

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Developmental Disabilities Committee
Meeting Minutes**

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date
June 8, 2016
1:03 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Christine King
Mallory Hamilton
Colleen Gabriel
Maggie Winston
Alex Gimarc
Lizette Stiehr
Oscar Cedano
Caitlyn Rogers

Staff:

Britteny Howell
Patrick Reinhart
Ric Nelson
Lanny Mommsen

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:03 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Britteny Howell announced her departure from the Governor's Council, and Ric Nelson will be taking over as staff to the committee. Britteny has taken a position at Hope Community Resources. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus expressed her appreciation for Britteny's tutelage, expertise, and her ability to keep the committee on task. She wished her well in her new position.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were reported at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. In discussion, it was mentioned that the times were off due to the rescheduling of the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Christine King **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 2016 meeting as written, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the next meeting of the FASD Workgroup is scheduled for June 14th where they will be joined by Representative Ivy Spohnholz, which is exciting for the workgroup to have level of exposure for the FASD population.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she approached the Trust at their last meeting and requested that they acknowledge the population affected by FASD and provide the same level of engagement and supports as they do for the population with traumatic brain injury, because both groups have similar issues. She noted that technically speaking, under I/DD, FASD is a population that often does not qualify for the various services where it would benefit from being served, and it is also not a mental health diagnosis. It certainly is an issue that impacts people across those venues, so they are asking the Trust to engage in a discussion. The hope is to be able to meet with them again at the fall meeting to discuss the issue of FASD.

I/DD Unit Report

Caitlyn Rogers reported that the waitlist is currently comprised of 538 participants with an age range of 0 to 68. The score range is from 0 to 135, and 20 percent are scoring 0, which reflects no current or immediate needs.

Caitlyn Rogers stated that the I/DD unit sent out an e-alert towards the end of April notifying the providers and families to be vigilant in sending in the DDRR, which helps place them on the registry. She noted that they have had moderate success with that.

Mallory Hamilton stated that she heard from a care coordination agency in Cordova that applied for an exemption to the pre-care coordination and were denied, and they asked what their next step should be. Caitlyn Rogers replied that they have recognized problems with denials and are continuing to address that issue. She recommended directing them to Cheri Herman, who is in charge of certification, and Lynne Keilman-Cruz, who oversees that.

Mental Health Trust Authority Report

There was no MHTA report at the meeting.

ASPEN Update

Lanny Mommsen reported that ASPEN is made up of 22 consumers of DV/SA and disability agencies who served as focus groups to do interviews as well as focus groups where they were asked a variety of question about safety and comfort in reporting. They also interviewed direct service providers, executive directors, and board members for a total of 14 interviews and received valuable information on their training, cross-training, survivor training, and if their strategic planning and their policy and procedures were up to date. Four of the agencies had provided their policies and procedures, which were forwarded to CHD who reviewed them for things like mandatory reporting, survivors with domestic violence confidentiality standards, and 14 other areas. CHD returned those with recommendations for improving their policies and procedures.

Lanny Mommsen stated that they will be meeting next week to do a needs assessment report to report the findings they received in the consumer focus groups, individual interviews, staff interviews and policy and procedure reports.

Lanny Mommsen reported that the next steps include strategic planning for the community that will be closing out the end of the month. They have started looking at their next community, and that project is expected to start approximately July 1st.

Christine King commended Lanny Mommsen for doing a phenomenal job keeping the ASPEN Project members on task and maintaining the course, and thanked her for her dedication to the project.

AADD Report

Lizette Stiehr first mentioned a few words about the loss of Steve Lesko and the profound impact he had on the people in the field, and that the state of Alaska was fortunate to have the energy he dedicated to people with disabilities, State systems, and the provider world. She noted that Steve Lesko was one of the founders of AADD, and they carry that memory close. She stated that Hope is planning a memorial service for Steve on July 6th at 3:00 at the Change Point Church, and Hope will be releasing that information and forwarding it to many different entities.

Lizette Stiehr shared the good news that the AADD brochure is available. She also shared two calendar items that could be of interest to the committee members as follows:

- Special Olympics is working with a number of groups on a collaborative summit set for Oct 13th and 14th, 2016 for which they have invited a keynote speaker come talk about the impact of a prescription for physical health for people with disabilities. There will also be presentations on Smart Home technology.
- The first week in November, Dr. Lynn Segal, who is a national speaker out of the state of Virginia who has maximized efforts in Virginia with a very low state funding allocation, will be returning to Alaska to provide assistance when looking at common mission and vision for people with disability services. She is expected to do many sessions for primary leadership and a session for families in the evening. She will be also working with board members and, of course, giving a day to AADD.

Lizette Stiehr reported that she will be attending a national association's meeting of providers and state executive directors in August. One of the areas she would like to explore at that meeting is what other states are using for their assessment tools, since Alaska is moving from the ICAP to something more effective given the recent changes in the state with Medicaid. She opened the floor to members for anything they would like to receive information about from that meeting.

Housing Report

Oscar Cedano reported on the three things related to housing that could affect the DD Committee's population. One is that AHFC manages a federal program called Sponsor-Based Housing Assistance, which is a program for homeless people who experience disabilities. There are seven programs around the state, but the Anchorage four have combined and they will be doing the administration of the projects together. They will not be the grantees, and AHFC will be issuing grant agreement for that in about two weeks.

Oscar Cedano mentioned that the 811 program is waiting for all the

components to align so that they can begin issuing vouchers. They are trying to find a non-profit organization that will help manage the administration component of the program, because there are so many components to coordinating both the housing and the services that need to be done at the same time.

