

**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

**August 2, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Chair
Anna Attla
Meghan Clark
Anthony Cravalho
Art Delaune
Dave Fleurant
Corey Gilmore
Mallory Hamilton
Brittney Howell
Mary Middleton
Christian Muntean
Maggie Winston

Guests:

Oscar Cedano
Monika Ceran

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff
Ric Nelson

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus welcomed committee members to the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus shared about the upcoming Northern Conference September 8 – 9. September 8th will focus on traumatic and acquired brain injury, and September 9th will focus on FASD. She asked that anyone interested in presenting, setting up a table, or attending contact her as soon as possible. This conference will be held in conjunction with Alaska Brain Injury Network and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Kristin Vandagriff announced the failure of the healthcare bill in the senate, and she highlighted that one of Alaska's senators was pivotal in that effort. She thanked everyone who engaged in contacting the Congressional delegation to advocate against the legislation.

New Council members Corey Gilmore, Meghan Clark, and Christian Muntean introduced themselves to the committee.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mallory Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Mary Middleton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Brittney Howell **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 2017 meeting as presented, **SECONDED** by Art Delaune. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was reported.

REPORTS

FASD Workgroup Update

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reported that the workgroup will be holding a half-day meeting with Agnew::Beck on August 22nd in Anchorage to develop a strategy for going forward with the five-year plan. They will then meet again in October for a full planning session.

I/DD Unit

In the absence of an SDS representative, Kristin Vandagriff reported on news learned from SDS during the recent AADD teleconference.

There are no further budget reductions expected for FY'18. The new Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW) is expected to be implemented on January 1, 2018. SDS is planning to roll it out in waves starting with DDDR assessments in August and September, and they hope to roll it out at a rate of about 100 per month. Kristin Vandagriff further clarified that the ISW is supposed to be refinancing what was the Community Developmental Disability Grant (CDDG). There is a little bit of concern about care coordination capacity, so there is some discussion of lightening some of the monthly visit requirements. Ric Nelson further explained that SDS is looking at having care coordinators do one visit a year for the ISW and the Community First Choice option unless the person needs more supports. If an individual needs a lot of oversight, they can move to one of the four waivers for more supports.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked what will happen to those people who don't qualify for the waiver. Ric Nelson stated that Duane Mayes gave assurances that those people will be taken care of, though SDS doesn't know how yet.

Kristen Vandagriff further reported that SDS's external working group around enabling technology continues to progress forward. SDS has

developed a request to the Trust for \$200,000 to utilize mini-grants for enabling technology for individuals and providers. That seed money from the Trust would allow them to seek out Rasmuson and other private foundations to get more money towards this. The SILC will be the administrator of those funds.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will continue to work on the day habilitation soft cap, and Duane Mayes stated that he wants to be involved in that committee quarterly. She will invite SDS to attend either the Medicaid Ad Hoc or next DD Committee meeting, whichever works best for their schedule, to discuss this issue.

Mental Health Trust Authority

Kristin Vandagriff stated that Amanda Lofgren has switched positions and is now the director of Pioneer Homes. The Trust is trying to fill her position, and the DD Committee does not have a representative from the Trust assigned to them yet.

Kristin Vandagriff mentioned that the Trustees have been holding special sessions to review their governance documents.

AADD

In the absence of an AADD representative, Kristin Vandagriff reported that AADD has been working diligently in regards to the DD Collaborative. The DD Collaborative had been working towards creating a shared DD system vision, and now that the vision and values statement and infographic has been generated, they held a strategic planning session in May to look at how to implement it in both the short and long term. They are looking to start five major project team areas for implementation as follows:

1. Person-directed culture change
2. Workforce development
3. Legislative engagement
4. Community outreach and engagement
5. Measuring progress.

The DD Collaborative will be meeting Friday, August 4th from 1:00 – 2:00.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Oscar Cedano reported that the 811 program is starting to move forward slowly. The 811 program is federal funding being coordinated between AHFC and DHSS to provide housing to clients of DHSS that are in assisted living homes but are sufficiently independent to live in an apartment by themselves. The first clients are being sent letters to invite them to participate in the program. The 811 program comes with support services, but they are not a requirement of participation. The funding is targeting around 200 individuals, and they are starting with 10 to test as a pilot project. The program requirements are that the qualifier has to be an individual between the ages of 18 and 55, have a disability, and it excludes people with drug use or abuse and anyone that is on a permanent Sex Offender Registry. DHSS is currently selecting their clients that are in General Relief assisted living home care.

Oscar Cedano reported that the Greater Opportunities for Affordable Living (GOAL) program applications are open right now. This program is geared towards building rental units.

Oscar Cedano reported that the next board meeting will be held in Fairbanks, and one of the topics that will be discussed is the troop expansion in Fairbanks and how that will affect housing for people with a low income.

Committee members engaged in a discussion on how to reach the homeless population to get housing information to them. Oscar Cedano stated that 211 has the information as does the AHFC website.

Council Update/Executive Committee

Kristin Vandagriff stated that the Council as the lead with many great partners put forward an application for the Administration on Community Living (ACL) federal grant opportunity called Living Well. This grant would be \$450,000 per year for five years to look at increasing community integration and inclusion while making sure there is a focus on health and safety. The application was submitted last week, and they are hoping to hear back by September 1. This funding would help with the implementation of a lot of the big changes that are happening right now in

the DD system.

Kristin Vandagriff also reported that the public comment closed for the State Plan amendments. The Council will submit the final amendments to the ACL, and then she will bring the revised work plan back to the committee for their review.

