

**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 7, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Art Delaune
Mallory Hamilton
Mary Middleton
Britteny Howell
Grace Gray
Lizette Stiehr
Maureen Harwood

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff
Anne Applegate
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Mallory Hamilton, acting chair, welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Lizette Stiehr shared that her son, who works at the University of Alaska Southeast, won a Make Students Matter Award and received \$1,000, an airline ticket to anywhere in the states, and a scholarship.

Lizette Stiehr congratulated Britteny Howell, who has completed her dissertation, has obtained her Ph.D., and is now known as Dr. Britteny Howell.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kristin Vandagriff referenced the two letters in the meeting packet regarding public comment on day habilitation and person-centered settings. Kristin noted that the letters have been submitted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Lizette Stiehr **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Britteny Howell. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 2017 meeting as written, **SECONDED** by Mary Middleton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report and FASD Workgroup Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that along with responding to the proposals on day habilitation, they have been looking at budgetary concerns, as are most organizations.

With regards to the FASD Workgroup, the spring meeting has not been scheduled. They will be meeting for a half-day session in the fall and intend to decide on a date for the spring meeting.

I/DD Unit

Maureen Harwood reported that the new 1915 (c) waiver will now be called the individualized supports waiver. She explained that this is a new waiver for SDS in direct response to the general funds for DD Community Grants being eliminated. The individualized supports waiver is funded through a combination of Medicaid and state dollars. This waiver is meant to meet individualized needs through all the service arrays, with Medicaid being the payer of last resort. Maureen reported that the task now is to move individuals who are currently on the DD/RR to the new waiver. This process includes contacting individuals to have them update their profiles so that the Division can assess how they are going to meet the vision that the state has with regards to the waiver.

Maureen Harwood reported waitlist data as follows:

- There are 545 individuals on the DD/RR
- The age range is 1 to 67
- 23 percent or 125 individuals with a score of 0
- 153 represent the 13 to 21 age group
- 164 represent the 4 to 12 age group

Maureen Harwood reported that the individualized supports waiver is targeted to be available January 1st with assessments being done prior to that date. She noted that the assessment tool remains the same, and the entry point will help individuals manage the waiver services to honor a person-centered process.

Maureen Harwood reported that they are also looking into the design of care coordination and the recommendations coming out of the ICCC and other stakeholder groups.

Patrick Reinhart brought up the concern of the amount of over-resourced individuals needing benefits counselors to access waiver services and the capacity of the trained benefits counselor workforce to accommodate that population. Maureen Harwood will bring that question to the Division and report at next meeting.

Maureen Harwood reported that the Division will not be conducting a National Core Indicator (NCI) survey this year.

Mental Health Trust Authority

A report from the Mental Health Trust Authority was not available for the meeting.

AADD

Lizette Stiehr announced that AADD will be hosting a dinner for Amanda Lofgren, whose last day at the Trust is June 15th. It will be held at the Pioneer Home, June 12th, 2017 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. She invited the Council to send out invitations to Council members and welcomed the committee members to join in the celebration.

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD submitted public comment with regards to the recommendation for two different levels for the day habilitation caps, one for residential services and one for non-residential services. AADD has also submitted public comment regarding person-centered services that included the shared vision. Lizette reported that the DD Collaborative has a banner with the shared vision on it that AADD is willing to lend to organizations to display at functions.

Lizette Stiehr reported that AADD is working on a letter to Senator Murkowski as a follow up to the meeting at the Governor's Council to articulate concerns from the coordinators related to state and federal issues. Lizette expressed her appreciation to the Council for inviting AADD

to be part of the conversation with the senator.

Lizette Stiehr reported that there was recently a meeting with the Trust, SILC, the Governor's Council, AADD, and SDS to look at assistive technology and utilizing the seed money to assist people who are caught in the fiscal shortfall this year to be able to access funds for assistive technology to lower cost of their services and provide increased independence.

Housing

A report from Oscar Cedano was not available at the meeting.

Key Coalition/Campaign

There was no update for the activities of Key Coalition or Key Campaign.

Council Update/Executive Committee

Patrick Reinhart shared the topics of conversations the Council had in the meeting with Senator Murkowski, including the effects the federal budget would have on the state Medicaid reform and programs and home and community-based services. The Council plans to do a follow-up letter to the senator with relevant data points she can use to support Alaskans with disabilities at the federal level.

With regards to the Council office, Patrick Reinhart shared that with the shortage of Council admin personnel, Council members can use direct lines to speak to staff if the main number is not available. Patrick also noted that if the state government shutdown does occur on July 1st, the Council office will be closed.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council did receive its federal grant award amount of \$486,000. He noted that DD Council funding has been completely eliminated in the president's federal budget, and legislative work is being done at the federal level to address that.

Medicaid Update

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee is looking at meeting in July with a focus on day habilitation. Other activities of the committee include creating an infographic for legislative advocacy and working on assistive technology. Kristin noted that she is on a RFI review committee along with representatives from the Commission on Aging and SDS, and the last review is scheduled for June 16th.

ADRD Home, Deaf Program, Intentional Neighborhoods

Britteny Howell reported that the Forest Home that was previously held up in licensing is working through several environmental modifications and security system upgrades. They have identified and contacted three potential residents and are working through transition plans. The next step includes recruitment and hiring and training specific and specialized staff that would work in the home.

Britteny Howell reported that the intentional neighborhood on the Kenai Peninsula is in the process of picking out materials in hopes that construction will begin this summer.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council will be co-sponsoring the Deaf Awareness Week activities this fall and will pay for interpreters for the activities.

OLD BUSINESS

Workforce Development Workgroup

Kristin Vandagriff reported that the workgroup has tentative plans to meet June 13th at 1:30 to get started fleshing out a plan of action.

FY 17 DD Committee Work Plan

Kristin Vandagriff led a review of the DD Committee's work plan and filled in gaps related to individuals working on particular activities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- NACDD Conference, July 11th - 14th, 2017
- EPIC Conference, August 22nd - 24th, 2017
- Self-Advocacy Summit, Sept. 3rd - Oct. 1st, 2017
- Council Meeting, October 2nd - 3rd, 2017
- AADD Face-to-Face Meeting, Oct. 5th, 2017
- Disability & Aging Summit, Oct. 13th - 14th, 2017

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular DD Committee meeting is scheduled for July 5th, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Lizette Stiehr **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.