

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

**Self-Advocacy & Leadership Committee  
MINUTES**

**Videoconference Host**

Governor's Council  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1230  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Meeting Date**

December 16, 2021  
11:00 a.m.

**Committee Members:**

Ric Nelson – Chair  
Anna Attla  
Jena Crafton  
Art Delaune  
Nona Safra  
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

**Attendees:**

Lucy Oden

**Staff:**

Jamie Kokoszka  
Michele Binkley  
Jacqueline Kim  
Lanny Mommsen  
Myranda Walso

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

**CALL TO ORDER – 11:06 a.m.**  
**ROLL CALL – Quorum established**

## **WELCOME**

Ric Nelson welcomed attendees to the meeting.

## **Declarations of Conflict**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Recurring Meeting Schedule**

Ric Nelson opened the floor to a discussion on scheduling recurring meetings. The current schedule for the Self-Advocacy & Leadership (SA&L) Committee meetings is the third Thursday of each month from 11:00 to 12:30 p.m. The committee members agreed to continue the schedule.

### **SA&L Committee Work Plan**

Ric Nelson directed the members' attention to the document titled *Self-Advocacy & Leadership Committee Work Plan for FFY 22*. He led a review of the goals, objectives, and activities and asked for volunteers for each of the activities as follows:

#### **Goal 2 - Self-Advocacy and Leadership**

People with developmental disabilities will have increased access to education, tools, and opportunities for self-advocacy across the lifespan to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities expressing their vision for their lives in local, state, and national forums.

- Objective 1 - DD Shared Vision Implementation  
People with developmental disabilities will have information on the Shared Vision and will have opportunities to actively participate in planning and implementation of the Shared Vision to increase the number of people who understand the Shared Vision and the number who live the life they choose with the supports they direct.
  
- Activities:
  1. Produce or provide at least one informational outreach resource about the Vision for use at community events, fairs, conference exhibit tables, stakeholder meetings, social events (infographic postcard, poster, banner, etc.).
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley, Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich, Nona Safra
  2. Collaborate with a statewide DD self-advocacy organization on at least one statewide legislative advocacy training per year (with Legislative Committee).
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley Art Delaune, Peer Power, Legislative Committee
  3. Contribute to, support, or promote one publication, training, video, or presentation that is a legislative/policy advocacy training resource (with Legislative Committee)
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley
      - Myranda Walso recommended adding a stakeholder input session on an agenda for an upcoming committee meeting ahead of the engagement with the partners in activity #2.
  
- Objective 2 - Support Self-Advocacy Organization  
A self-advocacy organization will have direct funding support and information, training, and tools for success to increase its membership, sustainability, and organizational outreach.

Myranda Walso noted that because the Council has contracts with Peer Power and they are a vendor, the activities could have compliance or procurement issues. To remediate issues, she requested that committee members who are members of Peer Power refrain from providing input on the RFP process and that any members that belong to Peer Power or a similar organization that might apply for grant awards would recuse themselves from votes

regarding the scope or contact discussions on it. She stated that it is important for the committee to make a decision to delegate this activity solely to staff to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest for committee members. Therefore, Myranda asked for an adjustment to the “who” portion's work plan; to replace Ric Nelson with Myranda Walso as the acting executive director. The committee agreed to replace Ric Nelson with Myranda Walso for the activities outlined in Objective 2. Myranda Walso noted that the change would include Myranda Walso, Michele Binkley, Ian Miner, and the contracting staff through the DHSS.

- Activities:
  1. Develop and publish a Request for Information/Interest targeting self-advocacy organizations.
    - Myranda Walso, Michele Binkley, Ric Nelson, the entire committee
  2. Support two Council member advocates or self-advocacy board members to attend/participate in a national legislative or policy advocacy training.
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley, the entire committee
  3. Annually, sponsor the attendance of at least two Council members or self-advocacy board members who experience developmental disabilities or are family members at statewide events, conferences, and/or training on full and meaningful lives, health and well-being, HCBS, and/or Medicaid.
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley, the entire committee
  4. Develop a white paper on the types and number of self-advocacy groups operating in Alaska. Include information on membership, location, and mission where possible.
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley, the entire committee
  5. Support the Self-Advocacy Empower Hour at least quarterly by providing financial and technical support with Zoom platform and staff during meetings, as well as assisting with marketing (for example, posting on social media, listserv).
    - Ric Nelson, Michele Binkley

## **Empower Hour**

Lanny Mommsen shared background information related to the Empower Hour. Kim Champney facilitated the Empower Hour in the past, and since

then, the Governor's Council has taken over. To recruit more people to participate in the Empower Hour, the Governor's Council hosts the event quarterly and is looking at a time slot that works for attendance.

Lanny shared an overview of the Empower Hour as follows:

- Proposed format:
  - Co-hosts: Two to three self-advocates from SA&L Committee.
  - Council staff: Facilitate Zoom, contact point, marketing.
- Proposed Empower Hour agenda includes:
  - Introductions/welcome
  - Introduction of topic
  - Presentation/panel discussion
  - Discussion
  - Break-out rooms if group larger than ten
  - Resources for future
  - Closing.
- Proposed themes:
  - Friendship and dating (February)
  - Leadership and advocacy
  - Recreation/Living your life/DD Shared Vision (summer)
  - Holidays
  - Teen involvement, in addition to the quarterly events

Myranda Walso noted that one of the Council's challenges with hosting the Empower Hour is staff coverage. In speaking with the core Empower Hour group, they cited challenges with host burnout. Myranda proposed that Council staff take the lead on one of the four events following a suggested agenda, and self-advocates would lead the remaining meetings. She recommended having two self-advocates identified as leads for events to mitigate problems that may arise with technology. She suggested developing a roster of self-advocates willing to lead events.

Ric Nelson asked that Empower Hour be on the next meeting agenda to focus on moving the event forward.

## **Goal 2: DD Shared Vision**

Ric Nelson shared that the Shared Vision has been brought up quite often in the past few months, and in looking at the Vision, he wanted to identify

how the Self-Advocacy & Leadership Committee's work plan aligned with the Shared Vision. He recommended reviewing the committee's work plan with a lens of how the committee could help move the Vision forward. Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich suggested talking with members of the DD Collaborative to get help distinguishing areas where the committee's assistance could be valuable.

Ric Nelson asked committee members to think about ways the committee could work on the DD Shared Vision concepts and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

No items were brought forward.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Anna Attla **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.