

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

Anchorage, Alaska  
October 13 - 15, 2010

**October 13, 2010**

**Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Julie Broyles  
Milton Cheemuk  
Art Delaune  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
Eric Gebhart, Vice-Chair  
Taylor Gregg  
Heidi Haas  
Tara Horton  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Janet Ogan (for Wes Keller)  
Amy Simpson  
Tonja Updike  
Fred Villa

**Council Staff:**

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Duane Mayes, Operations Director  
Teresa Holt, Program Coordinator  
Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator  
Heidi Frost, Program Coordinator  
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III  
Jennifer Jones, Health Program Manager  
Sheryl Lea-Granger, Administrative Assistant I  
Michelle Jenkins, Office Assistant II  
Patrick Reinhart, Project Coordinator

**Prepared by:**

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Wednesday, October 13, 2010**  
CALL TO ORDER – 1:04 p.m.  
**Roll Call**

**Vice Chair Gebhart** called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Council members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lucy Odden** announced that she has a great nephew, and her niece will be graduating a year early.

**Teresa Holt** announced that Heidi Hass won the Autism Volunteer of the Year award from the National Autism Society.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Lucy Odden MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion to approve the agenda **PASSED**.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest to disclose.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL BUDGET**

**Millie Ryan** directed Council members to the Council budget handout and reviewed the information contained in the handout.

**Fred Villa** suggested adding a footnote to the budget spreadsheet to denote the date of the report. He also asked if there was any accountability measure specific to money that is given to the Council as pass through money. **Millie Ryan** explained that the organization receiving the money submits a report back to the Council.

**Millie Ryan** suggested that the Council put off approving the budget until the next day or two so they could have a chance to review it and ask any questions if necessary.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Vice Chair Gebhart** reviewed **Chair Swihart's** report with the Council and highlighted the following:

- Made FY 12-13 budget and policy recommendations to the Trust

- DD Program Independent Evaluation held August 23-27
- Executive Committee update, Amy Simpson new member, need to appoint an at-large member
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities conference in Orlando, Florida attended by **Chair Swihart, Millie Ryan, Vice Chair Gebhart** and **Duane Mayes**.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Millie Ryan** stated that the new Council members include: **Art Delaune, Heidi Haas, Ernie Manzie, Tara Horton, Sean O'Brien** and **Robert Petersen**. The reappointees are **Julie Broyles, Vice Chair Gebhart,** and **Ric Nelson**. She further stated that the Council has some vacancies and they need someone who has a child under the age of 6 to fill a seat.

**Millie Ryan** stated that new staff to the Council are **Michelle Jenkins** and **Amy Gundlach** as the political science intern. **Jennifer Jones** will continue with the Council as SDS doesn't have room for another person.

**Millie Ryan** highlighted the following in her report:

#### Autism FY'11 Priorities:

- Private insurance coverage of autism services
- Expansion of special education definition of autism to include autism spectrum
- Funding for services:
  - ~ Add services to current Medicaid waivers or modify existing services
  - ~ Amend Medicaid regulations to allow school district reimbursement for school-based intensive autism interventions
  - ~ Increase treatment options funded through Medicaid EPSDT services
  - ~ Establish State-funded grant program.

#### House Interim Working Group on Autism:

- Council provided information on activities to date
- Council prepared white paper that overviewed educational services
- Representative Wilson's staff researched other states' insurance bills and State-funded programs
- Representative Wilson talked with Fairbanks families and resources
- Hearing(s) scheduled for November.

#### Calendar:

- October – Disability Employment Month
- March – Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- April – Autism Awareness Month
- January 25 – 27, Council meeting in Juneau

- February 21 – 23, Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference
- February 22 – 23, Key Campaign
- April 14 – 15, Full Lives Conference
- April 25 – 27, Stone Soup Group Parent Conference
- May 3 – 5, Council meeting in Seward.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Ric Nelson** stated that the Legislative Committee’s work plan accomplishments are that they received approval from the Council on the legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The Legislative Committee has developed the following position papers:

- Complex Behavior Hub
- Establish a regular and periodic schedule of rate reviews for home and community-based services
- Autism insurance reform (both State and private sector)

Structural changes to the committee include:

- Monthly identification of a federal bill of relevance to be discussed during the Legislative Committee meeting
- Asking people for their regular participation on the committee
- Early development of position papers to allow Council members the ability to articulate the priorities to their local senators and representatives through the fall.

**Duane Mayes** directed the Council members to the position papers located in their binders and noted that they will adjust over time.

