

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

Legislative Committee

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**January 14, 2015
12:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Dean Gates – Chair
Alex Gimarc
Heidi Haas
Terese Kashi
Christine King
Ric Nelson

Guests:

Stephanie George

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Kristin Vandagriff
Brittney Howell
Johanna Richter

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

Johanna Richter, the Council's new legislative intern, introduced herself to committee members.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the 1/6/15 Legislative Committee meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report at this time.

REPORTS

Report from the Chair

Dean Gates stated that he has nothing new to report at this time.

Report from Staff

Patrick Reinhart reported that he and Dean Gates met with Representative Millett last week. He noted that Representative Millett was very positive about the capital request for the DDCC, and she is willing to talk with Senator McGuire about it.

Patrick also noted that Representative Millett suggested that opening the Council's statute to remove the word "gifted" may just be a minor change that will not open the entire governing statute for a total rewrite. Representative Millett instructed her staff to begin working on this issue. Until the Council hears further from the legislative staffers, the Council will not address this issue.

Patrick Reinhart reported that Representative Millett suggested putting forth a bill regarding the durable medical equipment reuse and recycling program if the Council is interested. She has instructed her staff to begin working on this issue as well.

Patrick Reinhart reminded the committee that Representative Millett continues to be a very strong ally for the Council, and he noted that she has begun to follow up with the commissioners of the state departments that are affected by the Employment First legislation to ensure that they adopt the legislation as one of their priorities.

OLD BUSINESS

2015 Legislative Priorities

Denali Deaf Community Center

Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding the position paper and talking points developed for the Denali Deaf Community Center's (DDCC) capital request for \$995,000. Suggestions made are as follows:

- Add the amount of the request to the top of the front page of the position paper in addition to at the end.
- Include information about the cultural aspects that are important to having a deaf center, and highlight that it is an unfilled need because there are no other deaf centers in the state.
- Highlight that the DDCC has been very cost conscious in their proposal and has cut the request down to the bare necessities.
- Include the phrase, "Alternate funding has been pursued aggressively."

- Based on a suggestion from Representative Millett, emphasize that the legislature has already funded phases 1 and 2 of this project, and this final funding is for phase 3. Add to the second bullet point the sentence, “The DDCC is ready to enter phase 3 for completion.”
- Include information that explains that the DDCC has taken possession of their property since January 1, 2014, and they have renegotiated their lease. If this capital request is not funded, the DDCC could lose the property.

Disability Training and ID Bill

Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding the position paper and talking points developed for the disability training and ID bill.

Suggestions were made as follows:

- Council members will need to be sure to reiterate that they are in support of Representative Thompson’s bill when it is published. There has been confusion surrounding a bill mistakenly submitted by Representative Gara with the same title.
- There is no ask on the title page of the position paper with a specific heading that says what the Council is asking for similar to the “Goals” and “What is it” headings.
- Include who the sponsor of the bill is.
- Make sure to include the fiscal note.
- Include in the training for the Council next week how this bill differs from the Yellow Dot Program in Anchorage.

Changes to Medicaid and Home and Community-Based Services

Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding the position paper and talking points developed for the changes to Medicaid and home and community-based services. Suggestions were made as follows:

- Change the heading from “**that could** save the state money” to “**to** save the state money.”
- Representative Josephson has filed a Medicaid expansion bill, which would require a separate position paper for the Council. Discussion ensued regarding leaving in the current heading and paragraph

related to Medicaid expansion in this position paper. Stephanie George discussed the current legislation in Congress, HR 30, which will repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification of full-time employees for the purposes of health benefits, and she noted how this will affect many Alaskans. Committee members agreed to rewrite the current Medicaid expansion paragraph to reflect that the Council is developing a position on Medicaid expansion.

- Put bullets in this position paper similar to the format of the others.

Council staff will make the appropriate amendments to the position papers, and will continue to make any necessary adjustments up to the time of the legislative visits.

NEW BUSINESS

Addition of Public Members to the Committee

Dean Gates stated that Stephanie George would like to be considered a public member of the Legislative Committee. Ric Nelson stated that any recommendations from the Legislative Committee chair then go to the Council chair for approval. Dean Gates formally recommended Stephanie George as a public member, and Ric Nelson will bring it before the Executive Committee at tomorrow's meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Council Meeting – January 20 – 22, Juneau
- Trust Meeting – January 28 – 29, Juneau
- FASD Forum – February 3 – 6, Juneau
- AADD Meeting – February 18, Juneau
- Key Campaign – February 19 – 20, Juneau
- 29th Legislative Session – January 20 – April 19.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A Doodle will be sent out by Legislative Committee staff to determine the next committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.