

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

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

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

**Meeting Date
April 10, 2014
12:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
Dean Gates – Chair
Alex Gimarc
Heidi Haas
Terese Kashi
Banarsi Lal
Steve Lesko

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Hannah Foreman

CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Terese Kashi welcomed members to the meeting in Dean Gates' absence.

Announcements and Good News

Alex Gimarc announced that Cabela's is opening today in Anchorage. He commented that he and his son have been invited to Cabela's to talk about accessible fishing with the Kenai River Sportsman's Association on Sunday from 11:00 to 12:30.

Teresa Holt announced that Lanny Mommsen has been hired to staff the health and ASPEN projects. She will start the first day of the Council meeting in April.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the 3/27/14 Legislative Committee meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

(The approval of the minutes from the 3/13/14 meeting was tabled from the 3/27/14 meeting and was not brought forward for approval at this meeting.)

Correspondence

Teresa Holt reported that correspondence will be discussed during the discussion of House Bill 210.

REPORTS

Report from the Chair

Dean Gates reported that he just returned from his trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Disability Policy Seminar. He stated that they learned a lot about the overall federal advocacy priorities, including funding for all the DD councils and a need to request Congress to do some small fixes to the long-term Social Security disability program. He stated that during a discussion with the Congressional delegation, they discussed a proposed cap to the total amounts of SSDI because of the misperception that there is a lot of fraud with Social Security disability and that a lot of people who receive it aren't really disabled. Dean Gates stated that they assured the delegation that any fraud is very isolated cases and is not widespread.

Dean Gates reported that they met with Senator Murkowski and Representative Young in person. They met with Senator Begich's aide, who Dean used to work with when Senator Begich was mayor of Anchorage. The delegation is on board with the Council's priorities. They discussed the Affordable Care Act, and the delegation agreed that the ACA needs some fixes in terms of some of the provisions, particularly regarding preexisting conditions.

Report from Staff

Teresa Holt referred committee members to the packet that Dean and Patrick shared with the delegation entitled "Outline of Disability Issues for Alaska." Dean Gates stated that they used this packet as talking points during their meeting.

Alex Gimarc referenced section 3 of that packet regarding the Affordable Care Act, and he requested that they discuss this more in-depth at a future meeting of the Legislative Committee to determine what the Council supports and opposes.

OLD BUSINESS

House Bill 210 – Safe Students Act

Teresa Holt reported that this Act passed unanimously in the House. It will be heard by the Senate Education Committee tomorrow morning. Teresa Holt stated that Senator Millett's office received a letter in opposition to the bill from a group in New York called Handle with Care that wanted the inclusion of property rights in the definition of restraints and seclusion. She stated that the letter is a little difficult to understand, and she isn't really sure what the group is asking for, but the letter was sent to all the sponsors of the bill.

Steve Lesko asked for clarification regarding the removal of the psychotropic medications from the bill. Teresa Holt stated that a portion of the medication piece was removed because the nurses association wanted to address all medications in schools as a whole unit during the next session. The portion of the bill that addressed chemical restraints has remained in the bill.

HB 211- Employment First Legislation

Dean Gates reported that this bill has passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and is awaiting signature in the Governor's office.

HB 220 and SB 111 – Repeal of the HSGQE

Hannah Foreman reported that HB 220 passed the House and has moved over to the Senate Finance Committee and is awaiting hearing.

HB 278 and SB 139 – Governor's Education Bills

Hannah Foreman stated that hearings have been occurring in Senate Finance regarding these bills, but she doesn't know their current status.

HB 232 – Disability Designation on ID/License

Art Delaune reported that this bill is not going to move out of the Affairs Committee this session, so the bill seems to be dead. There is a work group that will be addressing all the details of the bill that need to be included, and the intent is that Representative Thompson will reintroduce it next year.

SB 143 – No HCBS Reapplication for Returning Military

Teresa Holt reported that this legislation hasn't moved.

Complex Behavior Collaborative (CBC)

Dean Gates reported that the budget was amended to include \$525,000 base funding for the CBC, and that figure is not anticipated to change before it's transmitted to the Governor.

Update on Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) Funding Request

Dean Gates reported that the request was for \$1.5 million, and the last report was that \$1 million was put into the capital budget.

NEW BUSINESS

One-Year Work Plan Review

Dean Gates referred committee members to the one-year draft work plan. Teresa Holt explained that the process at the Council meeting will be for committees to talk about their accomplishments and recommendations, they will hear partner reports, and they will keep a running tally of all the recommendations for the various committees during the course of the Council meeting. The full Council will then vote on which three or four priorities they want each committee to focus on for the year.

The Legislative Committee report comes toward the end of the meeting, and during that time, any approved committee priorities that need legislative attention go onto the Legislative Committee's work plan. The

Legislative Committee is also welcomed to suggest additional legislative items at that time. A document was created that contained previously suggested legislative priorities from members of the Legislative Committee.

Dean Gates opened a discussion on further suggestions to the Legislative Committee's proposed priorities for FY'15.

Art Delaune **MOVED** that the Legislative Committee support the legislation regarding the disability designation on state IDs or licenses during the next session. The motion **PASSED** and staff will add that priority to the draft work plan.

Dean Gates asked Teresa Holt if advocating for transportation funding will remain on the work plan as an ongoing item. She stated that it would because any funding received will be in the capital budget, which means it needs to be advocated for each year.

Dean Gates suggested the HCBS reapplication for returning military families be added to their draft work plan. There was no motion made to support this priority on the work plan at this time.

Art Delaune **MOVED** that the Legislative Committee approve its draft proposed work plan as recently amended. The motion **PASSED**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Every Friday – Trust legislative meetings.
- Executive Committee meeting, April 1.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Legislative Committee meeting is to be determined after the April Council meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Hannah Foreman announced that this is her last Legislative Committee meeting because her internship is ending. Committee members thanked Hannah for her excellent service to the Council.

Dean Gates stated that he has really enjoyed being chair of the Legislative Committee, and everyone has been great to work with. He felt that staff members Teresa Holt, Patrick Reinhart, Hannah Foreman, and Christie Reinhardt deserve recognition for all of the work they have done. They have done an excellent job of keeping the committee informed, updated, and on track during this session.

He also noted that although there have been issues in the background that may have been distracting, he appreciates that this committee has kept a strong focus with the legislative agenda and priorities. He noted that the Council's top three priorities have seen success and passage, which is an awesome accomplishment.

ADJOURNMENT

Terese Kashi thanked Dean Gates for his work on the committee and **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.