**Fred Villa** suggested adding a footnote with a date and revision number to the position papers. He also asked if they were able to decide how to respond to some of the questions posed by Senator Coghill last year regarding the autism insurance reform.

**Millie Ryan** responded by saying that they were able to provide good information on applied behavioral analysis and other interventions. They gathered a lot of different information and tried to get people the information that they requested. She also noted that there was a recent presentation by Autism Speaks to the House Health and Social Services subcommittee who spoke about the different insurance bills that other states have had and some good cost data was provided.

### **RURAL SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Anna Attla** highlighted the following Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee work plan activities:

1. Advocate for the implementation of transition services for youth with disabilities in rural communities
  - Transition day at Stone Soup Group parent conference

2. ILP and therapy services in rural communities
  - Teletherapy presentation at OSEP
  - ILP is planning another pilot project
3. Work to improve telesystems services in rural Alaska
  - Met with eHealth Network
  - Met with Alaska Telepsychiatry Network
  - Met with the Trust
  - Met with ACS
4. Advocate for FASD services in rural communities
  - FASD Partnership steering committee meetings held 7/1, 8/18, and 9/8
  - Partnership survey by December, working groups, listserv, plan a summit.

Future Activities:

- Meeting with Karen Purdue, Tom Nighswander and Trust staff
- Inform other Trust beneficiary boards on possibilities of using telesystems to provide services to Trust beneficiaries
- Research how health care reform will effect telesystems provision
- Plan a summit before the AK ATA conference September 20 – 22, 2011
- Select one to two Native tribal health consortiums to pilot an expansion of telehealth network to include services for Trust beneficiaries.

**Fred Villa** suggested that they contact and include John Monaghan, who recently received a significant grant that links villages with technology.

**EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE**

**Amy Simpson** reported the following highlights of the Early Intervention Committee:

1. Support ILP eligibility change from 50% to 25% delay.
  - Met with Erin Kinavey
2. Address concerns of ILP services for children who are hearing impaired or deaf.
  - Five year improvement plan for ASSDHH
  - Council has been asked to join the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EDHI) board.
3. Support the Stone Soup Group Parent Conference.
  - Assist in planning the conference, April 25 – 27 in Anchorage at the Millennium Hotel
4. Early Childhood workforce development.

- Stakeholder meeting to review Early Childhood Outcomes e-learning module
  - Participated in TACSEI steering committee
  - Following the Governor's Performance Scholarship regulation process
  - Created the ECSPED listserv.
5. ICC Duties.
- Sent letter of State improvement activities to Art Arnold and Erin Kinavey
  - Provided input on ILP Parents Rights Booklet
  - Participated in the ILP coordinators meeting.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Julie Broyles** reviewed the Education Committee's work plan activities since May:

1. High School Graduation Qualifying Exam – participated in the Department's Graduation Work Group
2. Four-year special education teacher preparation program
3. Ensure SESA has adequate, permanent funding
4. Advocate for training on special education and Section 504
5. Advocate for regulations on Restraint and Seclusion in schools
  - Following federal bill S-2860
  - Request from the commissioner to participate on work group
6. SEAP activities:
  - Sent letters for State improvement activities to Art Arnold
  - Attended State Board of Education meetings
  - Comment on intensive needs funding
  - Formal comments to Senator Murkowski and Senator Begich on ESEA reauthorization
  - Participated in OSEP
  - Attended Special Education Director's Conference
  - Presented an award to Sharon Fishel for her many years of service to special education in Alaska.

### **Future Activities:**

- Attend Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Board meeting, October 21
- Education Committee face-to-face meeting in Barrow, November 3 – 5
- Assist Art Arnold in creating stakeholder group to address restraint and seclusion in Alaska by May
- State Board of Education meeting in Anchorage, December 2 – 3

- Education Summit, January 13, 2011.

### **DD COMMITTEE**

**Kathy Fitzgerald** highlighted accomplishments of the DD Committee which include:

- I-T funding – MHTAAR, \$50,000 for FY’13
- Established an internal method to review draft regulations and/or policies
- Provided comments on the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the State of Alaska, FY’10
- Developed housing stock survey in cooperation with the Trust and other beneficiary boards
- Monthly participation in the STAR Program mini grant review process
- Finalization of the DD Committee work plan
- Reviewed the draft HCBS proposed Medicaid regulations and submitted it and other recommendations to the Office of Rate Review
- Council representation on the WICHE project
- Conducted community forums in Wrangell, Petersburg, and Sitka
- Met with multiple agencies within the above communities as well as REACH in Juneau
- Shared the information from community forums with Governor Parnell and First Lady Sandy Parnell.

