

# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

## Rural Services Committee Meeting

LOCATION  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date  
October 12, 2011

### Attendees:

Anna Attla, Chair  
Holli Yancey  
Pam Curns  
Tom Cyrus  
Taylor Gregg  
Justine Sheehan

### Community Members:

Lisa Balivet  
Kris Green  
Laurie Cooper  
Steve Williams  
Anne Jensen

### Staff:

Teresa Holt  
Jennifer Jones

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

***Review of the Council Mission Statement***

The mission statement was recited.

***Welcome and Introductions***

Anna Attla announced that Mark Doughty got another job and is no longer on this committee.

**ELECTION OF VOTING MEMBERS**

Kris Green and Laurie Cooper volunteered to become voting members.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES**

Tom Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the minutes from June 20, 2011. The motion **PASSED**.

Justine Sheehan **MOVED** to approve the minutes from August 10, 2011. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

***TSA***

Teresa Holt stated that the Council received an invitation from TSA Alaska to participate in a meeting for the “I Can Fly” campaign. The idea is that each state will create a program in which people with disabilities have a time to come to the airport and do a practice run. Dan Brown from the Alaska TSA office will start the program in Anchorage with the idea that it will expand to every airport in the state.

Teresa stated that they discussed the frequency of airport trainings, and the Council felt it would be appropriate to offer it once a month, plus have it available on demand for people with specific needs.

They also expanded TSA's thinking about the different types of disabilities people experience who might benefit from this program, such as people who are newly blind or people with dementia. She stated that Dan Brown would also like to hear personal stories about people's travel experiences. She can provide his e-mail and contact information to any committee member who would like to share their information.

Teresa Holt stated that on the TSA's website, there is a card that people can get that they can show during screening that says that a person needs special accommodations.

### ***Emergency Preparedness Meeting***

Teresa Holt stated that a person from FEMA, who is a specialist in disabilities, was supposed to come up to meet with the Council to discuss disaster preparedness for people with disabilities, but she was unable to come. Teresa stated that the Council will be doing some research this year on disaster preparedness. She asked committee members to send her an e-mail about emergency preparedness activities in their communities.

Teresa stated that Women's, Children's and Family Health created a disaster preparedness booklet for families who have children with special needs. It comes with a picture card for families to train their children. Kris Green stated that she collaborated on this project and will get the booklets out to anyone who requests them.

### ***October Council Meeting***

Teresa Holt stated that a lot of the Council meeting was spent preparing for this upcoming legislative session. Teresa reviewed the Council priorities as follows:

1. Hub - \$350.0 GF/MH
2. Council Operations - \$150.0 GF.MH
3. Project SEARCH - \$100.0 GF/MH
4. Services for the Deaf - \$150.0 GF/MH

5. Employment for People with Developmental Disabilities - \$150.0 GF/MH
6. Rural Transition Services - \$100.0 GF/MH.

Teresa explained that they also discussed the federal Super Committee, which may come up with some budget cuts that will be devastating to the disability community. The Council is going to write a letter to Alaska's Congressional delegation to tell them that the cuts made should not affect Medicaid, Social Security or Medicare.

## **IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**

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

Pam Curns explained that the MOAs that DVR has between the schools basically talk about referrals and what DVR will do in term of working with students in transition and what the school will do in terms of referring people to DVR in a timely manner well before the student graduates. She noted that these types of agreements have to be signed by the Commissioner of Labor, and she believes they have one for every school district.

Pam Curns stated that she will bring this issue to Sean O'Brien's attention.

Tom Cyrus stated that the TVR programs that have MOAs with the school districts outline sharing opportunities, exchanging information, and roles and responsibilities of DVR/TVR and the school districts. Pam Curns will also be inquiring about the TVR MOAs at the next manager meeting and she will keep Tom Cyrus updated on any information she receives. Tom stated that he will request copies of the MOAs from the TVR programs again. Teresa Holt stated that she will contact Don Enoch and see if there is something they can find out from the State level.

Teresa will also contact Joanne Gibbens at SDS to see if there are any MOAs between DVR and DD providers or between DD providers and the schools.

Tom Cyrus stated that he doesn't believe the current MOAs are being utilized very well, and he's not sure they are specific enough in the roles and responsibilities and actions people will be taking. Laurie Cooper further explained that it also varies greatly from community to community.

**2. Advocate for best practice presentations at the DVR/TVR and ASSEC conferences – due 10/24/11.**

Teresa Holt stated that if she can get a list of people from DVR/TVR, special ed or DD providers from a variety of communities, they can pull together a presentation to make at ASSEC. Tom Cyrus suggested Sitka school district or the Juneau school district. Teresa will contact those school districts. She also asked Pam Curns to send her the dates of the DVR regional trainings. Laurie Cooper will get Teresa the dates for SDS.

Pam Curns suggested Project SEARCH. Teresa Holt stated that she will talk to Patrick Reinhart about a Project SEARCH presentation at ASSEC.

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

Holli Yancey stated that the previous discussion they had around this issue was making sure that information on the referral process became a regular part of new teacher training because of the high turnover rate of rural teachers.

Teresa Holt suggested that this could be a presentation at ASSEC, and it could be written in to the MOAs. Holli Yancey and Pam Curns agreed that the MOA could address the referral process. Committee members suggested that this priority ties in closely with the first priority.

Pam Curns further stated that in the past, school districts have sporadically invited DVR to the in-services they have before school starts. She can envision something like that being effective. Holli Yancey asked if it would be useful to put inviting a DVR counselor to the in-services in the MOAs. Pam felt that it would be a good idea.

Teresa Holt stated that the Council can do a presentation on transition at ASSEC and invite perhaps Sean O'Brien or Art Arnold and school districts that have been doing a good job in this area.

Anne Jensen suggested having these presentations be videotaped because a lot of times, the teachers who attend the in-services do not remain in the village, and obviously their replacements do not get to attend the in-services. She also suggested having the presentations available on Blackboard.

**4. Ask DEED/DVR to create a statewide referral form for school staff to use.**

Holli Yancey stated that this priority also ties back into the number one priority.

Teresa Holt stated that Don Enoch is currently redoing the special ed handbook, so it is a good time to ask him to add an additional form into there under the transition section.

Pam Curns suggested that Sean O'Brien or Art Arnold could probably work with Teresa to create the referral form. Pam also stated that she will send the DVR Secondary Transition Resources booklet that Art Arnold created to Teresa Holt.

Teresa stated that she can also talk to Don Enoch about the referral forms that Sitka and Juneau are using because they have a good form.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled teleconference is December 14, 2011 at 1:30.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.