

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

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

MEETING MINUTES

Videoconference Host:

Governor's Council
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1220
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Date

Monday, April 17, 2023
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Members:

Jena Crafton, Chair
Anna Attla
Margaret Evans
Nona Safra
Heidi Lieb-Williams
Elizabeth Joseph
Shelly Vendetti-Vuchovich

GCDSE Staff:

Lanny Mommsen
Robert Tasso
Patrick Reinhart
Michael Stevenson

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:31 a.m.
ROLL CALL – Quorum established

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Jena Crafton welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Introductions, Announcements and/or Good News

Jena Crafton led the committee in a mindfulness moment.

Lanny Mommsen shared that the hiring process for the program coordinator I position is underway. Lanny reminded the committee that the Disability Policy Seminar training day is scheduled for April 24, 2023.

Jena Crafton shared that she attended the Stone Soup Group Parent Conference and the Full Lives Conference. Jena, Corey Gilmore, Anna Attla, and Heidi Lieb-Williams hosted a presentation on "I Have Rights." There were approximately 35 people in attendance, and the surveys reflected a positive experience.

Jena Crafton shared that she is looking forward to the "40 Under 40" event scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023.

Anna Attla shared that she will be out of state from May 13 – 17, 2023 to attend family events.

Lanny Mommsen announced that she would be going on maternity leave soon and won't return until the end of summer.

Jena Crafton announced that the LEND Program is recruiting new members, and more information and registration is available online.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES and AGENDA

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda, **SECONDED** by Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Jena Crafton **MOVED** to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the March 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Margaret Evans. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Jena Crafton reported that the Peer Power Summit is scheduled for April 28 – 30, 2023 in Anchorage. Jena shared that she will be hosting a Zumba event at the summit.

GCDSE Staff Report

Lanny Mommsen had no news to report.

BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND PRIORITIES RELATED TO SA&L

Robert Tasso gave a brief update on the bills the Council has been tracking as follows:

- SB 106/HB 127 has been introduced to extend COVID flexibilities for family members and others to be paid providers under various waiver programs. SB 106 passed out of Health and Social Services Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. Senator Giessel shared that SB 106 may be combined with HB 58/SB 57. She noted that the termination of the public health emergency is May 11th, and she added that if the bill passes, regulations would have to be amended. SB 57 /HB 58 have both received tremendous support.
- SB 104, related to the Civil Action Legal Fund, saw no action.
- The budget amendments supported by the Council had some movement.
- HB 111, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children's Bill of Rights, saw no movement.
- A bill is being developed to execute a change in the AT Loan Fund managed by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Lanny Mommsen noted that there will be a Legislative Committee meeting Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Council members are welcome to attend for more in-depth updates on the Council's legislative priorities.

COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN ACTIVITIES

Lanny Mommsen reported the upcoming Five-Year Plan activities for the SA&L Committee as follows:

- Peer Power Summit
 - April 28 – 30, 2023
 - Jena Crafton will be hosting a Zumba event at the Peer Power Summit
- Empower Hour

- April Empower Hour has been canceled. The next Empower Hour will be scheduled in May. Peer Power is looking for Empower Hour facilitators, and interested individuals can contact Peer Power for more information.
- Disability Policy Seminar
 - April 24, 2023 (virtual only)
- Disability Pride
 - July 22, 2023, Anchorage Park Strip
 - Activity: Making t-shirts for the event
- Full Lives Update:
 - Lanny Mommsen shared that the *I Have Rights* presentation was submitted to the National Council on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) to be considered for its July conference.

SA&L PLAN ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS 3 AND 4

Lanny Mommsen led the committee through a review of the SA&L Committee work plan asking for additional input. Changes to the 2023 activities were as follows:

- Goal 2 - Self-Advocacy and Leadership
 - Objective 1 – DD Shared Vision Implementation
 - Activity 1:
 - Add create, provide, and distribute 2023 Disability Pride t-shirts
 - Add provide/distribute Shared Vision folders and postcards at events
 - Activity 2:
 - Add joint meeting with Legislative Committee in January 2023 - done
 - Activity 3:
 - Add Direct Service Provider Workforce pilot
 - Objective 2 – Support Self-Advocacy
 - Activity 1:
 - Add 2023 Disability Policy Seminar (Council members)
 - Activity 2:
 - Add 2023 Full Lives Conference - done
 - Add 2023 NACDD
 - Activity 3: No changes
 - Activity 4:
 - Add 2023 Peer Power Summit
 - Add 2023 I Have Rights
 - Activity 5:
 - Add monthly Empower Hour

Lanny Mommsen encouraged committee members to contact the Council with additional ideas for activities for the committee.

PARTNER UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heidi Lieb-Williams announced that she will not attend the Council meeting in June due to health issues.

Heidi Lieb-Williams shared a link to the State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC) fireside chat planned for April 27, 2023 at 3:00 ET. The theme of the Center's 2023 Autism Acceptance Month activities is celebrating autistic joy, and there will be a question-and-answer session with the audience.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The May 2023 SA&L Committee meeting date is to be decided. The summer Council meeting is scheduled for June 1 – 2, 2023. A SA&L Committee meeting will not be scheduled for June.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Anna Attla. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.