Key Coalition/Campaign

Ric Nelson reported that there is not an update for Key Coalition. He is unsure of the dates of the fall meeting and the dates for Key Campaign.

Medicaid Update

Kristin Vandagriff reported that she will put out a Doodle poll to determine the next meeting of the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee. The hope is to have SDS present about the day habilitation hours and to begin looking into the interRAI manuals. She asked that members of the DD Committee interested in joining the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee please contact her.

ARRD Home, Intentional Neighborhoods

Brittany Howell stated that that the ARRD home with Hope Community Resources is called Forest Home. Hope has recently started providing residential and other support services at the Forest Home for people who experience ARRD and were placed at Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). Their first identified resident unfortunately passed away, so they are identifying the next couple of residents to move out of API, and they are working toward that transition.

Brittany Howell reported that the intentional neighborhood in Soldotna will be starting construction this week. The site is prepped and the roommates are all selected except for one. The contracts have been awarded, designs are finalized, and they are moving it to internal operations. Mallory Hamilton added that there are five homes that will have two residents and a full-time, live-in staff, and then there is a triplex that will have single individuals living in two units and a full-time staff living in the third unit for oversight.

Inclusive Community Choices Council (ICCC) Update

Ric Nelson reported that SDS has created a glossary of terms for the waivers that will be published. He also stated that they will need to keep an eye out for all the new regulations that will be coming out regarding the State Plan options and waivers. There may be five different regulation packages coming out around the same time, with only 30 days to provide public comment.

Ric Nelson stated that the new ISW will provide approximately \$17,000 of funding per person per year, but that dollar amount does not include the care coordination. Kristin Vandagriff added that the services for the ISW would include respite, day habilitation, limited in-home supports, supported living, and supported employment.

Ric Nelson stated that the ICCC will meet again in September to revisit the interRAI and to see what else is available as far as a new assessment tool. The ISW will utilize the ICAP to determine level of care.

Workforce Workgroup Updates

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the workgroup met and decided to do a survey to determine people's concerns and needs in terms of family members whose employment is obstructed because of caring for a family member at home. Once they receive the data back from the survey, they can start to determine priorities.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that Lanny Mommsen has started drafting a SurveyMonkey, which she will send out to the workgroup for feedback. She encouraged other members of the DD Committee to join this workgroup. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus encouraged members to provide feedback and help review the information gathered from this survey, even if they are unable to make the commitment to joining the workgroup.

NEW BUSINESS

NACDD Update

Kristin Vandagriff stated that that she, Mallory Hamilton, and Lanny

Mommsen attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) conference. She stated that the conference covered self-advocacy, cultural linguistic competency, supported decision making, and healthcare emergency preparedness. She will send out a link to a movie that was shown at the conference called “Body and Soul” about Kathy and Diana, two individuals with disabilities that have lived together for 30 years. The Council was approved to purchase the DVD, and they are hoping to show it at a variety of venues because it is a very powerful story.

Kristin Vandagriff stated that they got to meet Melissa Ortiz, the new Administration on Disabilities commissioner.

Mallory Hamilton was pleased with how much she learned from the conference, and one of the breakout sessions, Council Activities for Self-Advocacy was very informational and had information that would benefit this council. She also learned that Alaska’s council is one of the most active in the country, and Alaska is regularly mentioned throughout the general sessions for the work they’ve done.

Kristin Vandagriff recommended committee members go to the link she provided to look at the documents from the conference.

Supported Decision Making

Kristin Vandagriff stated that supported decision making is the concept around looking at people who may not need full guardianship in every facet of their lives. Some states have passed legislation to have supported decision-making be a legal agreement that people can have as opposed to full guardianship.

Kristin stated that Alaska was awarded the WINGS grant, and Anne Applegate has been working collaboratively with a group regarding that grant. As the Council continues their work on person-centeredness, Anne Applegate thought it would be useful to create a workgroup around supported decision-making. Dave Fleurant shared some of the work he is doing on supported decision making from DLC’s perspective and volunteered to be part of a workgroup. Other volunteers include: Mallory Hamilton, Britteny Howell, Corey Gilmore, and Art Delaune.

SDS – Updated Website for HCBS Settings Transition Plan

Kristin Vandagriff noted that SDS has a new website for the HCBS settings transition plan:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/transitionPlanHCBS/HCBStranstion.asp>
[X](#)

Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural and Linguistic Competence Efforts

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that she and Elizabeth Joseph are active members of the Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural and Linguistic Competence group. They have had two or three meetings, and attached to the DD Committees meeting documents is a PowerPoint that gives a good overview of cultural considerations. She asked that members of this committee review the PowerPoint to ensure they are making their meetings accessible to everyone. She would like to get feedback from other members of the committee on how they can pursue this more effectively.

Kristin Vandagriff noted that this was a topic at the NACDD conference, and one of the strategies mentioned for councils was to create a language access plan to assess what they are currently doing and how they could improve. She also suggested that this could be a theme for one of the Council's quarterly meeting public testimonies.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- EPIC conference – August 22 – 24
- TABI and FASD Northern Conference – September 8 – 9
- Self-Advocacy Summit – September 30 – October 1
- Council meeting – October 2 – 3
- AADD face-to-face meeting – October 5
- Disability and Aging Summit – October 13 – 14
- Self-determination and Supported Decision Making – October 16 – 17, Hope Community Resources Auditorium.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular DD Committee is scheduled for September 6, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Britteny Howell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by Mallory Hamilton. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.