### **Next Steps:**

- Develop a white paper on Direct Service Professionals
- Advocate for and monitor the implementation of a flexible, responsive and effective Complex Behavior Hub
- Reconvene the Autism Ad Hoc Committee to focus on a resource/payment system for services
- Work with the Trust to gather a stakeholder group to review the feasibility of an intentional community within the Anchorage area
- Work with the Legislative Committee, Key Coalition and AADD to develop and implement a state rate methodology and review process (formerly SB 32).

### **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SCORECARD DISCUSSION**

**Carrie Predeger** explained that a few years ago, the Department of Health and Social Services developed the scorecard looking at Trust beneficiaries in four different quality of life domains: Health, safety, living with dignity, and economic security. She stated that this scorecard in the binders focuses solely on people with developmental disabilities.

**Carrie Predeger** reviewed the results of the draft scorecard with Council members.

**Millie Ryan** added that this is a useful tool to be able to view the trends.

**HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER REAPPLICATION PROCESS**

**Millie Ryan** explained that the purpose of this discussion is to review the key points of things in a waiver and get a sense from Council members on what they think is working well, not working well, and some potential recommendations for change.

**Millie Ryan** explained that there are some possible changes right now that the State could consider doing under health care reform. The legislature could adopt a program with a different level of care criteria.

She explained that waivers are a way for the State to get funds from the Medicaid program to pay for comprehensive services in the community rather than an institution or a nursing home. Typically it's around a 50/50 split between federal and state.

**Millie Ryan** stated that in order to get a DD waiver, one must be determined eligible for DD services. The next step is financial eligibility in that one must meet the same low income criteria for people meeting the qualifications to receive Medicaid. The next step is having a disability determination which lets Social Security know that someone is eligible for the Social Security Income program. Millie noted that in terms of the DD waiver, one must also have functional limitations in three out of seven life domains. The fourth step to be eligible for a waiver is that one must meet level of care for institutional care. The fifth step to receiving a waiver is then having state funds available for the person. Millie noted that 200 new people a year are being pulled off the waitlist and are getting access to services.

During a discussion, Council members shared what is working well and not working well with the waivers.

<b>Working Well</b>	<b>Not Working Well</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STAR Program</li><li>• New wait list assessment tool removes the factor of time on the waitlist in determining when a person is pulled from the list</li><li>• Feedback from the person rating you on your wait list placement is helpful</li><li>• Waivers are flexible and look at the person</li><li>• Waiver services give people the help they need to be successful</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not enough families know about the STAR Program</li><li>• STAR Program grants are very restrictive</li><li>• Yearly re-eligibility determination, ICAP, deficit based system – find a way to build on strengths with a better tool</li><li>• Targeted case management for 18 year olds with developmental disabilities who lose their Medicaid – an individual supports waiver for long-term support</li><li>• People are not DD eligible for waivers, but families still need support</li><li>• Intensive early services for autism are important, but there is no mechanism on the waitlist tool to get that person additional scores</li><li>• Additional points for transitioning high school students</li></ul>

**Kathy Fitzgerald** suggested that if they cannot change the eligibility criteria for Medicaid waiver services, they need to look at a tiered system and have the State come up with some alternative ways to support people. She stated that they need to have a system that will acknowledge strengths in order for people to move forward.

**Millie Ryan** continued on in her waiver presentation by stating that when someone is drawn for a waiver, people chose a care coordinator in an agency. The care coordinator makes sure all the paperwork is there and works with the Division of Public Assistance and Disability Determination Services. The level of care assessment is completed, and the ICAP is scheduled. The care coordinator helps convene a planning team that develops the waiver plan of care. People have the choice of providers and services they want, and there are rights and responsibilities that people have when they accept waiver services. There is a cost sheet developed based on the services in the plan of care. The plan of care documents are submitted to DSDS and then an authorization number is assigned.

