

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Rural Services Committee Meeting

LOCATION
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date
June 20, 2011

Attendees:

Anna Attla, Co-Chair
Holli Yancey, Co-Chair
Pam Curns
Tom Cyrus
Mark Doughty
Taylor Gregg
Banarsi Lal
Justine Sheehan

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.
Roll Call

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD NEWS

Anna Attla announced that Justine Sheehan is the newest Council member to join the Rural Services Committee. Members took turns introducing themselves to Justine.

Jennifer Jones announced that there will be a planning discussion for the Alliance for Full Participation in Anchorage this Thursday from 10:00 to 4:00 or 5:00.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VOTING MEMBERS

Anna Attla and Holli Yancey volunteered to stay on as co-chairs of the committee. Hearing no opposition, Anna Attla and Holli Yancey will continue on as co-chairs of the committee.

The committee members decided to postpone their discussion of voting members until the next meeting because there were no community members present at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mark Doughty had some wording changes to the minutes from the face-to-face meeting in Cordova on page 5, second paragraph. Mark stated that regarding the teaching project, an RFP was put out and Iliuliuk Clinic from Dutch Harbor was the only grantee, and they were hoping to get two more grantees.

Mark also corrected the minutes regarding the Nuka model in that it is not similar to the TCHIC project, but that the Nuka model is a patient-centered medical home model of care, which is similar to TCHIC.

Holli Yancey **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the face-to-face meeting in Cordova as corrected. The motion **PASSED**.

UPDATE FROM UAA BROADBAND BRIEFING

Teresa Holt stated that the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at UAA hosted its second broadband briefing meeting. This meeting was about the 50th anniversary of broadband in Alaska. She stated that it was interesting to hear about the history of telecommunications in Alaska over the last 40 years.

Teresa Holt then highlighted current projects happening in Alaska as follows:

- Online With Libraries
- Connect Alaska
- GCI's TERRA project connecting infrastructure to Southwest Alaska
- Project in Cordova, McCarthy and Tanana
- Electronic health records system and other health connectivity and telepractices.

Teresa Holt also explained that the USAC provides grants or loans to communities to get equipment. The state of Alaska received \$25.5 million to improve Internet for schools and libraries. Through the support of the USF Rural Health Care program, Alaska received \$29 million for clinics, et cetera.

Teresa stated that at the conference they also talked about the FCC's national broadband goals. She reviewed the goals as follows:

1. Speed: At least one million homes in the U.S. would have affordable access to download speeds of 100 MBPSs.
2. Access services or skills: Every American should have affordable access to robust broadband services and the means and skills to subscribe if they so choose.
3. Anchor institutions: Every community should have an affordable access of at least one GPBS broadband service to anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals and government buildings.
4. Mobile innovation: The United States should lead the world in mobile innovation with the fastest, most extensive wireless networks of any nation.

5. Public safety: To ensure the safety of Americans, every first responder should have access to a nationwide public safety wireless network.
6. Energy management: To ensure that America leads in clean energy economy, every American should be able to use broadband to track and manage their realtime energy consumption.

Teresa Holt stated that Stewart Ferguson from ANTHC presented on their current activities. He explained their two practices of using telehealth. They use store and forward technology for radiology, dermatology, pathology, oncology, ophthalmology, and dental services. They are using realtime technology for psychiatry, neurology, speech therapy, and physical therapy.

Stewart Ferguson explained that for primary care they saved \$2.5 million in 2009/2010; for specialty care they saved \$3 million.

Telehealth also had an impact on the time people have to wait to get services. From 1991 to 2000, 47 percent of people were waiting to get services for about five months. In 2002 to 2004, only eight percent had to wait five months, and in 2005 to 2007, only three percent had to wait that long.

UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEETING AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Teresa Holt stated that the draft for the Council's five-year plan is out for public comment, and she asked that Rural Services Committee members provide comment. She will send committee members the link to the website.

Teresa noted that the activities of the five-year plan that may affect the Rural Services Committee include: Establishing a statewide self-advocacy organization, workforce development, transition services to adult life, increasing telepractice to access specialists for both education and health, and SESA services.

REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Advocate for technology and telepractice in Alaska.

Activities:

- Advocate for funding to plan a telepractice summit for Trust stakeholders to follow the American Telemedicine Conference.

Anna Attla, Holli Yancey and Teresa Holt will meet July 15th to begin the planning for this summit and ask the Trust for funding.

- Continue to meet regularly with the Online With Libraries project.

Teresa Holt continues to meet with them regularly.

2. Advocate for Improved Secondary Transition Services in Rural Alaska.

Activities

- Advocate for a system of MOAs between schools, DD providers, and DVR/TVR at State and local levels.

Teresa Holt, Tom Cyrus and Pam Curns volunteered to work on this. Laurie Cooper will be asked to join this work group. The long-term target date will be one year from now. The group agreed to meet near the end of August.

- Advocate for best practice presentations at the DVR/TVR and ASSEC conferences.

Jennifer Jones, Anna Attla, and Taylor Gregg volunteered to work on this activity. Teresa Holt will e-mail all Rural Services Committee members to see if they have some programs that they would recommend where DVR and TVR are working well together with schools and providers. Jennifer, Anna and Taylor can then contact those people to see if they would be interested in participating at a DVR/TVR conference and the ASSEC conference.

- Advocate for training for school district staff regarding the referral process for DVR/TVR starting at 16 or earlier if needed.

Tom Cyrus suggested contacting special ed directors. Pam Curns stated that Art Arnold would be another resource person that she could contact. Tom Cyrus will share the information with the other tribal directors to see if they can get somebody to do a training as well.

- Ask EED/DVR to create a statewide DVR referral form for school staff to use.

Teresa Holt added that it could be a generic form in the back of the special education department's handbook.

3. Research state and federal telepractice regulations.

Activities

- Research Medicaid billing regulations regarding telepractice
- Research regulations for licensure use, PT, OT, SLP, etc.
- Research to find out who is currently billing for telepractice in Alaska.

Mark Doughty stated that he has a contact for the first and third activities, and he can get the information by August.

Teresa Holt stated that she and Carrie Predeger will work on the second activity.

4. Research ways to use telepractice in the DD system to improve services.

Activities

- Advocate for the use of technology in hiring – use to train new staff in remote locations, finger printing, etc.

- Advocate for the use of technology to provide training to direct services professionals – survey providers regarding technology use and training needs.
- Advocate for the use of technology to provide parent/self-advocate training and information.

Teresa Holt stated that the first place to start with all three of these activities is to set up a meeting with Duane Mayes at SDS by October. She stated that she will get Laurie Cooper to help with that. Banarsi Lal and Mark Doughty also volunteered to participate in the work group.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled teleconference is August 10, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

The committee members decided to hold meetings every other month. The meeting schedule will be August, October, December, February, April and June on the second Wednesday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.