

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date
March 5, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

David Flynn – chair
Anthony Cravalho
Art Deluane
Terese Kashi
Steve Lesko

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Kalyssa Maile

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

There was not a quorum for this meeting.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt informed the committee members that the Governor's Council wrote a letter of support regarding Senate Bill 36, which is the alert system for vulnerable adults. The Council also wrote a letter of support for the Suicide Prevention Council, which is up for reauthorization this year.

Teresa Holt reported that the DD Committee completed a report on ways to save money in the Medicaid budget, and they came up with six recommendations. The report will be forwarded to Commissioner Steur at the Department of Health and Social Services.

Council Meeting and Key Campaign Updates

Teresa Holt remarked that the Council meeting in Juneau was successful, and there were many positive meetings with legislators. David Flynn commented that the Council staff did a good job preparing for the meeting and that Council members seemed more confident going into meetings with the legislators, and even the new participants were engaged and did a good job.

Teresa Holt reported that the Governor's Council sponsored 12 people with airfare stipends, and approximately nine staff members went to Key Campaign in Juneau. While in Juneau, House Bill 88, the respectful language bill, was passed and several Council members were able to go to the session and witness its passage.

Anthony Cravalho noted that a number of lawmakers he met with had questions regarding Key Campaign's priority relating to the rate reviews; that there was a bill introduced several years ago having to do with rate reviews and what the details of that bill were. Kalyssa Maile reported that there was a debriefing after Key Campaign, and the questions that the legislators had were collected and are being followed up on. That information will be forwarded to Clark Gruening, who will follow up with

each of those legislators personally.

Legislative Update and Next Step

House HSS Finance Subcommittee Update

Teresa Holt gave a brief review of the House HSS Finance Subcommittee's budget closeout. She reported that essentially the House budget is \$25 million less than the Governor's budget, and it appears that at least half of that funding is coming out of Behavioral Health. Items of concern to the Governor's Council are \$400,000 GF/Mental Health, Bring the Kids Home, early intervention funding in the Infant Learning Program. \$140,000 MHTAAR rural and long-term care development. There were additional funding reductions associated with partner boards that were upsetting, for example, a reduction to therapeutic courts across the state and an \$8.3 million reduction, non-specified, to behavioral health services.

Teresa Holt reported that an opportunity for public testimony will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 5th and 6th, and that the Council and Key Campaign will call in to testify. She noted that the public testimony is done by region and cited the times for each region. She also reminded members that they can testify at the LIO in their area, and if they are not able to call in, they can share their public testimony by sending an e-mail to Representatives Austerman and Stoltze with a cc to Senator Meyer and ask that the e-mail be added to the record for public testimony.

Teresa Holt reported that the next steps for the CBC and other budget items will be to target the Senate Finance Committee members to give them information about the CBC and ask them to do an increment.

HB 147 – Extending reporting date for Autism Task Force

House Bill 147 is an act extending the reporting date for the comprehensive autism early diagnosis and treatment task force. The bill was passed last year, but the legislators had not finished making the appointments to the task force, and in all probability would not have those appointments made until after the session, therefore the Council supports this bill mainly to ensure a complete follow up. Teresa Holt remarked that the Autism Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting with Representative Saddler's aide, and they

will outline recommendations, which hopefully will be the starting point for the report.

HB 88 – (SB 39) Respectful language

House Bill 88 and the companion Senate Bill 39 passed unanimously.

SB 17 – (HB 85/87) SESA reauthorization

Senate Bill 17 has gone through the Education Committee, and was referred to the Finance Committee where it has been heard twice. House Bill 87, the companion bill, has gone through the Education Committee and has been referred to the Finance Committee and has yet to be heard.

SB 36 – (HB 59) Missing vulnerable adults

Senate Bill 36 has been heard in the State Affairs Committee and was referred to the Judiciary Committee. House Bill 59 was referred to Military and Veteran Affairs where it's been held and heard and awaiting the next hearing. The Commission on Aging is taking the lead on this bill, and the Council will continue to track it.

HJR 10 – Transportation fund – constitutional amendment

House Joint Resolution 10 proposes an amendment to the State constitution that would create a transportation infrastructure fund and will be heard in three committees: Transportation, Judiciary, and Finance. It has been heard in the Transportation Committee and was referred to the Judiciary Committee last week. The Alaska Mobility Coalition is tracking this bill and will let the Council know if and when there is a need for public testimony.

HB123 – Transportation Infrastructure fund

House Bill 123 speaks to how the transportation infrastructure would be funded, that it would basically be funded through facility grant funds, motor field taxes, vehicle registration, driver's license fees, identification card fees, and other taxes and fees related to motor vehicles. This bill has to go

through both the Transportation and Finance Committees, and currently has been held and heard in the Transportation Committee.

HB 3 – Requirement for a photo ID to vote

House Bill 3, which requires voters to have identification to be able to vote, is to be heard in the State Affairs Committee and the Judicial Committee. This is an issue for people in the developmental disabilities community as some people have a difficult time getting, paying for, and renewing a voter ID. HB 3 will be heard in the State Affairs Committee March 14th.

HB 128 – Pre-kindergarten school programs

House Bill 128, which is a pre-kindergarten bill, is a concern for the Council in that the sooner children get education, the better off they are. Senate Joint Resolution 9, which is an amendment to the Constitution that would allow payment for education funds to be paid to private schools, is the first step in creating a private school voucher program in our state. There is concern on many different levels, mainly how it would impact students with developmental disabilities. The Council will be monitoring this matter and will be gathering research on this topic.

HB 134 – Medicaid payment for mediset prescriptions

Teresa Holt reported that Representative Costello introduced House Bill 134 on February 20th, and asked the group that if they supported this bill, they contact their representative to ask them to co-sponsor HB 134. The Council will be tracking this bill through the session.

CBC

Teresa Holt reminded committee members that public testimony will be held on March 5th and 6th, and that the Council will be sending out e-mail alerts to members to ask them to contact their senators and ask them to support adding the increment to the budget.

Supported employment

Teresa Holt reported that it appears that supported employment will not make it in the budget this year because the focus probably went to the Complex Behavior Collaborative. With the employment grant that started in October, next year may be a prime time to ask for additional funding or policy changes around supported employment.

ILP Funding

Teresa Holt reported that it appears that the Infant Learning funding is still in the budget, but that needs verification. If it has been pulled out, they would focus their efforts on the Senate HSS Finance Subcommittee.

Rural transition funding

Teresa Holt will investigate whether the rural transition funding is still in the budget. The Education Finance Subcommittee will be closing out their budget on Friday, March 8th, and they will be able to confirm that.

Other

David Flynn made a request that the Legislative Committee, and possibly the entire Council, do a follow-up with the legislators they met with during the Council meeting in Juneau in the form of a professional-looking presentation; to possibly have each Council member share that with their representatives and senator to strengthen some of the positions and to connect in a positive way to reinforce the good work from this year's meetings.

Teresa Holt restated that in the next few weeks the Council will be targeting, very specific to regions, people who are on the Senate Finance and HSS Finance Subcommittee, and that if a committee member gets an e-mail from the Council, it means they are in one of those districts, and the Council will be asking for action. She asked the committee to be looking for those alerts and follow up and correspond with the Council on any action taken.

Next Meeting

David Flynn announced the next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for March 26th, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.