

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

**Legislative Committee**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date**

**March 12, 2015  
12:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Anthony Cravalho  
Banarsi Lal  
Art Delaune  
Dean Gates – Chair  
Alex Gimarc  
Terese Kashi  
Karli Lopez  
Ric Nelson  
Stephanie George

**Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart  
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***

Ric Nelson stated that he will be receiving his Top 40 Under 40 award on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

### **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 2/12/15 Legislative Committee meeting as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council sent a letter to the House Finance Committee regarding the operating budget and areas the Council had some concerns with. Patrick noted that because the letter had been compiled quickly, it contained some typographical errors, and the tone was a little less formal than they would have liked.

### **REPORTS**

#### ***Report from the Chair***

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

#### ***Report from Staff***

Patrick Reinhart reported the Council received a call from Senator Sullivan in Washington, D.C. to inquire about the Council's purpose and activities. Patrick noted that they have no funding to attend the Disability Policy Seminar next month, and that is usually the time that the Council meets with the Congressional delegation. He did note, however, that the Council will be supplying materials to the Center for Human Development and the LEND Program to present at the Disability Policy Seminar. Council staff will also train the CHD and LEND program participants on how to attend the meetings with the delegation.

Dean Gates asked if Council staff could attend those CHD and LEND meetings with the delegation telephonically. Patrick stated he would consider whether or not that could be a logistical consideration. Alex Gimarc noted that Senator Sullivan has an office in town and suggested that they set up a working relationship with his staff locally to open the lines of communication. Patrick Reinhart agreed that it might be a good idea to request a meeting with the local staff and present the same information that will be presented in D.C.

Patrick stated that the House Finance Subcommittee removed \$50,000 from the Council's travel budget. He noted that if the Council sticks to their two-day planning meeting schedule in Anchorage and the one spring meeting in Juneau, they should be able to work around the decrement. They will also tighten up the number of people they send to Key Campaign.

Patrick also reiterated that both in-state and out-of-state travel will be difficult to have approved in the current budget situation, and the only additional travel that will be approved will have to have a grant requirement to back it up.

Patrick Reinhart also reported that the \$21,000 in federal money the Council lost through their DD grant during sequestration has been put back into their budget.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Denali Deaf Community Center (DDCC)***

Dean Gates reported that the increment for the DDCC is still not in the capital budget. He stated that legislators seemed to be in support of the concept, but right now all the focus seems to be on the budget. Patrick Reinhart stated that KTUU did a report about the Deaf Center as well.

Patrick Reinhart commented that one of the legislators they visited suggested going to the Municipality of Anchorage and putting together a bond package to include the DDCC. He asked Dean Gates if anything like that had been pursued. Dean Gates stated that bonds require voter approval, so an election is needed. He also noted that because he works for the Municipality, he is conflicted out of participating in anything relating to a bond, but he will make a note to pass along the information to the DDCC board. Patrick also suggested the DDCC look into CDBG funding.

Stephanie George stated that she attended a recent DDCC meeting, and the DDCC has a commitment from the Rasmuson Foundation for match funding if the CAPSIS proposal doesn't go through, so DDCC is working on some fundraising events and reaching out to other community partners.

### ***Medicaid***

Patrick Reinhart stated that the Medicaid reform ideas the Council forwarded to the Department are moving forward at a departmental level. He just heard a report that the durable medical equipment idea is being formulated into a regulation package.

Patrick stated that the Governor submitted a budget that included Medicaid expansion, and the House Finance Subcommittee stripped all the Medicaid expansion activities, both increments and decrements, and passed a budget without the Governor's plan for Medicaid expansion. He stated that they have heard a rumor that a bill might be submitted shortly that is more about Medicaid reform and fixing some of the existing Medicaid problems before they commit to any kind of expansion activities.

Patrick Reinhart also stated that the Department has put out a Healthy Alaska Plan: A Catalyst for Reform. The Trust has also invested heavily into the concept of Medicaid expansion. The Trust is asking groups to sign

on either by a resolution or a letter in support of Medicaid expansion and reform.

Patrick remarked that the Council has taken a position in favor of reform, but has not taken a position on expansion at this point. He stated that today the Legislative Committee can forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee to support this package of expansion and reform, or they can continue to sit on the sidelines. Patrick added that other Trust boards have voted on a resolution to support.

