

**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, March 13, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Committee Members:

Corey Gilmore
Art Delaune
Ken Hamrick
Dave Fleurant
Garrett Dominick
Elizabeth Joseph

Guests:

Jena Crafton

GCDSE Staff:

Patrick Reinhart
Lanny Mommsen
Rich Saville
Samantha Vetter

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 11:03 a.m.
ROLL CALL – Quorum not established

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Introductions, Announcements, and/or Good News

Corey Gilmore welcomed attendees to the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Tabled.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MEETING MINUTES

Ken Hamrick **MOVED** to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Dave Fleurant. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

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

OTHER

Garrett Dominick requested to become a member of the CISS Committee. Council Chair Jena Crafton approved the request.

REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT

Corey Gilmore directed updates on the following topics:

Juneau Legislative Visits:

- The visits went well. Very helpful to be in one room to meet with legislators.
- Teams got the full allowable visit time for the first time in many years.
- Not all team reports have been submitted. Follow-up with legislators has begun.
- The social function at the Governor's House with Lt. Governor Dahlstrom and other administrative leadership went well.

Patrick Reinhart reported that he spoke with the Department of Transportation Commissioner Ryan Anderson the following week and had a good discussion about the transit-related request. Patrick noted that the commissioner supported the statute change and took ownership of the DOT's issues regarding getting grants to public and community transit providers. Patrick suggested using an outside entity to manage the grant distribution.

Patrick Reinhart reported that he followed up with Leah Van Kirk from the Department of Education and Early Development about the Council's involvement in the Childcare Task Force and the issue of Medicaid in schools.

Patrick Reinhart reported that SDS Director Anthony Newman shared that he had multiple calls from legislators asking about self-directed services and E-Mod program fixes. Patrick noted that the Trust has approved funding to hire a contractor to address what it would take to adopt self-directed services.

Patrick Reinhart reported that Representative Sarah Vance is circulating a sign-on letter telling the SDS to move self-directed services and E-Mod fixes up higher on the list of priorities.

Patrick Reinhart reported that funding for the Alaska Autism Resource Center, the Governor's Council, capital transit match funding, and other priority issues were not in the Governor's budget. The Council will submit letters, and Patrick plans to testify at the House Finance Committee meeting on priority budget issues.

WINGS/Alternatives to Guardianship Meeting:

- Corey Gilmore attends the WINGS meetings and will report to the CISS at the next meeting.
- Lanny Mommsen noted that Anne Applegate will present at Full Lives on alternatives to guardianship. The presentation is titled: *Supported Decision-Making Agreements for People Who Have Guardians.*

Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC)

- Corey Gilmore attended the ASSEC Conference. He noted that he attended two sessions in particular that were excellent.
- Samantha Vetter reported that the Council participated in the Disability Innovation Fund Grant presentation. Samantha has been working on getting more partners and community members to become part of the advisory committee. She noted that there will be an advisory committee meeting at the Atwood Building on March 22, 2024.

GCDSE STAFF REPORT

Council staff shared the following update:

Full Lives Conference:

- Registration is open for the Full Lives Conference being held April 11 – 12, 2024. The Council will pay the registration fee for Council members.

Peer Power Summit:

- Registration for the Peer Power Summit scheduled for April 26 – 28, 2024 in Anchorage is open.

- Peer Power hosts Empower Hour on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. The next Empower Hour is March 21, 2024 and will be facilitated by Jena Crafton, who will discuss Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

Disability and Aging Summit:

- The Disability and Aging Summit has been tentatively scheduled for October 8 – 9, 2024.

Stone Soup Group Parent Conference:

- Stone Soup Group Parent Conference 2024 is scheduled for March 21 – 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Hilton Downtown Anchorage. The theme of the conference is Hope Grows.

Infant, Child, and Youth Conference

- UAA's Center for Human Development is hosting the Infant, Child, and Youth Conference, formerly the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Institute (IECMHI) and the Child, Adolescent, and Family Behavioral Health (CAFBHC) Conference on April 29 – May 1, 2024. Registration is open on the UAA website.

Trust Comp Plan Update:

- The Trust's stakeholder survey is out, and the Trust Comp Plan is in the public comment period.
- CISS Committee members were encouraged to complete the survey, review the Comp Plan Housing Section, and provide public comments.

Housing Meeting with AHFC:

- Samantha Vetter met with AHFC's Jennifer Smerud and shared the listening session notes and Trust's Comp Plan. Samantha reported that Jennifer Smerud offered AHFC grant training to the Council's CISS Committee. The committee members agreed that AHFC grant training would be valuable.

Project SEARCH update:

Samantha Vetter reported that Erin Riehle, founder of Project SEARCH, was in Alaska last week and visited all the Project SEARCH sites. Erin shared the benefits of the Project SEARCH portal resources. Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council will continue supporting the three Project SEARCH sites and sending people to the national conference in July.

Patrick Reinhart shared the issue regarding the lack of supported employment services related to students without waiver services who get a job and lack the supported employment services needed to maintain employment. He noted that this issue is becoming a part of the broader discussion of how waiver services need to be expanded to include Project SEARCH students.

BUSINESS

Dates and Topic for Housing Listening Session

Lanny Mommsen reported that Council staff continues to look for listening session opportunities and recommendations for topics to discuss at the sessions. Council staff proposed holding a session at the May Council meeting. They will look for an opportunity to have one the week before or after the Council meeting. Lanny asked for input on topics. Committee members and guests offered the following suggestions:

- Group home topics:
 - Right to privacy
 - Right to have a key to your home or room within a group home
 - Another agency has a set of group home questions that could possibly be used to augment the listening sessions.
 - Group home eligibility for home modifications.
- Housing topics:
 - Disparity of housing resources regionally and in rural parts of the state continues to be a barrier for people with disabilities.
 - Planned communities.

Lanny Mommsen noted that the listening sessions will inform a PSA that the Council will create in the future.

Patrick Reinhart recommended getting as much input as possible by inviting people from different living situations to attend the sessions, including independent living, group homes, adult host homes, intentional communities, nursing homes, assisted living, and shelters.

Save the Date:

- The Improving Lives Conference is scheduled for September 17 – 18, 2024.
 - The call for proposals will be out in early April.
 - The Council plans to submit the *I Have Dreams* presentation request
- The fall Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 19 – 20, 2024.

DD Shared Vision

Corey Gilmore brought forward a concern related to the DD Shared Vision. While reviewing the Shared Vision to write a position paper for self-directed services, it was noted that the statute SB 174, Section 1(3)(c)(i) indicates that the section does not create any rights. Corey asked for background on the language and was told that SDS was concerned it would be used to force person-directed services. Corey noted that self-direction and autonomy seem like rights to him and feels that the DD Shared Vision should be revisited and perhaps strengthen or remove the language in that section. He wanted to bring this to the committee's attention as they work on priorities.

Art Delaune remarked that in conjunction with that, all of the person-directed services fall under the Shared Vision. He shared that it is always noted that nobody seems to get it, and nobody is implementing it. Still, he thinks that maybe one of the problems is that organizations are not modeling it themselves. When organizations go to Juneau, they must talk about participant-directed care and tie that in as part of the Shared Vision. He said that when organizations speak to people outside of the disability world, they need to emphasize that all these issues are part of the Shared Vision, and that's why it has to be implemented. Art said he would bring this matter to the attention of the Legislative Committee at the next meeting.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next CISS Committee meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Dave Fleurant **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Garrett Dominick. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.