

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

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**August 29, 2013
12:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Dean Gates, Chair
Banarsi Lal
Terese Kashi
Anthony Cravalho
Ric Nelson
Art Delaune
Steve Lesko
Lexi Henning
Eric Gebhart
Akis Gialopsos

Guests:

Hannah Foreman
Erin Atwood

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Rich Sanders
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Announcements and Good News

Patrick Reinhart welcomed Hannah Foreman, the future legislative intern, and stated that due to some technical difficulties with the hiring process, Hannah has not been able to start her internship with the Council this week as they had planned.

Dean Gates introduced and welcomed new Council member Lexi Henning to the Legislative Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Approval of the Agenda

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Dean Gates noted a language correction to the July 31st meeting minutes on page 4, first full paragraph. The sentence that reads, “Teresa Holt stated that Reta Sullivan will be redoing the chart that *lines out the costs*,” should be changed to “*outlines the costs*”.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2013 meeting as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

Conflict of Interest Declarations on Agenda Items

Dean Gates declared a conflict of interest regarding the Municipality of Anchorage taxi ordinance and excused himself from that discussion.

Correspondence

Patrick Reinhart stated that there is no correspondence to report on.

REPORTS

Trust Beneficiary Initiative on Employment

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Trust Planning Committee has recently proposed to the full Trust to replace the Bring the Kids Home Initiative with the Trust Beneficiary Initiative on Employment. This would be a five to ten-year initiative funded at a rate of \$1 million per year. The Trust will be looking for the Governor's Council to be the lead Trust beneficiary group in that effort. Patrick noted that the full Trust will vote on this at their board meeting next week. He stated that this initiative will correlate nicely with all of the efforts of the Council around employment as well as the Employment First legislation the Council has been working toward.

OLD BUSINESS

Alaska Complex Behavior Collaborative Base Funding

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council has been working to garner support for the CBC from the other Trust beneficiary boards. He stated that they won't know until fall whether or not the CBC has been included in the Governor's budget. In the meantime, they will continue to meet with Commissioner Streur for support at the State level.

Patrick stated that if the Council needs to go to the legislature to ask for further funding, they need to be prepared to show the cost savings of the program. He stated that Teresa Holt is working with Reta Sullivan on a presentation for the Trust that will highlight the data. He stated that staff can distribute that data to the Legislative Committee.

Christie Reinhardt further added that some of the data from the CBC is hard to capture because a lot of the work of the CBC is training teams and individuals, but they are working on trying to capture that.

Advocate for Employment First Legislation

Rich Sanders stated that they have postponed the Employment First Summit in light of the activities of the Trust. He stated that Teresa Holt has talked to the Trust about a new plan to gather a lot of information from all the Trust beneficiary groups about how they see Employment First and how they see the barriers to employment that currently exist. Once that information has been gathered, they will be in a better position to coordinate a summit.

Rich Sanders stated that yesterday he, Patrick Reinhart, and Teresa Holt met with Mike Lesmann from the Governor's Office, and they discussed three different employment objectives, one of them being Employment First legislation. He stated that everything seems to be positive from the Governor's Office in terms of Employment First legislation.

Rich stated that he has also been contacted by Legislative Research, and he provided them with data and information about employment of people with disabilities in Alaska. Terese Kashi suggested that doing single subject research or utilizing non-parametric statistics might provide better data points. Rich Sanders stated that a good use of some of the Trust funding would be to hire a contractor to gather that type of data.

Patrick Reinhart added that during the meeting with Mike Lesmann, Mike agreed to check with their legislative affairs director and also ask the Governor himself if he would include Employment First legislation in his package of pre-filed bills. The Council informed the Governor's Office of the work of Representative Millett's office on this, and they were fully supportive of having Representative Millett introduce the legislation as a pre-filed bill.

Akis Gialopsos reported that Mr. Worthington from Legislative Research contacted him informing him that the initial date of the Legislative Research report being finalized has now been pushed back one week to September 15th. He stated that in light of the summit being cancelled, Representative Millett would like to set up several stakeholder meetings, in conjunction with the Council meeting, to receive feedback on the draft legislation. The plan is still to have the bill pre-filed by early to mid November.

