

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

**SELF-ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE  
(SA&L)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Videoconference Host:**

Governor's Council  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1220  
Anchorage, Alaska  
**Videoconference**

**Meeting Date**

Monday, September 19, 2022  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Council Members:**

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

**Absent:**

Jennifer Zucati-Pirtle  
Fred Villa  
Corey Gilmore  
Elizabeth Joseph

**GCDSE Staff:**

Patrick Reinhart  
Jamie Kokoszka  
Lanny Mommsen  
Rich Saville  
Michael Stevenson

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

**CALL TO ORDER – 12:30 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL – Quorum established**

### **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

Jena Crafton welcomed attendees to the meeting. She led the committee in a mindfulness moment.

### **Introductions, Announcements and/or Good News**

Jamie Kokoszka shared the following announcements:

- Ian Miner is back at the Council working as a staff member three days a week.
- The executive director position is expected to be posted in the next couple of weeks.
- The ICC quarterly meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2022.
- The Statewide Independent Living Council Conference is scheduled for September 21 – 23, 2022.
- The Alaska Mental Health Trust Improving Lives Conference at the Dena'ina Convention Center, September 27 – 28, 2022. The pre-conference workshop is scheduled for September 26, 2022.
- The Legislative Committee is scheduled to meet on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- The Aging and Disability Summit is scheduled for October 4 – 5, 2022
- The SEAP meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.
- The Council Retreat is scheduled to begin on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- September is FASD Awareness Month
- October is the National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Jena Crafton shared that she will be doing a presentation on the Denali Village on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mental Health Trust's Improving Lives Conference.

Jena Crafton shared that she job shadowed at the Council last week and got a look at the work the Council staff does behind the scenes.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MEETING MINUTES, and CORRESPONDENCE**

Margaret Evans **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Anna Attla. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Heidi Lieb-Williams **MOVED** to approve the August 2022 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Anna Attla. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair Report**

Jena Crafton reported that she attended the *I Have Dreams* webinar, which was very interesting. She noted that there is a recording of the webinar that people can watch at their convenience.

Jena Crafton reported that she attended the bill signing to repeal the subminimum wage statute held at the Special Olympics in Anchorage. The video of the event can be seen on the Council's Facebook and Twitter.

### **GCDSE Staff Report**

Jamie Kokoszka reported that staff activities are covered in the agenda items.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Review and Discussion of the Council Five-Year Plan**

Jamie Kokoszka directed the members' attention to the document titled *Year 2, SA&L Work Plan Draft*, and noted that the only activity not completed from year one (ending September 30) was the mentorship opportunities for new Council members. The Council retreat scheduled for October will provide an opportunity for that activity.

Jamie Kokoszka led the committee through a review highlighting the following information:

#### **Year Two Work Plan for FY 23:**

##### **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**
  - **Activity 2.1.1:** Produce or provide at least one informational outreach resource about the Vision for use at community events, fairs, conference exhibit tables, stakeholder meetings, and social events (infographic postcard, poster, banner, etc.).
    - Possible activities:
      - Create, provide, distribute 2023 Disability Pride T-shirts
      - Provide and distribute Shared Vision folders and postcards at events.

- Include Shared Vision in *I Have Rights, I Have Dreams* and other webinars
    - Send gov delivery and social media posts.
  - Activity 2.1.2: Collaborate with a statewide DD self-advocacy organization on at least one statewide legislative advocacy training per year (with Legislative Committee).
    - Possible activities:
      - None identified.
  - Activity 2.1.3: 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.
    - Possible activities:
      - None identified.
- Objective 2: Support Self-Advocacy
  - Activity 2.2.1: Support two Council member advocates or self-advocacy board members to attend/participate in a national legislative or policy advocacy training.
    - Possible activities:
      - 2023 Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) (Council members, Peer Power, Key).
  - Activity 2.2.2: Annually, sponsor the attendance of at least two Council members or self-advocacy board members who experience DD or who are family members at statewide events, conferences, and/or trainings on full and meaningful lives, health and well-being, home and community-based services (HCBS), and/or Medicaid.
    - Possible activities:
      - 2023 Full Lives Conference
      - 2023 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
      - 2023 Trust pre-conference
      - 2023 Trust Conference
      - 2023 Independent Living (IL) Conference.
  - Activity 2.2.3: 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.
    - Possible activities:
      - Submit advertisement for vacant council seats (website, listserv, social media posts).
  - Activity 2.2.4: 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.

- Possible activities:
  - 2023 Peer Power Summit materials.
- Activity 2.2.5: 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 co-hosted 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 Zoom platform and support staff during meetings and assisting with marketing (for example posting on social media, listserv). One Empower Hour per year that is specific to cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership opportunities coalition.
  - Possible activities:
    - None identified.

## **Empower Hour Update and Discussion**

Jamie Kokoszka reported that the Council is involved in negotiations with Empower Hour on a request for funding and support of Empower Hour.

## **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The floor was opened to discuss potential legislative bills and priorities related to the SA&L Committee. Jamie Kokoszka noted that the Joint Advocacy Report and the Trust Legislative Tracking Sheet are available to committee members. The documents outline the bills that did not pass during the last legislative session and any current or potential letters of support/concern regarding other legislative topics related to the upcoming session.

Art Delaune shared that the CISS Committee identified the following potential issues:

- Ability to have a business while living in a group home.
- HB 292 from last year that did not pass was based on HCBS waivers.
- Money follows the person – look at the Medicaid waiver system that allows people to design their own lives.
- Adult foster care (SB 98 did not pass last year).
- Attracting and retaining a DSP workforce.
- Department of Transportation (DOT) to include transportation for community access.
- Law enforcement training for interacting with people who experience disabilities (re: HB 253, SB 2, and SB 3).

Art Delaune added that on the federal level, the Council watchlist last year included revamping SSI limits (HB 2480, SSI Restoration Act). The idea was to increase the savings limits for people receiving SSI so they could enhance their lives and not be restricted and bound by the limited amount of savings they are allowed to have.

Other bills on the federal watchlist include the National ABLE Age Adjustment Act, raising the ABLE age to 46; and SB 2879, Advancing the FASD Research.

The group had a brief discussion about operating a business in a group home and receiving the benefit of supported employment. Rich Saville expressed interest in looking into the issue further. During the discussion, Jena Crafton brought forward the issues related to DSPs statewide and nationally and recommended that the committee look into it to bring forward this legislative session.

### **PARTNER UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No partner updates were offered.

Patrick Reinhart announced that the Division of Elections will demonstrate how the accessible voting technology works at the Independent Living Conference at the Egan Center in Anchorage. The conference is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to attend the demonstration.

Patrick Reinhart shared that the Council will have a resource table at the Trust's conference next week, and he encouraged committee members who are attending the conference to stop by and say hello.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Jamie Kokoszka agreed to send out potential meeting dates for November and asked committee members to respond as soon as possible. She reminded the committee that they will not be meeting in October due to the Council Retreat.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Anna Attla **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Heidi Lieb-Williams. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.