

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

LOCATION

3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

December 13, 2010

Attendees:

Anna Attla, Co-Chair
Holli Yancey, Co-Chair
Belinda Burns

Community Members/Guests:

Lisa Balivet
Steve Williams

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Duane Mayes
Rich Sanders
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.
Roll Call

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was not a quorum, and the agenda was not approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There was not a quorum, and the previous meeting minutes were not approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report on.

TRANSITION

Duane Mayes stated that December 17th is his last day with the Council. During the course of transition planning with the Council staff, it was decided that Rich Sanders would be staff to the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee because of both his background in technology and his new role working with the Disability Employment Initiative Grant.

WORK PLAN

- 1. Advocate for the implementation of transition services for youth with disabilities in rural communities.**

Duane Mayes stated that Art Arnold has been hired by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as their new transition coordinator. Duane noted that they need to send Art an e-mail to confirm that he is assigned to the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee.

Duane also stated that he believes that DVR is ready to step up and use videoconferencing as a way to provide services to students with disabilities in rural Alaska.

Duane stated that he and Teresa Holt met with Jeff Jessee at the Trust and were able to identify some key players, including Tom Nighswander and Karen Purdue, to have a discussion around what they have done and what they are trying to accomplish with technology. Steve Williams stated that he will follow up with Jeff Jessee on that to see if a meeting could be set up some time in January.

2. ILP and therapy services in rural communities.

Duane Mayes reviewed the history of the TCC outreach trip with committee members. He noted that a common theme was that families were not receiving effective services from the Infant Learning Program in that region.

As a result of this, they have looked into using distance technology to provide therapy services to the community through the library in Delta Junction. Duane noted that Debbie Snyder is the lead on this project in Delta Junction, and she would like the community to pilot a project around the use of this technology to provide services to children.

Duane Mayes also noted that Lisa Balivet from OCS wants to meet with Mark Doughty and Ron Hale from GCI to see if OCS can partner with GCI to establish pilot projects in rural communities such as Dillingham, Nome or Kotzebue. Teresa Holt will continue to follow up on this project. Duane stated that he feels that they should honor the outreach and commitment that they are currently seeing from Delta Junction.

Lisa Balivet stated that they are currently working on store and forward. They have distributed flip cameras to the entire ILP network throughout the state, and they have people who are actively starting to use them for coaching.

3. Work with GCI/TCC/State Library Association to improve Internet access for rural communities.

Teresa Holt attended the Alaska Rural Broadband conference and stated that the PowerPoints to this conference are located at www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu. She noted that the best two were one by

Rich Greenfield and the one by Connect the Nation or Connect Alaska. Teresa stated that www.connectak.org is a website that people can see the broadband coverage for every neighborhood in Alaska.

Duane Mayes discussed the Alaska Online With Libraries event that will be attended by Holli Yancey. This is a launch event for the Alaska BTOP project. The Council has a seat at the table, and Holli will be given 15 minutes to present on who the Council is on the first day of the event. Duane will also be there to attend the second day.

Duane stated that they have been told that there will be close to 100 libraries in rural Alaska that will receive an uplift to their broadband capacity.

4. Advocate for FASD services in rural communities.

Teresa Holt stated that the FASD steering committee is going to meet at the Trust to set out their priorities and develop a plan under the areas of education, employment, housing, services for adults, juvenile justice, etc.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Duane Mayes stated that there has been some discussion about doing an outreach trip to Cordova this spring similar to the one they did in the TCC region a year-and-a-half ago. Rich Sanders and Teresa Holt will begin to coordinate this activity.

Duane Mayes also suggested that because there is so much work for this committee that goes on behind the scenes, it may make sense for the committee to meet once every two or three months instead of monthly to report back on activities that have been taking place.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled teleconference is February 14, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.