Meeting with your Legislator

CAITLIN POINDEXTER-LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

JAMIE KOKOSZKA GCDSE STAFF

Purpose of the training

- Prepare for Juneau legislative visits
- Educate public
- Skill building

Timeline –

- **Part 1**: Information about meeting with your legislators
  - Break: 5 minutes
- **Part 2:** Council priorities, Legislative Packets
- **Part 3:** Mock meeting with legislators
- Breakout rooms (15 minutes).
- Debrief / Questions

Important:

- If you <u>ARE</u> a council member,
  - and meeting with a legislator about other issues not related to Council work…
  - You can use a Council position paper but must be clear that you are representing yourself, not the council.

- If you <u>ARE NOT</u> a council member and are meeting with a legislator using Council position papers,
  - be clear that you are representing yourself, NOT the Council, but that you support the Council's position.

Before the Meeting

- Make sure you have everything you need:
  - Talking Points and handouts
  - Contact information
  - Camera to take photos

- Find the **note taker** for your team:
  - The team note taker is in charge of bringing the legislative packet, taking notes, giving notes to GCDSE staff

- Decide who will discuss each topic

- Arrive 5-10 minutes early

- Check in with legislative staff
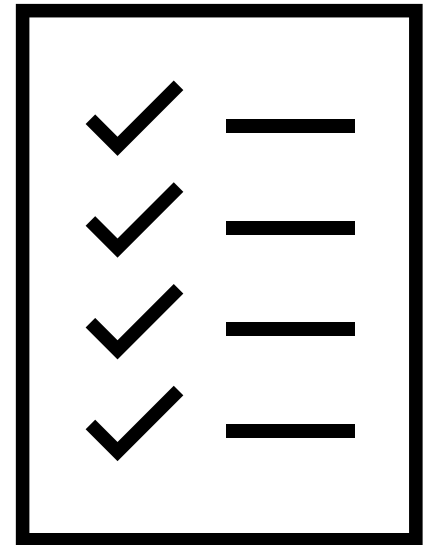
Keys to Successful Meetings

- If you have a smart phone, take photo of the appointment schedule

- Review position papers

  Do you feel comfortable explaining each issue?

- Read Legislator bios

  Which Legislators are you meeting with?

- Practice reading the position papers out loud

  Have you adapted them to be your own?
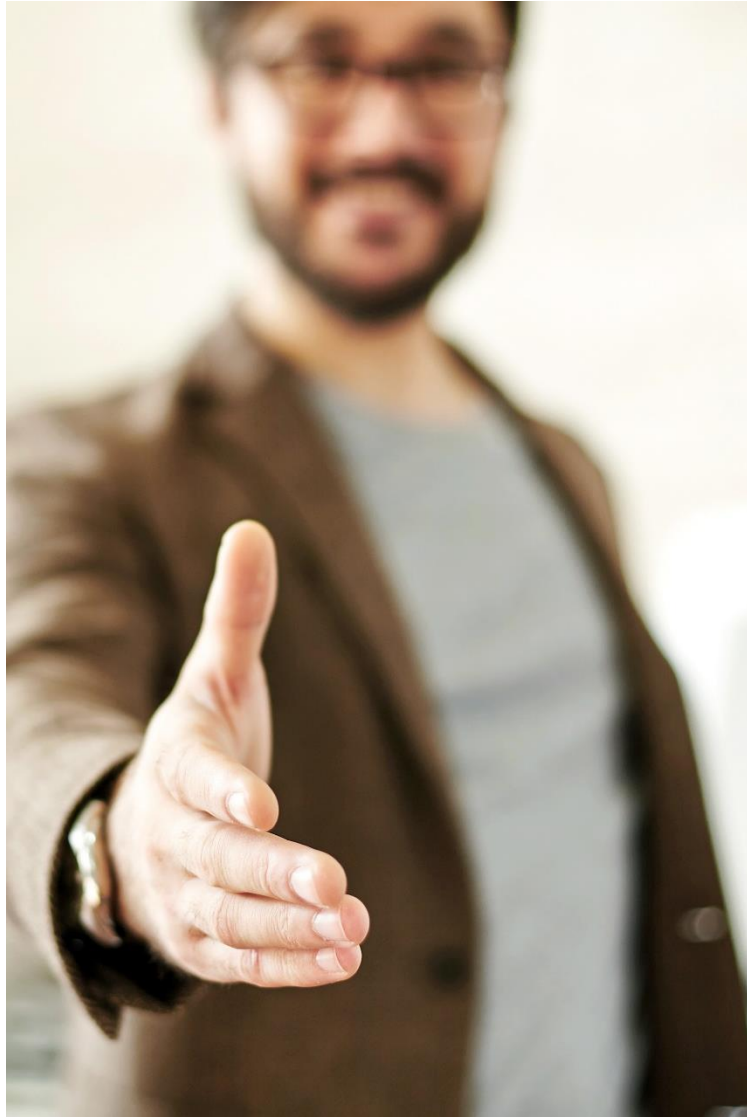
Introductions

- Mention if you live in his / her district

- Make a personal connection, if any:
  - http://akleg.gov/ Provides basic information on members of the House & Senate

- Explain why you are involved with the Council and the Council role (briefly)

During the Meeting

- Give the legislative packet to the Legislator

- Explain the Position Paper talking points / "asks"

- If they are already a sponsor, thank them for their sponsorship and support

- Ask for their support if they are not a sponsor

Explaining the Position Papers

- Briefly describe the issue / "asks"

  **You only have a few minutes!

- Ask if they have questions or comments

- Inform them that a GCDSE staff member will be following up to see if they have additional questions.

