

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

**Education Committee  
MINUTES**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date  
June 22, 2017  
1:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Anthony Cravalho – Co-chair  
Sandra DeHart-Mayor  
Cassidy Jones  
Tracy Culbert  
Elizabeth Joseph  
Mallory Hamilton  
Alex Fogarty  
Starr Marsett  
Maria Pepperworth  
Adele Daniels

**Staff:**

Anne Applegate  
  
Kristin Vandagriff

**Prepared by:** Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

Anthony Cravalho welcomed committee members to the meeting.

**Announcements and Good News**

No announcements or good news were reported at the meeting.

Anthony Cravalho reported that there was a good turnout for the meeting with Senator Murkowski, and people got to share their thoughts on different issues. He felt that the senator was receptive and positive to what people were sharing. Anne Applegate commented that she felt the issues were well represented from both urban and rural perspectives.

Tracy Culbert introduced herself as the new CASE representative on the committee. She stated that she has been a special education director for the Galena City School District for over 15 years.

**Conflict of Interest Declarations**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of the agenda and previous meeting minutes was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Anne Applegate directed the committee members' attention to the letters included in the meeting packet and stated that the follow-up letter to Senator Murkowski included detailed documents and infographics on questions she had with regards to how Medicaid gets used in Alaska and what the impact of losing Medicaid expansion would be on the population the Council serves. Another letter is being drafted in response to the

Senate bill that is being debated in the Capitol, and Anne has gathered information about per capita caps to include in the letter.

Starr Marsett reported that the Anchorage School District also sent a letter to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and also to Representative Young asking them to not support the Medicaid reduction.

Anne Applegate stated that there is a letter to DHSS related to day habilitation, and they are trying to figure out the impacts of the Senate budget increase. She noted that the Council also wrote a letter to DHSS regarding setting changes towards person-centered settings and planning.

Anthony Cravalho suggested that committee members consider writing, e-mailing, or calling the Alaska delegation, because their votes are going to be key in moving forward.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair's Report**

Anthony Cravalho reported that the link on the agenda is a site that David Kohler is asking committee members to navigate, review, and comment on the accessibility and user-friendliness of the site.

Alex Fogarty reported that she and Mary Middleton from Stone Soup Group plan to attend the OSEP Leadership Conference in July and have a visit scheduled with the Alaska delegation. Anne Applegate noted that the chairs of the Education Committee and the EIC also plan to attend the OSEP Leadership Conference, and she expressed the Council's appreciation for the invitation from Stone Soup Group to join them at their delegation visit.

Anne Applegate reported that she will be taking advantage of an opportunity to attend the Council for Exceptional Children/CASE Legislative Summit. She noted that she has an appointment with Senator Murkowski and her education staffer where they will be looking at developing proposals addressing transition planning for rural students that include traditional and customary activities.

Starr Marsett reported that the U.S. Department of Education is expected to publish in the federal registry asking for public input on its regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. Starr will send the information to staff who will summarize the information and send it to committee members.

Starr Marsett reported that the Conference Committee that is working on reconciling public education spending recommended fully funding education and transportation, and now it is in the hands of the Governor. Anne Applegate noted that the Council is formatting a letter to the Governor recommending his approval of the funding.

## **SESA**

Anthony Cravalho reported that Patrick Pillai communicated to him that SESA is trying to fill two positions on their staff due to unexpected departures.

Anthony Cravalho reported that at their last meeting, they completed Patrick Pillai's evaluation. All of the feedback was glowing and very positive. Members of the Education Committee shared their appreciation for Patrick's leadership at SESA and have enjoyed working with him, and they praised his management of SESA and their resources.

Anthony Cravalho reported that SESA completed an officer reorganization, and he was chosen as the chair for the next year. He noted that the Governor's Council is well represented on the board.

## **DEED**

Cassidy Jones reported the activities for DEED as follows:

- Continue to attend a variety of Governor's Council meetings.
- FY'18 monitoring scheduled has not changed.
- APR/SSP and SSIP were submitted and are pending a final approval.
- Submitted a new state personnel development grant, PINE, for review, and they expect to hear results in late summer.
- Alternate assessments closed on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary number is .88 percent.
- Still in process of working on an MOA with DVR.

- Works continues on links in the website related to the Special Education Handbook.
- There are updates regarding alternate assessments. It has been given to CASE for review and comment.
- A parent handbook with LYNX has been re-formatted, content approved, and includes photos that represent Alaska specifically.

Anne Applegate requested the following information from DEED:

- Is there a timeline on the MOA with DVR?
- When will you share the MOA with the Committee?
- At what point will the handbook be shared with the SEAP?

