



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Health & Social Services

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
& SPECIAL EDUCATION
Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PATRICK REINHART



The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) announces Patrick Reinhart as their new Executive Director as of October 23, 2014. During their October 1-2, 2014 meeting in Anchorage, the Council voted to hire qualified staff from within the agency rather than to conduct an open executive search. Mr. Reinhart's name was then presented for approval to the Governor's Office where he was approved on October 16, 2014. Mr. Reinhart succeeds Teresa Holt, who has moved to the position of Long Term Care Ombudsman for the State of Alaska.

Mr. Reinhart has a long history of disability policy and advocacy in Alaska, spanning nearly 30 years. Before becoming Executive Director of the Council he was the Planner and Director of Public Policy. He was first hired by the Council in 2009 as the Business and Industry Liaison, working on employment policy and business engagement. Prior to joining the Council, Patrick was the Executive Director of the Alaska Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) for 11 years. During this time, he worked with the Governor's Council on many joint projects,

including the creation of Alaska's Consumer-Directed Personal Care Assistance Services program, the Nursing Facility Transition program, the Working Disabled Medicaid Buy-In program, the creation of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers in Alaska, and the start-up of the Alaska Mobility Coalition. In 2006, Mr. Reinhart received the Max Lyon Achievement Award for his work on the Alaska Mobility Coalition. In 2011, he was honored by his colleagues from around the nation when presented with the Earl Walden Award for outstanding work in rural advocacy at the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) annual conference held in Anchorage that year.

Prior to working with the SILC and AMC, Mr. Reinhart worked nearly nine years as the Executive Director of Challenge Alaska, an organization that provides sports and recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities. He has worked with Challenge Alaska for thirty years, having first started as a competitive alpine disabled skier, then the Executive Director, and having served as board member, President, and currently Treasurer. While working for Challenge Alaska, he led many outdoor trips and expeditions around the state with other persons who experience a disability, including climbing Denali to the 18,000 foot mark in 1991 with some blind and deaf friends.

Mr. Reinhart lives in Anchorage with his wife Rebecca, father-in-law Marcus, and his two labs Sookie and Stella. He has three grown sons; Davin in Boulder, Nathan in Los Angeles, and Samuel in Redmond, WA. They all have the middle name "Orion", the hunter of the northern skies. He loves to hike, ski, golf, and root for the Packers (yes, he is a "cheesehead").

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