Complete the forms and give to Lanny Mommsen so that we can follow up!

During the Meeting

- When you are done meeting, ask for a group photo with the Legislator

- Thank them for their time

Give your approved photos to Michael Stevenson for publications

Meeting Do's & Don'ts

Do

- 😊 Be Respectful
- ⏻ Turn off your phone
- 💡 Stay on topic
- ⏱ Watch your time
- 👥 Pay attention to the Legislator and team members
- ✏ Take notes for follow up
- 🌠 Show appreciation and express thanks

Meeting Do's & Don'ts

Don't

- 🚀 Bring up unrelated topics
- 🔊 Speak too long
- ❓ Answer questions about things you do not know
- 👥 Interrupt Legislator or other group members
- 💬 Text / talk on the phone
- 🛗 Argue with the Legislator

Jena's Advice

- Be genuine!
- Introduce yourself
- Share an interesting story about your life
- Ask them a question about their life
- Talk about shared interests
- Ask them for their address
- Send them a card on a holiday

After the Meeting(s)

Go

To the GCDSE public lounge in the Legislative Building

Debrief

Debrief with GCDSE staff member:

- How did the Legislator feel about the position papers?
- What follow-up information was requested?
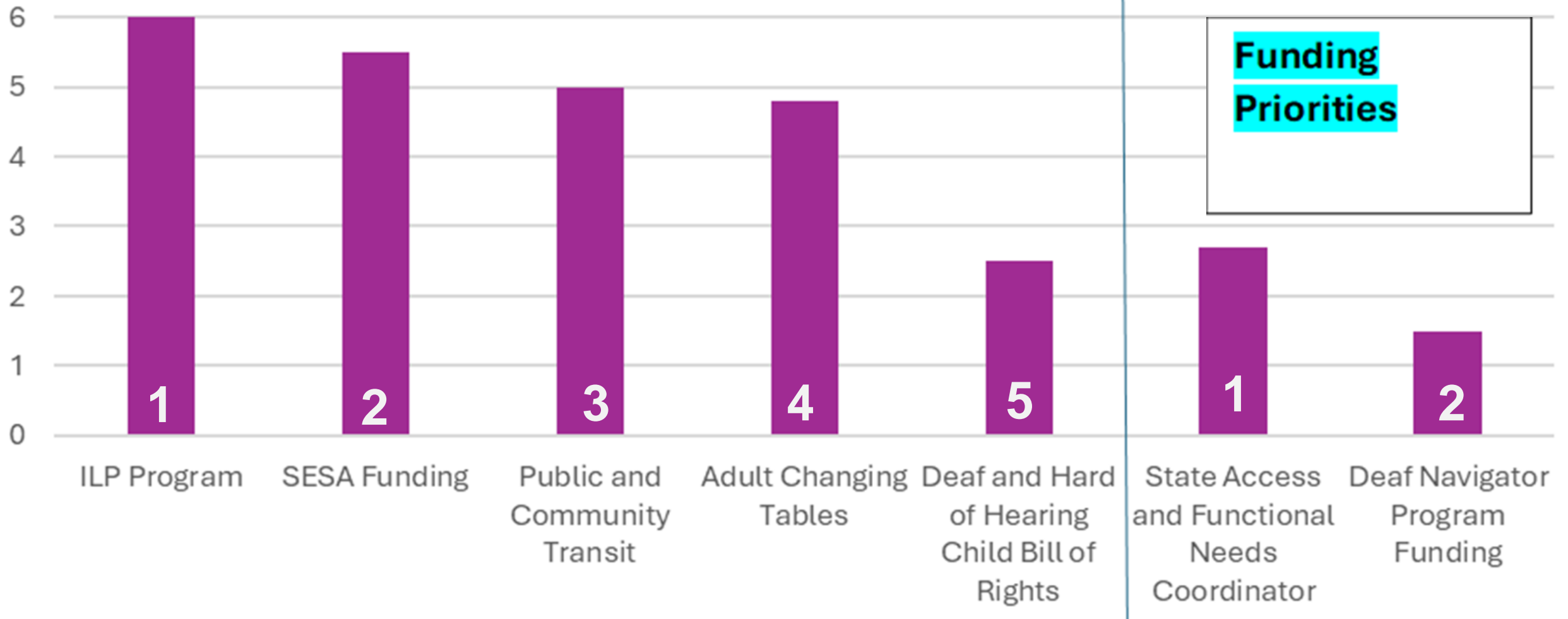- Did you learn any interesting facts about the Legislator/Legislative aide?

