD to be a mitigating factor in sentencing for crime has moved through the Senate and the House and is waiting for a floor vote in the House.

House Joint Resolution 4 to create a transportation infrastructure fund has gone through the House and the Senate and was referred to its last committee, the Finance Committee, today, so it might make it through.

HB 30, HB 31, and SB 37 haven't moved.

House Bill 131 to establish the community and public transportation advisory board has moved through the House and the Senate and is at the Finance Committee, which is its last committee.

Teresa added that currently things can be called for a hearing in less than 24 hours.

## **REVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Teresa Holt reviewed what the Legislative Committee has accomplished in the past year, noting that they should be proud of their work regardless of how many bills pass.

The Legislative Committee improved the position papers, made them all similar, and added talking points; the position papers have been used many times since then in preparing legislative alerts.

The Legislative Committee also improved the training at the January Council meeting: they gave people papers with talking points to take with them to their meetings with legislators, including space and time to make

notes, then had a system to put the notes into the computer immediately. Key Campaign and the Trust Advocacy Summit also benefited from these ideas.

David Flynn added that they had learned that pre-assigning people to representatives makes the process more effective. Teresa remarked that it will be even more important next year, with everything mixed up due to the redistricting.

David Flynn also noted the success of the Christmas card and Valentine's card campaigns, and suggested that that idea could be used again next year.

Teresa Holt described the gumball campaign for autism insurance, in which advocates passed out gumballs with the message that autism insurance would only cost as much as two gumballs; it was covered by Channel 2 News. People respond positively to such creative and tangible ways of conveying a message, like the original Key Campaign. David Flynn expressed his hope that the Council could come up with other such original, persuasive ideas for next year.

## **DISCUSSION OF NEXT SESSION'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Legislative Committee discussed priorities they might recommend for next year:

- SESA will remain on the priority list.
- The Complex Behavior Collaborative might have to be carried over, depending on what happens.
- Getting rid of the high school exit exam is another to follow up on.
- ILP funding
- Special increment for DSP wages
- Remove "mental retardation" from all statutes and regulations

Committee members discussed pursuing the issue of employment for people with developmental disabilities. Teresa Holt noted that there is a national Employment First initiative which charges each state with doubling the numbers of people with developmental disabilities who are employed by 2015. Teresa added that the DD Committee has been talking with SDS about the supported employment regulations, but changes are at least a year out.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.