

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

**SELF-ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
(SALC)**

Videoconference Host:

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

Meeting Date

Tuesday, August 23, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members:

Jena Crafton, Chair
Anna Attla
Art Delaune
Margaret Evans
Nona Safra
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Heidi Lieb-Williams

Absent:

Jennifer Zucati-Pirtle
Fred Villa
Corey Gilmore
Elizabeth Joseph

Guests:

Camille Brill

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Jamie Kokoszka
Lanny Mommsen
Rich Saville
Michael Stevenson

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

DRAFT

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

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Mindfulness

Jena Crafton opened the meeting with a mindful moment.

Introductions/Announcements

Jamie Kokoszka shared the following announcements:

- **The Living Well “I Have Rights” Webinar**
August 30, 2022 - 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Contact Lanny Mommsen at the Council for more information and registration.
Hosted by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.
- **Fire Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Webinar**
September 7, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hosted by the Disability Law Center.
- **The Living Well “I Have Dreams” Webinar**
September 14, 2022 - 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Contact Lanny Mommsen at the Council for more information and registration.
Hosted by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.
- **Living, Working, and Playing Towards Independence Conference**

September 21 – 23, 2022

Egan Center, Anchorage

Contact SILC for more information and registration.

Council members interested in attending can contact the Council office for sponsorship. There are no travel funds for the conference.

Hosted by the Statewide Independent Living Council.

- **Improving Lives Conference**

September 27 – 28, 2022

Dena'ina Center, Anchorage

More information and registration available on the Trust website. Sponsorship funding is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Hosted by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

- **8th Annual Disability & Aging Summit**

October 4 – 5, 2022

Special Olympics Alaska Center, Anchorage

Hosted by the Alaska Disability & Aging Coalition.

- **Governor's Council Fall Meeting/Retreat**

October 13 -15, 2022

Girdwood, Alaska

Plans are underway, and details to follow.

Good News

Heidi Lieb-Williams reported that many representatives of the disability community were present at the Alaska State Fair. The Embracing AK Diversities Expo, which includes the Shining Abilities Craft Fair, features disability resource information booths, a calm-down sensory area, sensory activities, and advocacy presentations. There were 22 disability entrepreneurs present at

the craft fair and the feedback was good. Heidi stated that it is confirmed that every year moving forward, and the first Monday of the Alaska State Fair will be designated as the Embracing AK Diversities Expo Day.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MINUTES

Margaret Evans **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as written, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve December 16, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Jena Crafton reported that she is looking forward to the committee returning to regularly scheduled meetings. She shared that she had a wonderful trip to D.C. this summer. In addition to attending the conference, she met with the Alaska Congressional delegation and participated in a tour of the Capitol building.

GCDSE Staff

Patrick Reinhart shared the good news that Ian Miner will return to work for the Council on September 6th.

BUSINESS

Member Introductions

Jena Crafton opened the floor for member introductions.

Discuss Committee Description and Mission Statement

Jamie Kokoszka shared the committee's description as follows:

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.

Patrick Reinhart suggested shortening the description and using plain language. He recommended letting staff wordsmith the description and present it at the next meeting for consideration.

Jamie Kokoszka shared the committee mission statement as follows:

To support and advance self-advocacy and leadership for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Review Council Five-Year Plan Objectives and Activities

Jamie Kokoszka led the committee through the work plan for the committee 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, or social events.
 2. Annually, collaborate with a self-advocacy organization, DD Network partners, and others to support at least one statewide event (conference, stakeholder meeting) to review DD Shared Vision goals and objectives and to plan future activities and collaborations to implement the Vision.

Objective 2: Support Self-Advocacy

- A self-advocacy organization will have direct funding support; and information, training, and tools for success to increase its membership, sustainability, and organizational outreach.
- Activities:
 1. Support two Council member advocates or self-advocacy board members to attend/participate in a national legislative or policy advocacy training.
 2. 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 trainings on full and meaningful lives, health and well-being, HCBS, and/or Medicaid

3. Identify and recruit advocates and self-advocates for vacant Council seats. Provide mentorship for new Council and committee members that will pair new members with both staff and mentor Council members. Continue to ensure that the Council is culturally diverse. (Note: No. 3 is a newly added plan revision.)
4. Support statewide self-advocacy training through collaboration with partners to include marketing and distributing information and materials to increase public awareness. Collaborate with a self-advocacy organization.
5. Current self-advocates and leaders will have opportunities to mentor new self-advocates to become leaders by facilitating and participating in Empower Hour. Empower Hour is cohosted by self-advocate leaders and emerging leaders, with the support of GCDSE staff, to increase leadership opportunities and skills for self-advocacy. GCDSE will provide in-kind support with the Zoom platform and support staff during meetings, assisting with marketing (posting on social media, listserv). There will be one Empower Hour per year that is specific to cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership opportunities coalition.

Patrick Reinhart noted that reviewing the committee's work plan is a yearly activity, and the opportunity to change or add activities happens during those reviews. Lanny Mommsen pointed out that the goals and objectives remain fixed throughout the five years of the plan.

Empower Hour Discussion

Patrick Reinhart reported that one of the primary responsibilities of a DD Council is to support a self-advocacy organization, and that organization in Alaska is Peer Power. Peer Power approached the Council about taking over the responsibility of hosting a monthly Empower Hour event contracted through the Living Well Grant. The Council has a contract with Peer Power to support the Self-Advocacy Summit. The Council is considering taking the contract, and one of the criteria discussed was that the Peer Power board decides the topics and speakers for the events. The Council agreed to do it on a trial basis for a year.

Group Discussion and Other Announcements

No discussion was brought to the floor, and no announcements were made.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 19th, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Nona Safra **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Anna Attla. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.