

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

**COMMUNITY INCLUSION, SUPPORTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE
(CISS)**

MEETING MINUTES

Videoconference Host:

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

Meeting Date

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Committee Members:

Corey Gilmore
Art Delaune
Ken Hamrick
Margaret Evans
Nona Safra
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

Council Members/Guests

Marlene Wenger

GCDSE Staff:

Robert Tasso
Michael Stevenson
Samantha Vetter

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 11:08 a.m.
ROLL CALL – Quorum established

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Introductions, Announcements, and/or Good News

Corey Gilmore welcomed attendees to the meeting and opened the floor for introductions, announcements, and/or good news.

Robert Tasso asked attendees to keep Patrick Reinhart's son in their thoughts and send him well wishes. He's going through a medical emergency, and Patrick flew out of state to be with him and may be out for a week or so.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MEETING MINUTES

Ken Hamrick **MOVED** to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT

Corey Gilmore reported the following information:

- The Council sent thank-you letters to Representative Peltola and Senator Murkowski for supporting the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act.
- The Council continues to plan for the February Council meeting and advocacy meetings with lawmakers.

GCDSE STAFF REPORT

Council staff shared the following update:

- The new DRR Workgroup will resume efforts to recommend updates to the SDS form utilizing the Council's previous recommendations.
- The Council submitted comments in favor of the proposed rule changes to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The proposed amendments aim to update the act and ensure greater protections.

- The Appendix K flexibilities will continue until the proposed waiver amendments and subsequent regulation changes are finalized. The anticipated date for finalization is July 1, 2024.
- The Trust is seeking success stories for its quarterly newsletter.
- Council staff worked with the Rasmuson Foundation to get input on what would be important in a Digital Equity Plan and a broadband buildout. A letter was submitted.
- The Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) will not offer a virtual option for its 2024 meeting.

BUSINESS

Discussion On Legislative Updates

Robert Tasso reported that the comment period is open on the HCBS Relief Act of 2023 that Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey recently introduced. The act is focused on increasing DSP compensation, decreasing waitlists, and facilitating greater community integration.

HCBS Position Paper

Corey Gilmore directed the members' attention to the HCBS position paper. He led the committee through a review of the document to pare it down and define specific asks. After a brief discussion on the recommendations for HCBS efficiencies outlined in the position paper, the committee agreed to continue the review and provide input via e-mail to Corey or Robert Tasso.

CISS Plan Objectives and Activities for Years 3 and 4

Robert Tasso asked the committee for confirmation regarding the process for creating PSAs related to housing. The proposed plan is to use existing data rather than generate another housing survey and host a listening session to hear stakeholders' input on housing issues to inform the PSAs.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to utilize the existing NCI survey data previously shared with the CISS Committee and host a listening session to inform the PSAs, **SECONDED** by Ken Hamrick. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Training Opportunities

- Empower Hour
 - The next Empower Hour is scheduled for December 21, 2023. Empower Hour is a forum for people with disabilities to connect with like-minded individuals and discuss issues important to one another.
- AKTC December offerings

- Corey Gilmore encouraged people to look at the December training opportunities offered by the Alaska Training Cooperative.
- UAA Family ECHO (I/DD/Mental Health Advisory Council – CHD's Five-Year ACL grant) scheduled for December 6, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
 - Family ECHO is a statewide virtual learning network intended for family members, self-advocates, and those supporting individuals with disabilities who also need higher support and care levels. The series is about building support networks across Alaska, celebrating experiences, strengths, unique and creative stories/lifestyles, sharing and demonstrating evidence-based practices for screening, diagnosis, and treatment, and offering expertise in navigating common municipal, state, and federal systems.

Other

Corey Gilmore welcomed Marlene Wenger as a new CISS Committee member. Marlene expressed her appreciation to be invited to the committee meeting. She shared that she is a new Council member who lives in Kenny Lake. She added that she has a nursing background and is a parent of two disabled adult males. Marlene feels she has a good background on the issues related to the CISS Committee.

Partner Updates

No partner updates were offered.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The CISS Committee will meet in mid-January, the date to be determined.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Marlene Wenger **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Nona Safra. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.