

**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 26, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

David Flynn – chair
Anthony Cravalho
Dean Gates
Eric Gebhart
Heidi Hass
Terese Kashi
Banarsi Lal
Karli Lopez
Steve Lesko
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Patrick Reinhart
Kalyssa Maile

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Margaret Kossler was excused from this meeting.

Reading of the Council Mission

Ric Nelson read the Council mission: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Welcome from the Chair

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no declarations of conflict of interest on agenda items, Banarsi Lal **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from both the January 15th, 2013 and March 5th, 2013 meetings as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report at this meeting.

Legislative Updates and Next Steps

HB 88 (SB 39) – Respectful language

Teresa Holt reminded the committee that HB 88 was passed. She noted that once it is signed by the Governor, the Council will follow up with a letter to the Commissioner requesting a timeline on the process of changing the regulations. The Council is waiting for a response from the Governor's office to determine if the Governor is going to sign House Bill 88 at the Governor's Council meeting in May.

SB 17 (HB 85/87) – SESA reauthorization

Senate Bill 17 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee Wednesday, March 27th. Eric Gebhart reported that the Senate is not in favor of the House's decision to move SESA to the Department of Education.

Teresa Holt reported that House Bill 87 has gone through the whole process. At the last hearing, the House included an amendment which moves SESA from the Governor's Council to the Department of Education. They did not include funding, but they did include a sunset of 2021.

Teresa Holt reminded the committee members to watch their e-mail for action items relating to SB 17 and HB 87 as they may need to proceed quickly in response to actions taken by the legislature.

SB 36 (HB 59) – Missing vulnerable adults

Senate Bill 36 is currently in the Judiciary Committee with a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m. The Commission on Aging is taking the lead on this bill and advised the Council that they don't see a need for the Council to be involved with testimony at that hearing.

House Bill 59, the companion bill, is in the State Affairs Committee with a hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 28th at 8:00 a.m.

HJR 10 – Transportation infrastructure fund

House Joint Resolution 10 was referred to the Judiciary Committee last month and has not moved. Teresa Holt noted that the resolution is sponsored by Representative Peggy Wilson and co-sponsored by Representatives Tomkins, Pruitt, Lynn, Gattis, Isaacson, Seaton, Munoz, Thompson, Chenault, LeDoux, Millett, and Foster.

HB 122 – Transportation infrastructure fund

House Bill 122 was referred to the Finance Committee and has not seen any movement.

HB 123 – Dedicated transportation fund

House Bill 123 was referred to the Finance Committee on March 20th where it currently sits.

HB 3 – Requirement for a photo ID to vote

House Bill 3 is currently sitting in the Judiciary Committee and has not been heard.

HB 128 – Pre-kindergarten school programs

House Bill 128 was referred to the Education Committee and has not been heard.

HB 134 – Medicaid payment for mediset prescriptions

House Bill 134, sponsored by Representative Costello, is proposing a committee substitute adding a section that reads, “The fee shall reimburse a qualified pharmacy for the following dispensing services if services are not otherwise reimbursed under this chapter.” It then lists seven services, one of which is of particular concern to the Council, which is requiring a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, on-call pharmacist. The Council believes this constraint would limit mediset services to one pharmacy, Geneva Woods, as the only pharmacy able to provide mediset services, thus creating a monopoly. Teresa Holt reported that the Council will draft a letter to Representative Costello’s office pointing out that this would essentially create a monopoly on the mediset services. Steve Lesko reported that he received information that perhaps that language was taken out of the proposed change. Teresa Holt will further investigate the status of HB 134 and the proposed changes and will report at the next meeting.

CBC, supported employment, ILP funding and rural transition funding

Teresa Holt reported that the CBC, supported employment, ILP funding and rural transition funding all come under the budget bill. She noted that the only items included in the House budget are the items originally in the Governor’s budget, which is the ILP and rural transition funding.

Teresa Holt reported that the funding for the CBC is in the Senate budget at \$450,000 one-time funding, and there is also a new increment for MTHAAR funds of \$150,000 to continue the Disability Employment Initiative at the Council. She reported that supported employment is not in the House nor Senate budgets.

Teresa Holt reported that the Council expects to have clarity on how to proceed when disputed items go to a conference committee. She reported that Kalyssa Maile will be tracking those items and will help identify which representatives are in which districts. Teresa Holt asked committee members to watch their e-mail for action alerts and be ready to respond quickly if a need arises.

Teresa Holt reported that the Integrated Employment Committee met last week in an effort to look at introducing a bill this session for Employment First legislation. The Legislative Committee discussed that there isn't enough time before the end of the current session to introduce new legislation, but felt that after some research on who in the legislature would be willing to champion Employment First, they could look at developing a bill and then pre-file in November or December for the next session.

Thank-You Cards

Heidi Hass **MOVED** to proceed with some type of communication campaign that they could have in a postcard format for the next meeting and then present it in May so they could pick a timeline of when that would be appropriate to send it out, but have Council members sign the information while they are all together in May. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for April 23rd, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.