

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Rural Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

LOCATION
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date
June 14, 2010

Attendees:

Jackie Hill, Chair
Anna Attla, Co-Chair
Belinda Burns
Tom Cyrus
Mark Doughty
Chris Saddler
Holli Yancey

Community Members/Guests:

Stacey Messerschmidt
Steve Williams

Staff:

Duane Mayes
Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.
Roll Call

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Tom Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Holli Yancey **SECONDED**. The agenda was **APPROVED** as written.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Belinda Burns **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2010 meeting. Mark Doughty **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** as written.

ELECTION OF NEW CO-CHAIR

Teresa Holt read from the bylaws that state that the chair of each committee must be a Council member appointed by the Governor, and it is the intent that at least one half of members be consumers or parent representatives. Teresa noted that it doesn't specify whether or not the co-chair of a committee needs to be a Council member.

Jackie Hill is stepping down from the Council as the Disability Law Center representative and Anna Attla will become the new chair. Holli Yancey was voted in as the new co-chair of the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING AND NEW PRIORITIES

Duane Mayes stated that the priorities for the Rural Ad Hoc Committee as voted by the full Council include:

- Advocate for implementation of transition services for youth with disabilities in rural communities
- ILP and therapy services in rural communities
- Work with GCI/TCC/State Library Association to improve Internet access for rural communities
- Advocate for FASD services in rural communities.

Teresa Holt stated that she will contact Teri Tibbett to see how many Council members ABADA/AMHB would like to have participate on the FASD advisory board.

ALASKA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Teresa Holt stated that the conference started with a presentation by Stewart Ferguson, and she suggested that the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee ask him to come and do that same presentation to the committee because it was very worthwhile to see what is actually happening in Alaska and how they're doing it.

Teresa stated that one of the things Stewart Ferguson found is that there needs to be some face-to-face personal connection with the people running the telehealth equipment in the rural communities in order for it to be successful.

Teresa also stated that there are telemedicine guidelines out which this committee should get a copy of and look over. She also mentioned that she attended a presentation by USAC, who do the RUS grants, and they ladies told Teresa that they have money to give. If they can find communities that can set up for telehealth, USAC will send someone to talk to them.

Other issues Teresa heard about in the conference include:

- Most people like psychiatric services using telehealth
- People tend to rely on the psychiatric telehealth and lose the connection to the local provider
- All medical records are stored online, HIPAA issues, security and access
- Privacy issues in rural areas
- Lack of on-site technical assistance
- Licensure with professionals not in Alaska.

Mark Doughty added that the credentialing issue is a national issue and they are finding that it can be an issue between clinics within the same state.

Mark Doughty explained that GCI has a big broadband project going on right now where they have laid fiber optic cable across Lake Iliamna which goes over to Bristol Bay, makes a big loop and eventually loops around through Bethel and Norton Sound, and then it comes back to the road system and hooks back into the fiber optic cable. He noted that when it's complete it will also include northern Alaska because fiber optic cable goes all the way to Barrow. He stated that the project is currently happening and should be complete in the next year or so. Mark stated that there is a map available which shows the project, and he can get copies of that if people need.

Mark Doughty also stated that the Alaska eHealth Network has the contract to work on the health information exchange system. They also have a several million dollar grant to be a regional extension center which is going to provide technical assistance for people using the electronic medical records and the health information exchange system.

Mark also noted that ANTHC is doing a lot of work with medical home models which are a managed-care type model that concentrates on preventative services provision in order to save money so that people get the right services at the right time.

SUMMARY OF AMERICAN TELEMEDICINE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Holli Yancey highlighted from her report that the issues were similar at this conference as they were from the Alaska conference, but they were just at a national level. This issues were privileging, credentialing and licensure, but they also found that there were outsourced contract people that can take care of these issues. She also noted that there were a large number of Alaskans at this conference.

Holli stated that the breadth of technology available is astounding and shows that telemedicine is the future of where medicine is going.

Holli stated that it was a very informative conference with a lot of information and referred committee members to her report for additional details.

Duane Mayes stated that they learned that health care services, follow-up, and referral are increasing in rural communities using telehealth equipment regularly. Communities are also finding that the cost savings by using telehealth are enormous.

Duane also noted that there was a speaker who represented Canadian Telehealth Services who was very informative.

Duane stated that there was discussion around the suggestion for the Council take the lead on holding a telehealth summit and inviting representatives from ANTHC, GCI, ACS, Department of Education, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Social Services, the Trust, the Commission on Aging, the Mental Health Board, ABADA, etc.

Duane stated that the action items they recommend are:

- Joint leadership should be organized by Indian Health Services
- Complete a telehealth policy summit with the government involved
- Share what works, stakeholders have open communication.

Holli Yancey also shared that another issue that was discussed is the policy change needed for these services to be paid for by Medicare and Medicaid.

Duane stated that with the committee's permission, he would like to set up a meeting between himself, Teresa, Holli and Ron Adler at API and then another meeting with Stewart Ferguson. They will also need to determine the key people to participate in the summit. They will also need to figure out how much it will cost and see if they can secure some funding from a variety of sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S TRAVEL

Teresa Holt stated that the Executive Committee approved the out-of-state travel plan. The non-required travel for the EIC, Ed and DD Committees were approved on a tentative basis depending on the budget. Teresa stated that the Rural Ad Hoc Committee can make a

recommendation that one or two people go to the ATA Conference again next year.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled teleconference is August 9th at 1:30 p.m.

Face-to-Face Meeting in Spring

The group discussed the most logical time of year to have their face-to-face meeting and they decided that if they would like to have their summit, they should probably do the face-to-face meeting in late October or beginning of November in Cordova.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.