

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Rural Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

September 13, 2010

Attendees:

Anna Attla, Co-Chair
Holli Yancey, Co-Chair
Tom Cyrus
Pam Curns
Belinda Burns

Community Members/Guests:

Lisa Balivet
Steve Williams
Philip Dreyer
Colin Underwood

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.
Roll Call

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Tom Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2010 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes **PASSED**.

PRESENTATION FROM PHILIP DREYER AND COLIN UNDERWOOD FROM ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS

Colin Underwood began his presentation by stating that they are no longer Alaska Communications System (ACS) but have now become Alaska Communications.

Colin then led the committee through the PowerPoint presentation which was e-mailed to all committee members. He highlighted that the E-Rate program's purpose was to bring financial support to rural and urban schools K through 12 to ensure that they had the appropriate communication pieces in place to enable new technologies that became available.

He stated that there are currently a number of changes being posed by the FCC in both the rural health care side as well as the E-Rate side. They discussed examples of interactive video conferencing events that have taken place in the Anchorage School District.

Philip Dreyer explained that E-Rate came around when President Clinton gave a State of the Union address in 1996 and stated that he wanted a telephone and computer in every classroom in the United States. Philip also stated that there is currently some terrific content that can be pushed into the rural and urban areas.

Philip Dreyer also stated that there are some projects moving forward with API to work closely with Oregon Health Care Sciences University to push psychiatric services out into the communities around Alaska.

Philip shared his experience in working with the Native American population and his personal history of having a brother with multiple disabilities.

Colin Underwood explained that ACS is trying to offer more bandwidth for real time communications to the rural villages for little to no additional cost. He stated that Alaska Communications also has statewide satellite availability to offer services anywhere in Alaska and the Lower 48.

Colin stated that Alaska Communications has purchased 49 percent of TekMate which is an I-T firm in Anchorage that provides desktop support.

Colin also stated that he would like to offer all of their education customers throughout the state a remote RN call center. This service would allow 24/7, 365 day access to an RN. He is actively working on this right now.

Philip Dreyer also added that they are just finalizing the Alaska Rural Telemedicine Network, and they are building the same kind of network for education.

Teresa Holt and Holli Yancey explained to Colin and Philip that the Rural Ad Hoc Committee is looking at expanding teleservices for people with disabilities that don't fall into the education and health care groups, which both already seem to have projects well under way. Teresa gave examples of Infant Learning services, people with developmental disabilities experiencing a behavior issue, and transition services/vocational rehabilitation none of which are eligible for the E-Rate system nor billable health services. Another problem is the lack of qualified providers in the rural communities.

Tom Cyrus, Lisa Balivet and Belinda Burns shared their experiences with rural connectivity and access.

STAKEHOLDER SUMMIT

Teresa Holt stated that she and Duane Mayes spoke to the people at the eHealth Network and were encouraged that there are 500 providers interfaced in Alaska. Each one is supposed to have a video technology conferencing unit which is supposed to be interfaced with the system.

Teresa stated that she and Duane also met with Ron Adler at API, and the telebehavioral network is quite large with 32 ANTHC sites, 14 GCI sites, and 14 Alaska Communications sites with six more coming soon.

Teresa stated that she and Duane then met with Jeff Jesse at the Trust to get his feedback. The plan is to meet with Kari LeDoux and Tom Nightswander from the eHealth Network to do some brainstorming about how they can get into that system to get services for Trust beneficiaries.

Teresa stated that ideally they would like to have the summit sometime before September 2011.

FASD PARTNERSHIP

Teresa Holt stated that the partnership is 70 plus strong. They are trying to keep the steering committee to under 20 people. She stated that before December they are planning to send a survey to all of the partners to forward to people who are interested in providing some guidance about what services are needed for people with FASD.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled teleconference is November 8th, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.