

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

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Videoconference Host:

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

Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 8, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Nona Safra, Chair
Ken Hamrick
Charlene Taufest
Director Duane Mayes
Anna Attla

Absent:

Fred Villa
Jena Crafton

Guests:

Dave Berube
Daniel Davis
Meredith Griggs

Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Jamie Kokoszka
Lanny Mommsen
Michael Stevenson

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

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

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Nona Safra welcomed attendees to the meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

Lanny Mommsen shared links to the upcoming events as follows:

I Have Dreams Webinar
September 14th, 2022

Living, Working, and Playing Towards Independence Conference
Egan Center, Anchorage
September 21 – 23, 2022

Improving Lives Conference
Dena'ina Center, Anchorage
September 27 – 28, 2022

Disability and Aging Summit
Special Olympics, Anchorage
October 4 – 5, 2022

Governor's Council Retreat/Training
October 13 – 15, 2022

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MINUTES

Ken Hamrick **MOVED** to approve the revised meeting agenda, **SECONDED** by Charlene Tautfest. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the August 2, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Charlene Tautfest. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Nona Safra shared that the Alaska Work Matters Task Force report is finalized, and she looks forward to hearing more about it.

GCDSE Staff

Patrick Reinhart reported the following Council update:

- Ian Miner is back working at the Council as the Admin II.
- Lanny Mommsen is now the acting Planner.
- The Council's Transition Committee's work continues to move forward. In the next couple of weeks, Council members will see recruitment announcements for the executive director position, which is expected to be open for three weeks. The committee will likely interview candidates in mid to late October. The whole process could take two to three months.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the issues of compliance raised by ACL are no longer an issue. The out-of-compliance designation has been removed from the Council, which was a relief for the Council members and staff. He noted that the Council plans to make some adjustments with the Council staff in terms of administration, but the scope of work will continue.

Jamie Kokoszka stated that the Council is moving into reporting season, and the staff will be working on several major reports. The Trust report, the PPR, the Living Well semiannual report, and the annual report are due in the coming months.

BUSINESS

Review Committee Description and Mission Statement

Nona Safra shared the proposed committee description and mission statement as follows:

Committee Description:

To help individuals with disabilities of all types gain meaningful, competitive, and integrated employment in their field and community of choice across the lifespan. Meaningful employment encompasses transportation, education, environment, and housing across Alaska.

Mission Statement:

To promote and enhance meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Nona Safra opened the floor for comments.

Charlene Tautfest suggested incorporating entrepreneurship or business-related employment. Patrick Reinhart noted that the statement encompasses that thread with "employment opportunities" in the mission statement.

No other comments were made, and the committee agreed to move forward with the proposed statements.

Alaska Work Matters Task Force Final Report

Patrick Reinhart directed the members' attention to the document titled *Alaska Work Matters Task Force Final Report* included in the meeting packet. He highlighted the following information:

- The report is 48 pages and includes an executive summary.
- The final report is being sent to a printer to produce 500 copies. The report will also be available on DVR's website and Governor's Council's website.
- Director Mayes and Patrick Reinhart plan to meet with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development commissioner next week to discuss the report. They will map out other opportunities to highlight the recommendations across various state departments and private agencies.
- The report will be highlighted at the Living, Working, and Playing Towards Independence Conference hosted by the Statewide Independent Living Council in September.
- Information about the report will be available at a resource table at the Trust's Improving Lives Conference.

Patrick Reinhart recommended that the committee members take the time to read through the executive summary. Director Mayes remarked that the report is the work product of the time-limited task force comprised of 24 individuals representing state agencies, people with disabilities, and advisory and beneficiary boards. The task force will be looking for an endorsement from the commissioners of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Health. The task force's next step is to form an ad hoc committee to focus on the recommendations and identify champions to further the recommendations.

"Working Towards Independence" Conference Discussion

Patrick Reinhart reported that registration is open for the conference. The conference costs \$115 for agency representatives or \$85 for consumers/self-advocates. Michael Christian, the executive director of the SILC, offered an opportunity for individuals who need sponsorship. Council members can contact the Council for support for the conference cost, not including travel.