Oscar Cedano reported on the Great Opportunities for Affordable Living (GOAL) Program, which is a program designed by AHFC that uses four kinds of funding to use for a variety of housing. It is used to be a low-income credit home program and for the production of rental units. The good news is that in the world of grants, there is a good amount of money for the project. The GOAL Program process includes a pre-application period to ensure that interested parties are eligible to participate in the programs, and if the entity passes the criteria, they can move to the application process. The pre-application process is open until June 24th, and then the actual application process is open until July 12th, 2015 for the GOAL Program.

Oscar Cedano noted that Mark Romick has been promoted to deputy director at AHFC and is still very interested in what the DD Committee's activities are, which is helpful to have someone with more seniority aware of the concerns of the Council with regards to housing.

Christine King asked about the process of finding the population that fits the criteria of homeless people with disabilities, and Oscar Cedano said that the entities that have been chosen so far have experience with that population, and it is part of the criteria that has to be met in the pre-application process.

Executive Committee & Complex Behavior Solutions Report

Patrick Reinhardt reported that the Executive Committee's normal June meeting has been cancelled due to no new business for the committee, and their next scheduled meeting is for July 12th at noon. Patrick reported that in terms of staffing, the Council has a planner position vacant and most currently a research analyst position due to the departure of Britteny Howell. The process is slow and cumbersome due to the hiring freeze, but adjustments are being made by the Council to try to expedite the process.

Key Coalition/Campaign Report

Maggie Winston stated that she was approached at the last Key Campaign meeting about the possibility of becoming a member, to which she gladly accepted. Patrick Reinhart stated that the Key Coalition doesn't meet that often, but more so before the legislative sessions to prioritize the issues that they would like to address during the legislative session.

Medicaid Update

Britteny Howell reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee met earlier that day where Amanda Lofgren and Kate Burkhart presented an overview of SB 74, and stated there are a lot of components of the bill that will be important to the Council. There was a PowerPoint presentation that Britteny offered to send to the committee members that had all the breakdown of the activities that have taken place.

Britteny did mention that Amanda noted that the redesign and reform effort for Medicaid involves a huge amount of work, and that the redesign of the 1915 (c) waiver and the 1915 (i) option will be split onto three components: I/DD, ADRD, and severe mental illness. Amanda reviewed the complicated efforts that are involved in order to make the process become more comprehensive.

Britteny Howell explained that Karli Lopez has been involved on the Inclusive Community Choices Council and reported on the requirements that states need to undergo in development, implementation, and selection of the new assessment tools for the state of Alaska.

OLD BUSINESS

Review DD Committee Work Plan Revisions

Britteny Howell facilitated a review of the expected outcomes with regards to the two-year planning in the Five-Year State Plan. They reviewed the goals and objectives and fine tuned the expected outcome component, which is a document required for reporting to the federal government.

The recommendations discussed were as follows:

- Using the word “address” in place of “include.”
- Identify data sources for collection activities.
- Leave barriers and add opportunities to the verbiage.
- Changing the verbiage to read that more Alaskan service provider agencies will incorporate increased or enhanced levels of person-centered services.

There was an overwhelming recommendation to add both rural/remote and telepractice to each of the objectives and outcomes.

Analysis and Recommendations of InterRAI Assessment Tool

Britteny Howell directed the members’ attention to the Excel document that outlines the assessment tools that the Inclusive Community Choices Council contractor has been researching. The matrix details the assessment tools, the states that are using them presently, and information of what they cover. The recommendation is heavily leaning toward the interRAI assessment tool, and there are a variety of addendums that can be added to the tool that cover specific elements that Alaska would find useful in their attempt to find the right tool for their populations. The contractors have developed a draft document that will be reviewed by a variety of stakeholders, including the Council and the DD Committee, and they are looking for feedback on the proposed tool. The Council is recommending that executive functioning and the measurement of social language is captured in the interRAI. Those comments are due June 17th.

Britteny Howell stated that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee is covering the activities of the ICCC, and they are going to meet July 13th from 11:00 to 12:30 if any DD Committee members would like to join to keep abreast of the activities of the ICCC and the comments that the Council will be forwarding.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Comment on FDA Proposed Ban on Electrical Shock Devices.

Britteny Howell directed the members’ attention to the letter she included in the meeting packet that was submitted to the FDA on the proposed ban on the use of electrical shock devices related to aggressive behavior and self

injury. There appears to be some pushback from large organizations who oppose the ban, but the Council and many other organizations are in agreement that the proposed ban is a move in the right direction toward addressing the secondary disability rather than the primary behaviors. Britteny stated that the comment period has been extended for another 60 days, which was controversial, and noted that there is an opportunity for individuals to comment on their own. She will send the link to members if they choose to do so.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

June 8, 11-12:30 p.m.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

July 4

Independence Day, Council CLOSED

June 8, 3-4:30pm,

FASD Partnership teleconference

July 5

Public comment period on Council state plan closes

June 9, 11 – 12 p.m.

AADD teleconference

July 12, 12-1:230 p.m.

Executive Committee meeting

Jun 11

Special Olympics health screenings (volunteers needed!)

July 13, 3-4:30 p.m.

FASD Partnership teleconference

Jun 14, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

FASD Workgroup with House Rep Ivy Spohnholz guest speaker

July 14, 11-12pm

AADD teleconference

June 15

Britteny's last day at the Council

July 28

ADA Celebration Event, Anchorage Senior Center

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING/ ADJOURNMENT

The next regular DD Committee is scheduled for August 3, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Christine King **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Alex Gimarc. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.