## **CASE**

Tracy Culbert briefly reported that following activities for CASE:

- A notice has been sent to CASE membership encouraging them to contact Senator Murkowski in regards to Medicaid.
- The Special Education Handbook has been sent out to members for review.
- Extended school year is happening around the state, and the length of the extended school year is determined at the IEP level.

## **DLC**

A report from the Disability Law Center was not available for the meeting.

## **Stone Soup Group**

Alex Fogarty reported that Stone Soup Group has been encouraging families to share their stories about Medicaid. There is information on their website for parents who may need some instruction or coaching on what to say when calling senators.

Alex Fogarty reported that Stone Soup Group is looking for support parent volunteers for their Parent to Parent Program. There is a short training video, and volunteers would be matched with other parents requesting support throughout the year. There is more detailed information and an

application on their website. Maria Pepperworth volunteered to be a support parent and will contact Stone Soup Group for further instruction.

Alex Fogarty reported that in lieu of their annual picnic, they are partnering with the Teddy Bear Picnic scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Project SEARCH**

Kristin Vandagriff reported that Project SEARCH is involved in two main efforts over the summer: technical assistance visits for current sites, and expansion of the project in different industries in Anchorage and starting a new project in Juneau. Kristin reported that Erin Riehle, the co-founder and co-president of the national Project SEARCH, will be in Alaska September 25<sup>th</sup> for four days to do site visits and will finish in Juneau to discuss the expansion effort of Project SEARCH in Juneau. Anne Applegate encouraged committee members to brainstorm ideas on how to expand recruitment efforts for students in Anchorage and e-mail their ideas to her. Starr Marsett noted that she hopes ASD will do a better job this year of disseminating information on Project SEARCH to their students and parents before their junior year. Tracy Culbert recommended reaching out to home school students and parents.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Membership Demographics and Majority Requirement Survey Update**

Anne Applegate reported that they have had 22 responses from the SurveyMonkey that shows great representation of parents of a child with disabilities and individuals who experience disabilities. They also have good urban/rural representation, but there are holes in the professional categories. Anne stated that after the remaining 4 surveys are returned, she will send out a needs statement that includes which professional categories need to be filled and begin work on filling those gaps.

### **Council Representative Update**

Anne Applegate reported that there is a need for a Council member representative to sit on the Special Education Advisory Panel Committee. Anne spoke with Cindy Anderson who reported that the ASD will be combining the SEAP Committee into their Multi-Cultural Education Advisory

Committee, and Anne stated that after those changes are made, the Council will look for a member from the Education Committee as a representative for the SEAP Committee.

## **ESSA State Plan Application**

Anne Applegate reported that the ESSA application is still open, and public comment for this round ends July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She attached a link to the advocacy guide to the meeting agenda in hopes that it would be helpful for flagging issues that affect the population the Council serves. She noted that she plans on sending draft Council comments to the committee for review a week before the deadline.

## **SEAP Training**

Anne Applegate reported that they have gotten permission from DEED and the Governor's Council to hire TAESE to do a SEAP training. It is going to be a series of webinars through the fall looking at the Council's statutory obligations to make sure the Council is operating to the degree and expanse of their full authority with regards to reviewing, reporting, and being involved in corrective action drafting as well as other kinds of reporting on unmet needs.

## **New Business**

### **Transition Handbook Draft**

Kristin Vandagriff led the committee through an overview of the draft Transition Handbook that was developed in collaboration with AIEI and many other organizations and agencies with a focus on bettering employment outcomes for youth and young adults ages 16 through 26 with disabilities in Alaska. They worked with partners to look at barriers to integrated and competitive employment and tried to ascertain how to make this transition smoother, address barriers, and gather information on resources available for transition.

Kristin Vandagriff encouraged the committee to thoroughly review the draft handbook and send feedback to her, Ric Nelson, or Anne Applegate.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Conferences**

Anthony Cravalho requested that the committee members review the dates and times of the Education Challenge meetings and contact Anne Applegate with which meeting they would be willing to attend to ensure having coverage at all the listed meetings.

### **Alaska's Education Challenge meetings**

Meeting audio will be live streamed on <http://akleg.gov/index.php#tab5> for members of the public:

- **Student Learning Committee**
  - August 1, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - August 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - September 26, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Educator Excellence Committee**
  - August 3, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - August 31, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - September 28, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Modernization & Finance Committee**
  - July 27, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - August 22, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - September 18, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Tribal & Community Ownership Committee**
  - August 2, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - August 30, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - September 19, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Safety & Well-Being Committee**
  - July 26, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - August 24, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - September 27, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Education Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.