Year-Two Work Plan

Patrick Reinhart directed the members' attention to the document titled *Employment Work Plan FY 23 Draft* for review, noting that the work plan begins October 1st. He highlighted the following information:

The year-two work plan for FFY 23 includes:

Goal 3:

- People with developmental disabilities will have access to supports, services, programs, and training necessary for successful transitions to adulthood, meaningful work experiences, integrated and competitive employment, as well as career development, across the lifespan.

Objective 1 – Employment First Implementation

- People will have information, training, tools, and programs on telework, the State As a Model Employer, employment rights, and universally designed work environments to increase the percentage of people with developmental disabilities with meaningful, integrated, competitive employment in typical work settings.

Activities:

- 3.1.1: Work with partners to participate in at least one employment activity annually such as job fairs, transition fairs, conferences, and/or statewide stakeholder meetings or trainings. GCDSE and partner agencies will host at least one activity. Review sign-in sheets/participant lists for attendance count; surveys will measure self-reported increase in knowledge and location in Alaska to gauge reach.
- 3.1.2: Collaborate with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to support the Council's Five-Year Plan through the management and implementation of the Beneficiary Employment Engagement plan activities to ensure beneficiaries have greater access to employment, related support services, and accurate resources and information on how paid employment impacts Social Security and other benefits. Complete plan activities and submit an MHTAAR report to AMHTA twice a year. GCDSE will provide a report to AMHTA two times per year with activity progress.
- 3.1.3: Microenterprise Grant Review. Support employment for Alaska's DD population by serving on the Microenterprise Grant Committee. Participate in the Microenterprise Grant reviews and discussions with Alaska WIPA project director through the UAA Center for Human Development. Review Microenterprise grant applications, and provide input and recommendations on applications no less than four times per year. Number of meetings and applications reviewed by GCDSE staff and approved by the committee.

Objective 2 – Traditional Transition

- Transition-aged youth (14 – 22) with developmental disabilities will have increased information, education services, training, and tools that are regionally, culturally, and linguistically relevant to them to increase the number of young adults in rural communities with skills for meaningful, place-based adulthood.

Targeted Disparity:

- In collaboration with people with developmental disabilities, their families, and stakeholders, the unequal availability of educational resources for regionally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate transitions to adulthood in the Southwest region of rural Alaska will be decreased through capacity building by curriculum development, outreach, and training.

Activities:

- 3.2.1: Support and contribute to the development of a modified curriculum that is regionally, culturally, and linguistically relevant for rural transitions in three regions of the state. Support further development of a modified curriculum that is regionally, culturally, and linguistically relevant for rural transitions
- 3.2.2: Collaborate with partners on a plan for collecting baseline data on rural transitions, developing a pilot using the curriculum, and measuring progress
- 3.2.3: Provide at least one training to parents and guardians on the availability of curriculum collaboration with partners. The Council will cohost one training for parents/guardians on the availability of curriculum.

With regards to 3.2.1, Patrick Reinhart noted that Jamie Kokoszka is working with Rain Van Dem Berg, a contractor with CHD, on distributing marketing materials and working on training. She pointed out that the Traditional Alaskan Transition Skill curriculum can be found on the SESA website.

Patrick Reinhart reminded the committee that the work plan is fluid, and should matters of great importance need addressing, they can be incorporated into the work plan.

Group Discussion and Announcements

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

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Employment Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 11:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Patrick Reinhart recommended inviting experts on sections of the Alaska Work Matters Task Force report to the next few committee meetings to discuss the recommendations in depth. The committee agreed and directed staff to work on scheduling the presentations.

Jamie Kokoszka reminded the committee that the legislative session is starting soon and asked the members to think about legislative actions the committee is interested in.

Patrick Reinhart shared that the bill signing banning subminimum wage for people with disabilities that passed the legislature last session will be held at the Special Olympics on September 13th at 1:00 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Anna Attla **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Ken Hamrick. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.