

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

**Legislative Committee**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date**

**October 23, 2014  
12:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Anthony Cravalho  
Art Delaune  
Dean Gates – Chair  
Alex Gimarc  
Heidi Haas  
Terese Kashi  
Steve Lesko  
Karli Lopez  
Ric Nelson

**Guests:**

Stephanie George  
Anthony Demare

**Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart

**CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

Dean Gates welcomed committee members to the meeting.

***Announcements and Good News***

There were no announcements or good news reported.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the 8/28/14 Legislative Committee meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report for this meeting.

**REPORTS**

***Report from the Chair***

Dean Gates reported that he had no additional news to report since the full Council meeting in October. He noted that he has invited Anthony Demare to come talk to this committee today about the Denali Deaf Community Center capital funding request.

***Report from Staff***

Patrick Reinhart reported that this is his first full day as executive director of the Council.

On the federal front, Patrick Reinhart stated that the ABLE Act showed real promise before Congress went on break; and there is an expectation that when Congress reconvenes, the bill will move. He reminded committee members that the ABLE Act would allow families and individuals to set up an account for paying personal disability-related expenses.

Patrick Reinhart noted that he could continue to e-mail out the federal legislative update if committee members are still interested in receiving it.

He reported that he met with Pam Soderholm and Anthony Demare to discuss the Denali Deaf Community Center. He also has a meeting set up next week to talk to Evelyn Alsup with North Star Behavioral Health to discuss the education of students while they are under the care of the institution.

Patrick stated that the Executive Committee will be looking over the budget, and it may be possible to get a legislative intern from December to May with the help of Partners in Policymaking and the Trust. Heidi Haas volunteered to write a letter of support for the intern position if one is needed.

With the recent change in executive director, Dean Gates asked if the Legislative Committee should be anticipating a staffing change. Patrick stated that he will continue to attend these meetings and will bring in other staff as needed.

### ***Partners in Policymaking (PIP)***

Patrick Reinhart stated that former Council member Kathy Fitzgerald used to serve as the connection with Partners in Policymaking. Kathy has been replaced at the Center for Human Development by Stephanie George, and Patrick suggested that the committee might consider inviting Stephanie to be a community member participant for the Legislative Committee.

Stephanie George explained that her approach to PIP is to start with level one internships that focus on self-advocacy; and level two internships focus on leadership, peer-to-peer mentoring, and then move into advocacy leadership.

Stephanie reported that she has new trainings posted on the PIP website on topics such as voting, politics, lobbying, lobbying limits, what non-profits can and can't do, how to register for lobbying, and how to file those forms.

Stephanie George stated that when she found out the cost for becoming Midwest Academy certified was higher than anticipated, she and Richard Kiefer O'Donnell identified the Community Toolbox out of the University of Kansas. It is a free online resource that goes through coalition building, grassroots efforts, planning, strategic plans, et cetera, and it gives pre-made PowerPoint presentations on how to teach it to others. She noted that she introduced AADD to the Community Toolbox. She stated that she will send the link out to Patrick Reinhart to then forward to the rest of the committee members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***One-Year Work Plan Review and Discussion***

Patrick Reinhart stated that the following four work plan priorities were discussed at the full Council meeting in October:

1. Reuse of durable medical equipment and assistive technology, i.e. Medicaid, SDS, DVR, et cetera.

This issue does not need legislation passed, but rather is a regulations change. This work plan priority will not be on the Legislative Committee's work plan and will instead be on the DD Committee's and the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee's work plan for continued follow up.

2. Disability Training and Identification Bill.

Art Delaune stated that this bill has been redone since it was introduced last year. He noted that they structured this new legislation from a bill in Massachusetts that was specifically for the training of law enforcement officers for people diagnosed with autism. The Alaska bill has been modified to include many other disabilities, and it also does not target all law enforcement officers in the state. This bill is currently directed at police and corrections academies. Because the training will take place at the

training academies and can either replace or augment existing training curriculum, the cost will be fairly low.

Another part of the bill pertains to DMV adding a section into their driver's manual to instruct the public on how to appropriately interact with police officers. They also are requesting that a couple of questions about that be added to the test.

Art Delaune reported that they have presented about the bill before the Interior legislators, and have also presented it to the Statewide Independent Living Council. It has been received very positively at this point.

Christine King asked that the Council be apprised of the exact verbiage of the legislation's title so they can become accustomed to calling it by its correct name.

Dean Gates suggested Art Delaune get any formalized position papers to Council staff as soon as possible so the Legislative Committee can begin formulating the Council's position to the legislature.

3. Accessible transportation required from airports, ferry terminals, et cetera. If it became statutorily required, would this put more accessible transportation options in communities through the private sector?

Patrick Reinhart suggested that the Legislative Committee form a work group to delve into this issue and bring a recommendation back to the committee for the next meeting. Stephanie George volunteered to participate on this work group. Dean Gates asked that Patrick e-mail the committee members to get additional volunteers.

4. Review governing statutes of the Council because it still has the word "gifted" in statute and may need other updates.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the committee will need to have more time at a future meeting to have a thorough discussion about the ramifications of opening up the statute for review . He directed committee members to a

copy of the statute and asked that they review it before the next meeting. He stated that they may also want to include Representative Millett in the discussion to get her perspective.

### Other Legislative Priorities

Alex Gimarc commented that at the end of the previous meeting minutes, Ric Nelson asked to put affordable, accessible housing and land shortage in Anchorage as a legislative priority.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Denali Deaf Community Center (DDCC) as a Legislative Priority***

Anthony Demare stated that it is the hope of the DDCC to get the Governor's Council to support their proposal for the upcoming legislative session. The DDCC is proposed to be a one-stop center for members of the community who are deaf and hard of hearing to access resources such as interpreters, housing support, employment support, et cetera.

Anthony stated that they are asking for a \$2,600,000 one-time capital request with the intention that once the facility is up and operating, social enterprise will continue to fund the center in the future. They are predicting generating \$200,000 of self-sustaining income through social enterprise yearly.

Christine King shared her concerns regarding the large size of the request. She felt that this may be a barrier with the legislature.

Ric Nelson suggested the DDCC look for other partners to help them. Anthony Demare stated that the DDCC is developing their relationship with the Alaska Deaf Council; the Rasmuson Foundation has shown an interest; and they are working with the ASPEN program to start community outreach for deaf and hard of hearing women who have been the victims of violence. They are also currently developing plans with DVR.

Alex Gimarc made some suggestions in changing some of the language in their handout.

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Council has taken positions on capital project requests before, but he suggested that the committee take some time at the next meeting to discuss this topic further. He commented that the DDCC will need to hone their message down a little further and emphasize the partners who are already committed to supporting this project, vocational training, and that people who are deaf and hard of hearing are underserved in the employment sector. Dean Gates felt it would be a good idea to bring this topic up again at the next meeting and have Anthony or someone else from the DDCC present on the repackaged information.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

- Long-Term Care Meeting, DHSS, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 – 11:30.
- Medicaid Reform group, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 5:00.
- Trust board meeting, November 20<sup>th</sup>, all day.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

### **OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Ric Nelson stated that Steve Lesko is going to be retiring from Hope Community Resources, and there will be a retirement party for him next Saturday at Wayland Baptist Church from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Dean Gates reported that the implementation of the Safe Student Act has had some media coverage recently.

Christine King stated that on Tuesday night she accepted the proclamation from the mayor of Anchorage to have October as Disability Employment Awareness Month.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.