**Millie Ryan** asked Council members what works and doesn't work with the plan of care process.

Working Well	Not Working Well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a good care coordinator, it works well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care coordinators not paid enough</li> <li>• Care coordinators need to work their way up to that position instead of being new hires right out of college</li> <li>• Make sure care coordinators get the right training to meet the needs of their client, regardless of the client's age</li> <li>• More parent training on Medicaid waivers needed</li> <li>• Training for parents in Infant Learning Program on DD eligibility</li> </ul>

**RECESS**

The Council recessed at 4:15 p.m. to prepare for public testimony.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

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October 13 - 15, 2010

**October 14, 2010**

## **Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Julie Broyles  
Milton Cheemuk  
Art Delaune  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
Eric Gebhart, Vice-Chair  
Taylor Gregg  
Heidi Haas  
Tara Horton  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Jim Pound (for Wes Keller)  
Amy Simpson  
Donna Swihart, Chair  
Tonja Updike  
Fred Villa  
Steve Williams

## **Council Staff:**

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Duane Mayes, Operations Director  
Teresa Holt, Program Coordinator  
Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator  
Heidi Frost, Program Coordinator  
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III  
Jennifer Jones, Health Program Manager  
Sheryl Lea-Granger, Administrative Assistant I  
Michelle Jenkins, Office Assistant II  
Patrick Reinhart, Project Coordinator

## **Prepared by:**

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Thursday, October 14, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council members introduced themselves for new members.

In addition to her niece graduating, **Lucy Odden** announced that her mother’s cancer is in remission.

**Chair Swihart** announced that Tonja Updike has accepted the at-large position on the Executive Committee.

**HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER REAPPLICATION PROCESS, CONTINUED**

**Millie Ryan** stated that during the creation of the plan of care, people look at the vision for the person who experiences a disability in terms of employment, residential options, school day, what’s needed in order for the person to work or recreate and be a part of the community, et cetera. The plan of care also addresses the life domains of motor skills, social and communication skills, personal living skills, community living skills and behaviors. It also contains a description of the person’s life in terms of their health status and safety issues. Relationships are another component of the plan as well as the person’s likes and dislikes. It also contains measurable goals and objectives for that year.

**Millie Ryan** asked Council members what works and doesn’t work in this planning process.

Working Well	Not Working Well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Person-centered planning works very well</li><li>• Parent training through the Center for Human Development</li><li>• Goals on the plan of care for every year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality of plan of care really depends on the care coordinator</li></ul>

**Millie Ryan** stated that the services and supports people can receive right now are:

- Care coordination
- Day habilitation – activities that take place outside the home
- Residential habilitation – where people live
- Intensive active treatment – treatment or therapy to maintain or improve the person’s social, behavioral, or mental health functioning
- Supported employment
- In-home supports
- Family habilitation
- Supported living
- Shared care

- Transportation
- Chore services
- Respite
- Private duty nursing
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Environmental modifications.

Working Well	Not Working Well
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For specialized equipment, they tell you what you need instead of asking you what you need</li> <li>• Needing to get three estimates for environmental modifications doesn't work in rural communities</li> <li>• A transition team for people coming off the waivers into a different service structure</li> <li>• Computerized equipment is always denied</li> </ul>

**Duane Mayes** asked Council members to contact him if they have any additional comments or suggestions.

**TRUST MEETING FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION**

**Duane Mayes** stated that they presented the Council’s recommendations to both the Trust finance committee and to the Trustees. He stated that in order to come up with the recommendations, they used a SurveyMonkey to solicit input from Council stakeholders and reviewed the information gathered from their public testimony and community forum sessions to look for common themes. They also reviewed the five-year State Plan. They carefully review each recommendation and as a group, the budget committee decides which recommendations they will forward to total \$1 million in MHTAAR funding. They also decide on which recommendations they will make for \$1.5 million of GF/MH funding. They also determine which will be capital recommendations as a joint effort with the other beneficiary boards. They also make policy recommendations.

The recommendations were submitted to the Trust through an online system using the Result’s Based Accountability model to frame each recommendation.

**Duane Mayes** noted that this year was an unusual year because they were not able to make any new MHTAAR recommendations because of Trust budget constraints. He also noted that the message from the Governor’s office is that there will be no new increments as well.

The recommendations were as follows:

1. Complex Behavior Hub - \$650,000 GF/MH – original recommendation. This priority was swapped with the Alaska Mental Health Board and now the amount has changed to

\$950,000 GF/MH and \$150,000 MHTAAR as a one-time increment. The MHTAAR amount was approved, and the GF/MH is supported by the Trustees. This recommendation was swapped with the Early Childhood Screening Package – \$400,000 GF/MH and \$200,000 MHTAAR, and the Trauma Informed Care - \$500,000 GF/MH and \$250,000 MHTAAR. Supported by the Trust

2. Council Operations - \$150,000 GF/MH – supported by the Trust
3. Alaska Autism Resource Center - \$150,000 GF/MH and \$150,000 MHTAAR – supported by the Trust
4. Positive Solutions for Families, behavioral support for children with special needs ages 5 and younger - \$70,000 EI/ILP grants – Office of Children’s Services – supported by the Trust
5. Special Education Service Agency - \$530,000 GF/MH – supported by the Trust
6. Alaska Rural Transition Program - \$150,000 GF/MH – supported by the Trust.

