

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIALEDUCATION**

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

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

**Meeting Date
June 25, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
David Flynn
Dean Gates
Heidi Haas
Terese Kashi
Steve Lesko
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart

Guests:

Akis Gialopsos

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Reading of the Council Mission

Terese Kashi read the Council mission: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Announcements and Good News

Patrick Reinhart announced that both HB 87 and 88 were signed. HB 88 is the respectful language bill, and HB 87 is the reauthorization of SESA.

Heidi Haas commented that she was disappointed she missed the signing of HB 87 in Fairbanks. She asked for regular staff communication to Council members regarding these important events so they can participate in activities for issues they have so diligently advocated for. Ric Nelson explained that Council staff received the announcement of the bill signing with very little notice, and Teresa Holt attempted to contact Heidi Haas but was unsuccessful. Heidi stated that she will follow up with staff to ensure they have her correct contact information. Patrick Reinhart stated that the staff will make a greater effort to notify Council members when such events are taking place.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

Dean Gates declared a conflict of interest on the agenda item regarding providing comments to the Anchorage Assembly regarding the accessible taxi ordinance.

Approval of Agenda

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 2013 meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Workforce Investment Act reauthorization is up before the Senate HELP Committee that Senator Murkowski is on. Her staff is asking for a fairly detailed response from the Council regarding any changes to the Act. He noted that one of the changes affects DVR regarding removing the Independent Living Centers from the purview of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, which Council staff feel is a good idea.

Patrick noted that another change in the Workforce Investment Act is in regards to people with disabilities working in sheltered workshops being paid less than minimum wage. He stated that this would not have much of an impact in Alaska, which doesn't have any sheltered workshops, but philosophically it should be supported.

Senator Murkowski's office would like to have the Council's comments by July 1st. Patrick Reinhart will draft a letter and send it out to Legislative Committee members for comment by Friday, June 28th. He will then finalize the letter by Monday.

Legislative Updates

Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Base Funding

Patrick Reinhart shared the statistics of people served by the CBC as follows:

- 42 people (17 youth, 25 adults) accepted into the CBC from 57 referrals.
- 5 are pending and need a consultant.
- 13 of 42 have been discharged (5 youth, 8 adults).
- Of the 29 people who remain in service, 15 are adults with developmental disabilities, and 2 are adults with mental health issues.
- Of the 7 youth, 3 are dual diagnosis (MH and DD), 3 have a DD only diagnosis, and 1 has a mental health diagnosis.
- The costs through May 31, 2013 have been \$414,141 with another \$69,000 encumbered.
- The communities served include: Anchorage, Eagle River, Mat-Su,

Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula, Homer, Valdez, Cordova, Juneau, and two northern villages.

Patrick stated that they know the Collaborative seems to be working, but they do not yet have the calculation on the cost savings. They need to follow up on the cost savings.

Patrick Reinhart also mentioned that the Commission on Aging and the Alaska Mental Health Board do not plan to make the CBC a priority for next year's legislative session, possibly because the CBC does not seem to have a great impact on their constituency. He stated that he and Teresa Holt discussed having a meeting with Melissa Stone, the director of the Division of Behavioral Health, to see if the Division plans to make it a priority because it falls within Behavioral Health's budget. He noted that if the CBC does not make it as a priority for the Department, it will probably end being the third year of a one-time increment. He also brainstormed that perhaps an idea might be to include Duane Mayes, the director of the Division of Senior and Disability Services, in the meeting with Melissa Stone.

Advocate for Employment First Legislation

Patrick Reinhart stated that Representative Millett's office has been working on some draft Employment First legislation. Patrick hopes to have the draft legislation prepared to present during an Employment First Summit in the middle of September.

Akis Gialopsos added that during a meeting with Patrick Reinhart and Teresa Holt as well as other Council members and staff, they identified the legislative goal and what steps need to be taken between now and the pre-file deadline, which is the second week of December.

In response to a question by Dean Gates, Akis Gialopsos stated that the type of legislation, either a resolution or a bill, depends on the information they are able to gather and what sort of parameters they want to put into the legislation.

Advocate for State and/or Federal Regulations Regarding Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

Patrick Reinhart stated that Representative Millett's office has worked with legislative research to draft a bill related to restraint and seclusion in schools. With additional input from the Council's Education Committee, Representative Millett's office will do some redrafting of the bill. Akis Gialopsos stated they are estimating the second draft will be completed near the beginning of next week.

Advocate for a State Match for Public and Community Transportation

Patrick Reinhart stated that David Levy from the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) plans to advocate for \$2 million during the next legislative session for public and community transportation. He stated that the Council will align with AMC in advocating for that amount.

Patrick further explained that the funding gets distributed to the municipalities and coordinated transportation systems around the state. They use a formula for the funding, and it is to use as a match so they can try to draw down more federal funding. There are approximately 40 entities that get a portion of that funding

Continue to Advocate for Alternative Routes for Students with Disabilities to pass the HSGQE and/or Receive a Diploma

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Education Committee has been working on this issue, and the Legislative Committee will need to wait to get further direction from the Education Committee before taking any action on this objective.

Provide Comment to the Anchorage Assembly on the Accessible Taxi Ordinance

Dean Gates excused himself from this issue and passed the gavel to Ric Nelson to facilitate the discussion.

Ric Nelson stated that the Anchorage Assembly set a meeting for July 23rd to hear public comments on this issue.

Patrick Reinhart stated that after today's Legislative Committee meeting, there will be a teleconference initiated by AMC with Dan Coffey, who is the representative of a taxicab company. The Council has been invited to participate in this teleconference.

Next Meeting

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

Heidi Haas suggested staff do a Doodle to determine a date and time that would work better for the majority of committee members. Patrick stated that he will wait until the other committees have completed their Doodle requests and then send one out for the Legislative Committee.

Other Information for the Good of the Order

Finance Committee Meeting Schedule

Patrick Reinhart stated that he contacted Representative Neuman's staff asking if they have a calendar for the information sessions regarding the various divisions within the Department of Health and Social Services. He stated that the Council would like to have opportunities to provide input during these sessions, and they will continue trying to get a schedule. He has not heard back from Representative Neuman's office yet.

CBC

Anthony Cravalho added a few comments regarding the impact the CBC has had in his area. He stated that the initial feedback has been very, very positive. He stated that it has had a tremendous impact in the rural communities, and he wants to make sure that message is getting out there as well as the other hard data about cost savings to the State. Dean Gates suggested that would be very helpful testimony to provide to the legislature.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.