Ric Nelson suggested the Legislative Committee leave this issue for the Executive Committee to discuss in depth, but he agreed that it's time for the Council to take a position.

Dean Gates asked for a motion to open up discussion on this issue. Committee members did not come forward with a motion, but addressed a variety of issues and questions they had regarding the effects of Medicaid expansion.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** that the Council do more research on this issue. The motion was not seconded.

### ***HB 76 – Removal of the word “gifted” from GCDSE enabling statute.***

Patrick Reinhart stated that currently this bill is in House Rules for calendaring for a House floor vote. His feeling is that bills may get stacked up because there is so much going on in terms of gas lines and Medicaid, and this bill may sit for a while. His feeling is that this bill will pass easily and has so far had no opposition.

### ***HB 77 – Disability Training and Identification Bill***

Art Delaune stated that disappointingly, the bill hasn't gone anywhere and it has not been sent to a committee. He stated that he has spoken with Representative Adam Wool, and Representative Wool has committed to being a co-sponsor on the bill, but it hasn't been officially posted to the site yet.

Art Delaune stated that through a lot of hard work with the Sitka Trooper Academy over the summer, they have taken Wall Buster's recommendation for replacing their four-hour training with eight-hour Crisis Intervention Training. They have invited several Wall Busters down to the Sitka academy on April 27<sup>th</sup> to sit in on the very first session of that new training.

Banarsi Lal stated that the Alaska Commission on Aging held their legislative teleconference this morning, and one of the bills they discussed was HB 77. Representative Thompson's chief of staff attended that meeting and requested support for HB 77 from ACoA. After discussion, ACoA voted in support of it and has agreed to write a letter of support and forward it to Representative Thompson's office.

Art Delaune stated that he has had e-mail communications with Kate Burkhart, the executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and AMHB/ABADA will not support the bill because of the ID portion of it. He stated that he responded to each of their objections, and hopefully the e-mail will clear up any misunderstandings AHMB/ABADA may have about the bill.

### ***Key Campaign***

Patrick Reinhart reported that many people attended Key Campaign, and overall it went really well. He mentioned again that the Council will need to re-evaluate how many people they send to Key Campaign next year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Resolution Request by the Trust in Support of Medicaid Expansion/Reform***

This issue was previously addressed.

#### ***HB 72/HB 73 - Operating Budget***

Patrick Reinhart stated that Alaska Legal Services had been cut by \$200,000, and the House put \$100,000 of that money back in. He also

noted that the Council is in support of SB 49, which is a bill to use a percentage of civil legal filing fees to support Alaska Legal Services.

He also stated that \$500,000 was cut to adult daycare services, and this money was restored for adult daycare by removing it from behavioral health treatment grants.

### ***HB 102 – Residential Psychiatric Education Funding***

Patrick Reinhart stated that this issue was brought to the Council's attention by North Star Behavioral Health, and their concern at the time was that students in residence at the hospital were not receiving adequate school district services, and they instead would like to receive those funds directly to provide education services to the students in house.

What the Council has come to understand is the issue seems to be more of a dispute between North Star Behavioral Health and the Anchorage School District. After discussion among committee members, they decided not to take a position on this legislation and will not be fulfilling a letter of support request.

### ***SB 49 – Civil Legal Services Fund***

The Council has provided a letter of support for this legislation.

### ***HB 99 – Voluntary Termination of Life***

Patrick Reinhart stated that nationally, disability groups have not supported this type of legislation. Patrick noted that HB 99 has not moved or been scheduled for any hearings.

### ***HB 18 – Expand Medicaid Coverage***

Patrick Reinhart stated that as they continue to watch Medicaid expansion, they will also keep an eye on this bill, which has not yet moved.

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

Karli Lopez asked if there was any movement on any Alaska ABLE Act legislation. Patrick Reinhart stated that they have been keeping an eye out for it, and they also sent Representative Saddler's office an extensive amount of information about what other states are doing regarding the ABLE Act. They never heard back from Representative Saddler's office concerning the receipt of those materials.

Karli Lopez also stated that March 21<sup>st</sup> is World Down Syndrome Day. There will also be a Ms. Amazing Pageant for girls and women who experience disabilities.

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

The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 12:00 – 1:00.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.