#### MHTAAR Recommendations – Continuing Projects or Initiatives:

1. Alaska Autism Resource Center - \$100,000
2. Positive Solutions for Families - \$80,000
3. Autism Workforce Development Capacity Building - \$75,000

#### Other MHTAAR Recommendations:

1. Trust partnership activities - \$100,000 – not approved by the Trust
2. Mini focus area on employment for Trust beneficiaries - \$250,000 to the Council and \$100,000 to the Employment and Security Division – recommended for GF/MH funding
3. Autism Prevalence Registry and Identification System - \$117,000 to the Division of Public Health – recommended for GF/MH funding
4. Deaf Advocate - \$100,000 to Alyeska Vocational Services – recommended for GF/MH funding
5. Alaska Transition Training Initiative - \$78,000 EI/ILP grants – Office of Children’s Services – not approved by the Trust.

#### Capital Recommendations:

1. Deferred maintenance for non-profit provider agencies for building repair and upgrades - \$500,000 GF/MH, \$750,000 MHTAAR – \$1,230,000 recommended by the Trust
2. Coordinated transportation - \$500,000 GF/MH, \$250,000 MHTAAR - \$250,000 MHTAAR approved, \$800,000 GF/MH recommended
3. Assistive technology - \$250,000 GF/MH, \$250,000 MHTAAR – not approved by the Trust
4. Essential program equipment – \$250,000 GF/MH, \$250,000 MHTAAR – not approved by the Trust.

### Policy Recommendations:

- Advocate for change to statute so the education formula funding increases also apply to SESA
- Advocate for operating funding for community and public transportation
- Advocate for the inclusion of external site reviews with SDS's quality assurance program
- Develop strategies to increase access to services for children and adults with FASD
- Develop strategies to help working poor get ahead.

### **AUTISM INSURANCE MIDWEST ACADEMY PLANNING**

**Kathy Fitzgerald** and **Duane Mayes** led the Council members through a Midwest Academy planning session around the autism insurance bill.

**Millie Ryan** gave some historical perspective by stating that this bill stalled last year in the HSS committee. Bettye Davis introduced a version on the Senate side, which made it out of the HSS, but got stuck in the finance committee. Representative Keller on the House side was interested in the State coming up with a state-funded program as a pilot to see how it would go. He introduced something to that effect, but it was late in the session and was very different than the insurance bill the Council is interested in. Millie stated that she believes that Representative Keller is interested in finding a way to meet the needs of people with autism, but he doesn't believe that an insurance mandate is the way to do it.

The outcome of the Midwest Academy Planning session is as follows:

#### **Goal**

- Health insurance that covers services for autism.

#### **Organizational Considerations**

- GCDSE – resources, staff, travel – lead role
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities
- AILPA
- AARP
- Autism Speaks.

#### **Constituents, Allies and Opponents**

##### Allies:

- School districts
- People First
- Stone Soup Group

- Key Coalition
- Autism Society of Alaska
- Speech/language providers
- Tribal Health
- School board associations
- School superintendent associations
- OTs
- Physicians
- Alaska Academy of Pediatrics.

Opponents:

- Insurance companies
- Legislators who don't believe in private insurance mandates
- Consumers concerned about cost increases to their health insurance plans.

**Targets**

- Chair of House HSS Committee
- Chair of Senate HSS Committee
- Co-sponsors of previous bill
- Chairs of House and Senate Finance Committees
- Governor.

**Tactics**

- Data
- Invite Lori from Autism Speaks to come to Alaska
- People's stories
- Get sponsor (preferably republican) and co-sponsors on both House and Senate sides
- Educate families and agencies
- Educate the public
- Educate the legislature
- Educate the Governor's office
- Coffee klatches
- Letters to the editor(s)
- Develop sample letters and resolutions
- Update the DVD
- Develop toolkit
- Put information on websites.

**DIVISION OF SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

Kim Poppe-Smart began her discussion by addressing the corrective action plan. She explained the history by stating that when CMS came to visit them in May of '09, they evaluated DSIDS

and found that they were about 2,000 reassessments overdue. Today they are 95 percent compliant with all reassessments being done timely.

She stated that in addition to the reassessments, they have been required to look at other areas. They meet with CMS every two weeks to have ongoing conversations. She stated that about half of the corrective action plan is focused on quality assurance activities.