Notes

Note Taker- Complete the feedback form and give to Lanny Mommsen

Text / email

Text or email photos with the Legislator to Michael Stevenson

5 Minute break

GCDSE Legislative Priorities

Joint Advocacy

Joint Advocacy Network Reports
- Weekly Friday meetings from 12:15pm-1:15pm

Advocacy Trainings

For more information, contact the Advocacy Coordinator at: advocacy.coordinator@mhtrust.org or 907-465-4667.
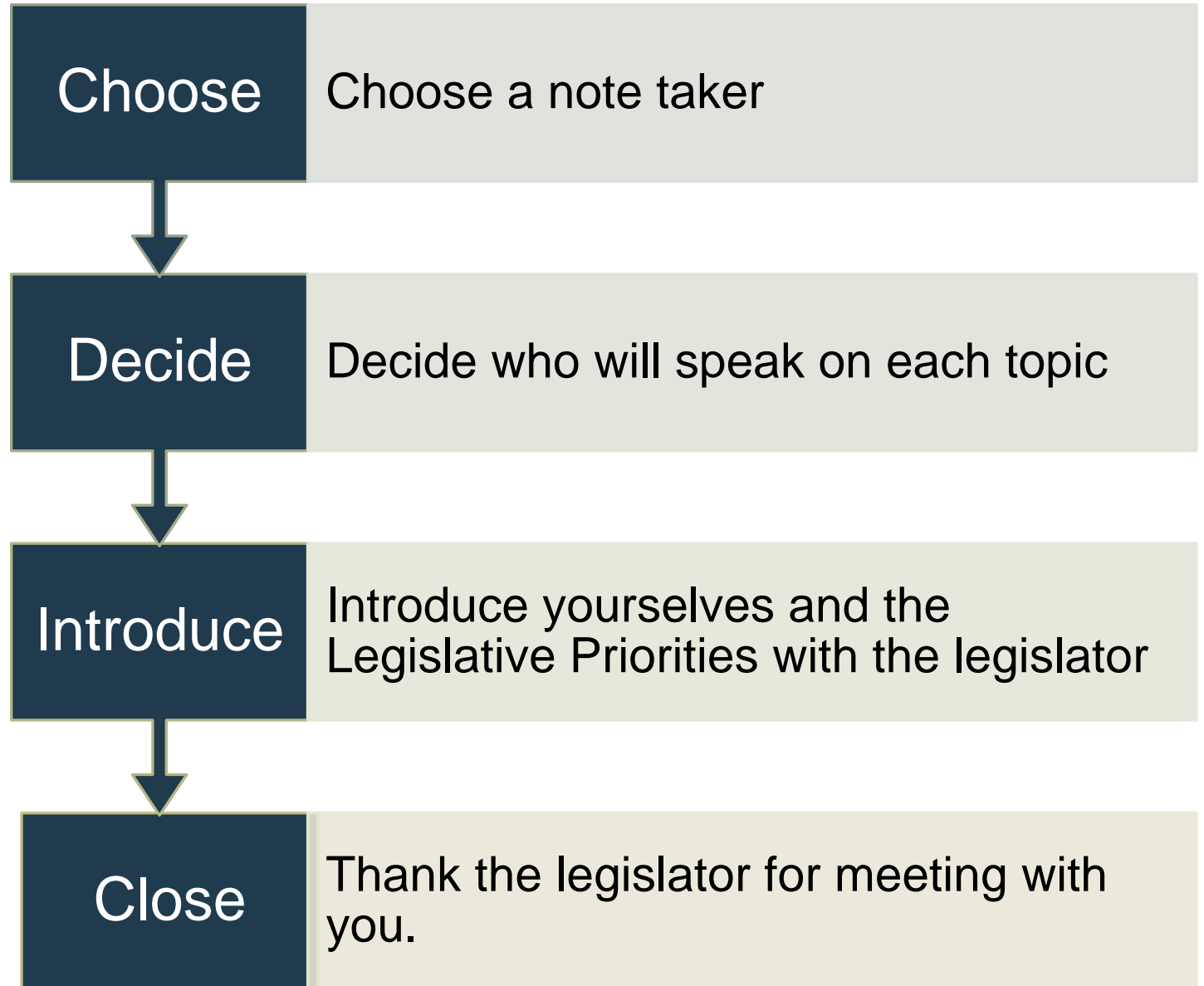
Legislative Packets

These are given to the legislators:
- Council Position Papers
- GCDSE Annual Report

These are for you to keep for reference:
- Talking Points
- GCDSE legislative meeting schedule

Practice through Role Play

Choose	Choose a note taker
Decide	Decide who will speak on each topic
Introduce	Introduce yourselves and the Legislative Priorities with the legislator
Close	Thank the legislator for meeting with you.

Questions/ Debrief