

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

**Legislative Committee
MINUTES**

Videoconference Host
Governor's Council
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1230
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Date
December 21, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Art Delaune – Chair
Don Enoch
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Ric Nelson
Dean Paul
Senator Peter Micciche

Attendees:

Jena Crafton
Lyle Downing
Charlene Tautfest
Pam Hooker
Malan Paquette

Staff:

Jamie Kokoszka
Jess Doherty
Lanny Mommsen

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL – Quorum established

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Art Delaune welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Declarations of Conflict

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Announcements and Good News

No announcements were made nor good news shared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Approval of the Agenda

Dean Paul **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Don Enoch. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the December 9th, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Dean Paul. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Jamie Kokoszka stated that there was no correspondence to report.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Art Delaune shared that Governor Dunleavy produced the state budget this week, and it doesn't appear to have any significant cuts affecting the developmental disabilities population. He noted that the Department of Health and Social Services is still looking at reorganizing, but that will not

be a point of discussion until the executive order is presented. Art noted that the legislative session begins on January 18, 2022. He said he expects there will be a focus on the Permanent Fund Dividend and the proposed formula changes.

Staff Report

Jamie Kokoszka had no news to report.

BUSINESS

Discuss Executive Committee Items

There were no Executive Committee items to discuss.

Review and Discussion of 2022 Legislative Priorities

Art Delaune reminded committee members of last year's legislative priorities as follows:

- Support for SESA reauthorization, complete with SESA reauthorized
- A position paper on the importance of home and community-based services
- A position paper outlining the cost savings of home and community-based services
- DSP workforce statement with partner agencies.

Art Delaune opened the floor for suggestions for this year's legislative priorities. Committee members proposed the following recommendations:

- DSP workforce
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Maintaining a trained workforce
 - Background check barriers
- Self-directed waivers

Pam Hooker shared that she is on the South Peninsula Behavioral Health Board, and they are also concerned about the DSP workforce crisis. She would be willing to canvas her region to identify what work is being done and bring that back to the committee.

Jamie Kokoszka read the 2020 DSP workforce position paper to the committee. Art Delaune directed staff to use the DSP workforce position paper as the base of a draft position paper for the committee.

Dean Paul **MOVED** to add self-directed waiver as a regular agenda item for Legislative Committee meetings, **SECONDED** by Ric Nelson. During the discussion, points were made that the matter may not need a legislative fix, but rather a regulatory change, and it may begin with a pilot project or demonstration waiver. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune summarized that the two proposed priorities identified at the meeting include the DSP workforce and self-directed waivers. He said that more issues might be identified as the committee moves forward.

Update on Federal Items

Art Delaune reported that there were no changes at the federal level.

Dean Paul asked if the Council had anyone participating in the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Ric Nelson supposed that Myranda Walso, as acting executive director, participates. Dean noted that it would be valuable to have that connection to bring forward issues Alaska identifies as federal-level barriers. Art Delaune stated that the Legislative Committee could begin discussing federal-level items closer to when the NACDD meets.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Legislative Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Dean Paul. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.