

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Legislative Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

August 28, 2014
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Dean Gates, Chair
Ric Nelson
Teresa Kashi
Banarsi Lal
Art Delaune
Alex Gimarc
Steve Lesko
Anthon Cravalho
Akis Gialopsos

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Brittney Howell

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Dean Gates welcomed Anthony Cravalho, a new Council member, to the Legislative Committee.

Announcements and Good News

There were no announcements or good news reported.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Alex Gimarc **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from April 10th, 2014 as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Patrick Reinhart noted that there was no correspondence to report that wasn't covered elsewhere in the agenda.

REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean Gates directed the committee members' attention to the handouts that contained the legislative successes and Washington reports, and asked the members to review the handouts.

STAFF REPORT

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council at this point will not be hiring a legislative intern due to budgetary concerns. There is a possibility that funds may become available in October to allow for a six-month intern position. Banarsi Lal recommended exploring the Trust's one-time \$10,000 funding to defer some of the costs of the intern position.

Patrick Reinhart reported that with regards to the Washington update, the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act was passed and signed. The Act addresses issues related to the employment of people with disabilities and contains significant changes to independent living services for organizations. The IL services will be moving from the Department of Education to the Administration of Community Living.

The other items the Council will be watching are the ABLE Act, which is a tax-free account for a person with a significant disability to defer some of the costs of living, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or what is commonly known as the Disability Treaty. The Disability Treaty needs a two-thirds majority to pass, and they are very close to reaching that number. Patrick noted that the Council will also be participating in the monthly NACDD public policy meetings.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council is involved with the Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and has begun attending weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 2:00 in regards to the I Vote, I Count campaign, which teaches people with disabilities, self-advocates, and families how to get involved in policymaking and how to advocate for themselves and ways they can participate in the voting process.

OLD BUSINESS

One-Year Work Plan Ideas Review and Discussion

The committee members reviewed the list of issues that had been discussed at previous meetings and discussed what new issues members want to add to the draft work plan. Ric Nelson relayed his concerns with regards to accessible housing for people with disabilities. The committee members had a brief discussion on issues surrounding accessible housing and ways to go about researching the current situation for possible remedies.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to add to the draft work plan to improve accessible housing options for Alaskans with disabilities. During discussion, members commented on whether or not there are legislative solutions to the issue, and the steps they would take to research the issue statewide. Banarsi Lal asked for the motion to simply say advocacy for housing options for people

with disabilities. After discussion and hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and accessible housing was added to the draft work plan.

With regards to the Denali Deaf Community Center in Anchorage, Dean Gates will invite a board member from the Community Center board to present at their next meeting, since this is a project the Council would support for its statewide implications for a population the Council has interest in.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Key Coalition Meeting
September 9 – 10, 2014

Governor's Council Meeting
October 1 – 2, 2014

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for September 25th, 2014 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Patrick Reinhart reminded committee members that since there are budgetary restraints on travel, the Council will not have the same opportunity it has had in the past to send as many Council members as want to go to Key Campaign February 18th and 19th, 2015. He suggested that people go to their respective agencies for funding to attend. He noted that there are funds available for consumer scholarships.

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.