Kim Poppe-Smart asked the Council members for questions regarding the corrective action plan.

**Duane Mayes** asked for further clarification of the quality assurance process. Kim Poppe-Smart stated that they are working on a standards development for each of the service provider types to make sure there are some common standards by which to measure everybody in the industry. Then they will look at health and welfare to ensure that the services that are needed by the recipients are actually the services being delivered. They will then look at whether or not the services that are being paid for are the services that are being delivered.

Dayna McGuire asked if included in the QA process will be face to face speaking to consumers and families. Kim stated that they will have some resource limitations, but that is certainly the best way to do it.

**Duane Mayes** asked what the Division was doing to make sure that they don't fall out of the 95 percent compliant rate on reassessments. Kim Poppe-Smart stated that they have been operating without their non-perms since the first of the year and they have been doing a great job. They have also streamlined their processes.

Kim Poppe-Smart then addressed the long-term care planning process. She stated that they have identified the individuals to participate on a stakeholder's group, and they will be setting a meeting date by the end of the year.

In terms of quality outcomes and consumer satisfaction, she understands that there was a history of a QA process that included consumers and providers doing a friendly visit with a QA focus, but she noted that CMS is not looking for that type of a system. They are really looking for DSOS to measure performance of providers based on standards and based on need of participants in the waiver programs.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** explained that she was part of that community site review committee and she feels there is a need for both types of quality assurance reviews. She stated that their reviews had standards and core values, and it seemed that providers sometimes felt like they were held tightly to those core standards. She believes that the Council has always felt that the loss of the type of quality assurance process she was involved in has been a tremendous loss. She feels that they need an outside reviewer other than just the State so that the community knows what's going on and so the community is involved with the agency and are taking some ownership in how things happen. But that doesn't alleviate the State's responsibility, and so that's why she'd like to see a combination of a community site review with the ability of the State to be able to do their review as well.

Kim Poppe-Smart agreed that they certainly would compliment one another, but again, one of the challenges is resources to contribute to such a project, and DSDS doesn't have the resources right now. She noted that it is something that they could advocate for in the future.

**Patrick Reinhart** asked whether the Aging and Disability Resource Center part of the puzzle was going to develop because that was seen as a way to take some of the load of the initial assessment off of the Division, but he doesn't see that happening at all.

Kim Poppe-Smart stated that for a rural state, they excel in ADRCs, and they have opened their fourth one. She stated that it is a perfect entry point for individuals in need to get the help with navigation, and she and the feds would love to see it grow.

**Patrick Reinhart** also commented that the state of Alaska has had tremendous success and leads the nation in closing down institutions and ICF/MRs and as a result of most all of the services being community based, it will be harder to do quality assurance.

Kim Poppe-Smart stated that these closings have been a great success. She stated that the way this is measured in Medicaid is looking at dollars spent on institutional care versus dollars spent in home and community-based services. Alaska at any given time has been fourth, fifth or sixth in the nation. She stated that in the \$320 million dollar program, it breaks down as follows:

- 1,365 people on the APD waiver
- 312 on the CCMC waiver
- 1,595 on the MR/DD waiver
- 1,907 on the Older Alaskans waiver
- 513 TEFRA participants
- 4,566 people enrolled in PCA services

She also noted that the skilled nursing census is 718 beds. Kim also noted that they have seen 15 percent growth in some of their programs in the last 12 months. Part of the reason for that growth is because a decision was made to lower the threshold for eligibility. There is also an increase in the utilization of services across the board because the economy has allowed more people to be eligible for Medicaid.

Kim Poppe-Smart then opened up a discussion on questions regarding the assessment process.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** explained that the DD Committee is looking at other tools to use besides the ICAP in the waiver level of care determination. Kim Poppe-Smart responded that if they could do something to have a more humanistic approach that they would have control over, they certainly would like to do it. **Kathy Fitzgerald** stated that if there was a tool that balanced deficits and strengths, it would give people a good place to start in developing the plan of care.

Kim Poppe-Smart explained that the SIS is a tool that's being promoted, but unfortunately the technical consultants at CMS have stated that it's a great tool when developing a plan of care, but it's not a tool to determine eligibility. She stated that she looks forward to hearing what the DD

Committee comes up with in their research. **Millie Ryan** suggested continuing to use the ICAP and dropping the age equivalency, and then use the SIS as part of the planning process.

**Heidi Haas** asked if when a child's ICAP score shows that they are more than 50 percent delayed, why would they continue to be assessed on an annual basis? Kim Poppe-Smart stated that age 7 is the cutoff when they stop doing the ICAP annually, but she would need to research it.

