

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

**Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes**

LOCATION

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

Meeting Date

**December 15, 2015
12:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Art Delaune - Chair
Dean Gates
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Mallory Hamilton
Christine King
Sara Kveum
Grace Abbott for Rep. Millett

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Ric Nelson

CALL TO ORDER – 12:02 p.m.
ROLL CALL

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Art Delaune thanked everyone for calling in.

Announcements and Good News

Patrick Reinhart reported that Ric Nelson and Rich Sanders had planned to be in Kodiak for a community forum on the day of this meeting, but the weather was not good for flying, so it will be rescheduled for January.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Patrick Reinhart added DD eligibility for people with FASDs to the agenda under New Business. Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda, **SECONDED** by Christine King. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The previous meeting minutes were not formally considered at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart reported that the director of the Commission on Aging had sent the Council a letter requesting support of the reauthorization of the Commission on Aging, which has a sunset clause requiring recommissioning after eight years. Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to have the Council write a letter of support, **SECONDED** by Sara Kveum. The motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Report from the Chair

Art Delaune reported that he has visited a few of the Interior legislators, and there is a legislative open house in Fairbanks the night of this meeting.

BUSINESS

The Legislative Committee discussed their position papers and updates on bills that will be considered by the legislature in the upcoming session.

SB 104/HB 188 – ABLE Accounts

The committee discussed changes in wording and arrangement of sections of the position paper draft. Committee members were concerned about the statement that the state could recoup money from an ABLE account. Patrick Reinhart stated that IRS guidance is still coming out, and some aspects of what is allowed or not allowed with ABLE accounts are still coming to light. Sponsors of this bill in the House and Senate are bringing an expert in to participate in the hearings. Patrick said that the committee will receive another draft of this position paper based on their input.

HB 76 – Removal of “Gifted” from the Council’s Enabling Statute

Under Representative Millett’s sponsorship, this bill made it through the House last year, and will be scheduled for a hearing in the Health and Social Services Committee when the 2016 session begins.

HB 77 – Disability Training and Education Bill

Art Delaune stated that he had received an e-mail the morning of this meeting from Senator Thompson’s staff containing the latest revision of the Disability Training and Education Bill. The revision replaces the language that was taken out last year describing exactly what the training for law enforcement would be. The revision follows the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the bill will be scheduled to go to the Finance Committee as soon as the session starts.

Art added that Wall Busters and Access Alaska are developing a program to train individuals with disabilities on how to better interact with law enforcement. The committee discussed possibly having a link to it on the Council website when it's finished, and sharing it at the Full Lives conference.

Developmental Disability Registry and Review

The committee discussed the reduction in draws from the wait list and how to word the explanation in the position paper. Discussion included suggestions of a debit card for families to purchase medical supplies similar to the Quest card for food stamps. Also, committee members agreed that if families received an explanation of benefits (EOB) regularly, it could cut down on misbilling.

FASD Eligibility for Waiver Services

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus and Britteny Howell drafted a paper on FASD eligibility for waiver services, which was included in the meeting packet. Jeanne explained that people with FASDs are often considered ineligible for services because their IQ is too high. The position paper argues that eligibility should be based on functionality, or whether or not the person is able to live independently.

Jeanne had to leave the meeting before the discussion of the paper, but Patrick took notes of committee members' comments so that she and Britteny could revise the paper accordingly.

Repeal of AS 23.10.070 – Subminimum Wage to Alaskans with Disabilities

Patrick Reinhart and Grace Abbott planned to get together to go over the repeal of AS 23.10.070.

Patrick explained that the rest of the bills on the list are things they have been following and the Key Campaign priorities draft. Patrick asked that committee members review the drafts when they receive them and send

comments by e-mail so staff can continue to refine the documents and have final drafts at the January meeting.

SB 49/HB 154 – Civil Legal Services Fund

Art Delaune had an update from Nicole Nelson at Alaska Legal Services that the civil legal service fund is available to any organization that provides legal services to individuals who are at or below 125 percent of the poverty level. The fund may include organizations other than just Alaska Legal Services.

SB 91 – Omnibus Crime Bill

HB 99 – Voluntary Termination of Life

HB 102 – Residential Psychiatric Education Funding

HB 27/HB 28 – PCA Services

Key Campaign Priorities

The Key Campaign priorities were included in the meeting packet but were not specifically discussed.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- February 2 - 4, Governor's Council meeting, Juneau
- February 17 – 19, AADD/Key Campaign, Juneau

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be on January 19, 2016 from 11:30 to 1:30.

ADJOURNMENT

Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. The motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.