Akis Gialopsos had another issue to bring to the attention of the Council. He stated that according to the Daily News Minor, Representative Higgins has pre-filed a bill that is aimed at improving the grievance procedure law for psychiatric patients and guardians. Patrick Reinhart asked Akis to send him a link to the information so the Council can continue to follow this issue.

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

Christie Reinhardt stated that the Education Committee is moving forward with the draft legislation, and it has been sent out to partners, stakeholders, and various State departments for feedback. They have requested copies of policies and reporting forms from the special education directors and a variety of school districts around the state. She stated that they are waiting to hear back from Information Management on how the reporting piece will work and who will be responsible for data collection. They are also waiting for official comments from the Anchorage School District and the Department of Education. Christie stated that she will be attending the State Board of Education meeting in Nome in September and will introduce the draft legislation and ask for support from the State Board.

Patrick Reinhart acknowledged Akis Gialopsos, Representative Millett, and Legislative Research staff for all their work on this.

In response to a question by Dean Gates, Christie Reinhardt stated that this issue is a statutory change. She stated that the draft regulation contains the following items:

- Unilateral ban on chemical and mechanical restraints, including prone restraint.
- Requirement to have staff trained in de-escalation and restraint and that seclusion will be used as a method of last resort.
- Every district will be required to have a policy.
- Parents will be notified of any incident of restraint or seclusion within 24 hours of an event.
- There will be a debriefing using a school team, including the parents, to talk about what needs to happen to prevent future occurrences.

Patrick Reinhart stated that after the Education Committee completes the work on this priority, it will come before the Legislative Committee to adopt and move forward as a legislative item.

Advocate for a State Match for Public and Community Transportation

Patrick Reinhart explained that the Alaska Mobility Coalition will be working to get the State match up to \$2 million. It is currently at \$1 million.

Patrick stated that the Alaska Mobility Coalition and the transportation providers from around the state have their annual conference October 22nd through 24th in Juneau.

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

Christie Reinhardt stated that the HSGQE subcommittee of the Education Committee reported at the last Education Committee meeting. Their two recommendations are:

- Start transition planning at age 16 or 9th grade, whichever comes first.
- Students with IEPs have their graduation requirements determined by the IEP team.

Christie Reinhart stated that they plan to gather data from other states on diplomas for students with IEPs. She stated that they will probably not have anything to bring forward on the HSGQE this legislative session. She noted that the State Board of Education has the HSGQE on their agenda for their retreat, and the Education Committee is waiting to see what position the State Board is going to take.

Provide Comment to the Anchorage Assembly on the Accessible Taxi Ordinance

Ric Nelson chaired the discussion.

Ric Nelson stated that he went before the Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Committee this past Monday. He stated that the Public Transportation Committee has asked him to meet with Dick Traini to talk

about the regulations before they close them. Ric stated that he will be talking to Dick Traini about how important it is for people with disabilities to have accessible taxis. Ric stated that the committee also asked him to speak before the Anchorage Assembly, and he will be able to do that for their September 24th meeting.

Ric Nelson further stated that the Alaska Mobility Coalition is coordinating a meeting on September 16th or 17th before the vote on the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approve FY'14 Draft Work Plan

Patrick Reinhart stated that he was unable to finish the draft work plan to present at this meeting. He will finish the draft and e-mail it to Legislative Committee members for comment and review. He will need feedback near the middle of September so they can review it at their September 26th meeting before it goes before the full Council in October.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Key Coalition Board Meeting, 9/27, Anchorage
- Alaska Employment Initiative Advisory Board Meeting, October 1, Anchorage
- Council Meeting – October 2 – 4, Anchorage
- Trust Mini Advocacy Summits this fall
 - October 1 – 2, Fairbanks
 - October 8 – 9, Mat-Su

Patrick Reinhart explained that they may focus on employment-related issues during the public testimony portion of the Council meeting. Eric Gebhart suggested asking for employment-related testimony at the beginning of public testimony, and then allowing all other testimony afterwards.

Patrick Reinhart stated that they are also enlisting the help of five people in both Fairbanks and Mat-Su to participate in the Trust Advocacy Summits in those communities. He asked that committee members forward him the names of any individuals, family members, or service providers that may be

interested in participating.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for September 26, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

Lexi Henning **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.