Kim Poppe-Smart then opened up a discussion on Medicaid and services for people with developmental disabilities.

**Amy Simpson** asked if there would be a way to extend early intervention from birth to 3 to birth to 5 to eliminate one difficult transition. Kim Poppe-Smart stated that provider capacity to expand that population would need to be explored.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** commented that the ability for agencies to recruit and retain direct care staff is very difficult. The DD Committee has asked providers to survey how many of the people on their waiver programs are underserved because they can't find someone to provide the service.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** also commented that she hears from families that it would be good to have a process in the Medicaid waiver system to allow families to become more knowledgeable about their child's disability and how to work with their child. Kim Poppe-Smart stated that under their existing waivers, they don't have that opportunity to do that. **Kathy Fitzgerald** suggested looking at a model to have families and professionals trained together as a pilot project. **Amy Simpson** suggested that this appears to be something the Parent Training and Information center could do.

### **ADVOCACY TRAINING**

**Duane Mayes** explained that the mission of the Council is to create systems change which improves the lives of individuals with disabilities.

#### **Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Overview**

**Duane Mayes** then gave this history of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority by stating that prior to statehood, there were few mental health services available in the Territory of Alaska for individuals who experienced mental illness or developmental disabilities. People with any sort of mental disabilities who were unable to care for themselves were convicted of a crime and were sent by the federal government to reside in Morningside Hospital in Portland, Oregon. In 1942 there were 2,000 Alaskans residing in this facility.

During Alaska's transition to a state, Congress passed the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act of 1956 to bring those individuals home and created the Alaska Mental Health Trust. To fund the Trust, the State selected one million prime acres of land that would be managed to generate income to pay for a comprehensive integrated mental health program in Alaska.

Through the Alaska legislature, they held a fiduciary responsibility to manage the land on behalf of Alaskans with mental illness, but by 1982, there was only about 35 percent of the Trust land that remained in State ownership. The majority of the land had been transferred to individuals or municipalities or designated by the legislature as forest, parks or wildlife areas. Due to the case of Weiss versus the State of Alaska, in 1994 a settlement reconstructed the Trust with 500,000 acres of original Trust land with 500,000 acres of replacement land plus \$2 million in cash.

As part of the settlement, the Trust cash assets are now managed under a contract with the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, and the land and non-cash assets are managed under a contract with the Trust Land Office within the Department of Natural Resources.

The settlement also established an independent board of trustees which is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. Each year Trustees spend Trust income and recommended expenditures of State funds to pay for a comprehensive mental health program for Trust beneficiaries, one of which is the Governor's Council.

Steve Williams stated that another important piece of the settlement is that there is a direct line from the Trust to the Governor. Every fall the Trustees make general fund/mental health recommendations to the Governor for programs that are a part of that comprehensive integrated plan. The Governor can then take those recommendations and incorporate them into his or her budget that gets forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget and the legislature. If there are GF/MH increments that the Governor does not want to include in his or her budget, there needs to be a written justification back to the Trustees as to why those increments are not being included in the budget.

**Duane Mayes** then reviewed the Trust calendars and funding stream charts with the Council members.

### Policy

**Kathy Fitzgerald** stated that policy is political, management, financial and administrative mechanisms arranged to reach explicit goals.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** reviewed with the Council members the path of a law and policies through the legislative branch, executive branch, and administrative regulations.

Kathy stated that where political tension or drama can come up is because there can be disputes over resources or values. She stated that it's important to follow through the whole process to make sure implementation of a bill or regulation is actually what they intended in the beginning.

She stated that the administration has the task of transferring the policy commitments into practice. She also noted that bureaucrats can interpret regulations differently and policy works best when it is flexible enough to meet individual needs, but structured enough to set boundaries.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** stated that implementation is when the policymakers make the decisions about the management for the public good and public resources. She stated that it is the Council's job to make sure that they keep to the spirit of the policy, regulation or law.

Bargaining is always a big piece of policy development and policy is negotiated among bureaucrats as it's being implemented. **Millie Ryan** added that anytime they're thinking about policy, they also need to be thinking about unintended consequences that may come about.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** added that change, even good change, can be stressful for people involved in the whole system.

She stated that they have to make sure that the policy does what it intended. They need to stay in touch with the policymaker, obtain a written copy of the policy, and check with the agencies providing the service to see how it is really happening.

**Kathy Fitzgerald** stated that if the Council isn't pushing, the system will continue to do the same old thing. She stated that the Council's role is to listen to stakeholders, gather data, find and recommend solutions and advocate to ensure change. Council members need to be informed and be learning about issues and know who their policymakers are and what issues are important to them.

**Duane Mayes** stated that for the DD Committee, when the Council receives draft regulations, they will review them and summarize them into a document and get it out to members of the committee. If committee members have recommendations on changes to verbiage, they need to report it so changes can be made. He stated that Mark Regan from Disability Law Services will help them review it in terms of the legal terminology.

**Teresa Holt** added that for the Education Committee, she e-mails the regulations to the committee members and if she doesn't get a response, she will call people. If they have enough time to comment on the regulation, they will review it during a committee meeting and provide written comments which get approved by either the Executive Committee or Millie Ryan and Donna Swihart.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

#### **Alaska Alliance for Direct Service Careers**

**Millie Ryan** stated that this is a project they've had for a couple of years that has been funded by the Trust. This will be the last year the Council will be managing it, and it will be incorporated into the Trust Training Cooperative at the Center for Human Development.

**Heidi Frost** stated that the Alaska Alliance for Direct Service Careers is an industry consortium and member-based organization for paraprofessionals and professionals who serve Trust beneficiaries.

She stated that they have done a lot of work on the Job Bank trying to get more job seekers to go to the Job Bank and to get more organizations to post their jobs there. They also have a new display board, new rack cards and a new retention booklet. They have continued to use outside agencies to draw job seekers to the Job Bank including Yahoo Hot Jobs and Craigslist.

**Heidi Frost** stated that they will continue to work on the Full Lives Conference this year. She will also continue to give training and technical assistance for free to any organization that requests it regarding recruitment and retention. They will continue to work with the Trust Training Cooperative on the Leadership Institute and they will do the Health Care/Human Services Career Fair again this year. They will also have the Outstanding Direct Service Professional of the Year awards.

**Heidi Frost** stated that last May they did a survey of their member provider agencies, and overall they did really well.

She stated that they have also created a Facebook page and their display board has been used at many conferences and job fairs.

**Heidi Frost** concluded her presentation by asking Council members to thank the direct service professionals for the job they do and tell others how important it is.

#### Alaska Works Initiative

**Millie Ryan** stated that they were able to get funding for these programs from the Trust, and then they were successful in getting a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. They were also able to get funding for the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, which is the Alaska Works Initiative. They were able to work collaboratively so that Vocational Rehabilitation and Center for Human Development received some funds to do incentive counseling. They just recently were successful in working with the Employment Security Division and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to get a disability employment grant from the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

**Millie Ryan** stated that the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant is scheduled to end on December 31, 2011 unless Congress reauthorizes it.

**Jennifer Jones** stated that they are starting to get some momentum in working with DSIDS and have accomplished the following:

- Hosted Supported Employment Task Force Meeting in June
- Developed an action plan for increasing supported employment outcomes for people on home and community-based waivers
- Attended the APSE conference
- Met with DSIDS management team and director to garner support for developing supported employment services
- Worked with DSIDS training coordinator and they are developing a module on employment for care coordinators, and DSIDS is doing a lot of work around developing

standards for services. **Jennifer Jones** asked if they would develop standards for supported employment.

**Patrick Reinhart** stated that Project SEARCH is an innovative program that takes kids in their last year of high school and puts them into internships that are very skill intensive technical positions primarily in the health care industry. The Council has signed an agreement with Project SEARCH, Cincinnati to become a Project SEARCH site. They are starting in January 2011 with a soft launch of a site in Anchorage with Providence Hospital in conjunction with the ACE/ACT program. There will be six students selected for the second semester of this year. They will be doing the same thing with Mat-Su Regional Health Center with five kids. The Fairbanks opening will be a little delayed. They are hoping that when the project blooms, it will support 12 students instead of six at the sites. The end concept is that the kids either have the potential to get a job at that major health care facility or they have learned skills that can be transferred into the community.

**Millie Ryan** added that Project SEARCH has been replicated in over 150 sites in 30 some states, and it's proven to be very successful.

**Patrick Reinhart** highlighted other projects under business and industry which include:

- Transportation
- Trust Micro Enterprise Fund
- Presentations at ACCESS and SPED director's conferences
- Attended the United States Business Leadership Network conference in Chicago.

**Patrick Reinhart** added that the USBLN conference is hosted by Walgreens and Southwest Airlines, major corporations who have made big commitments to hiring people with disabilities. Patrick noted that some incredible innovative things are coming out of these major corporations, some of which do business here in Alaska. He noted that one of the interesting things he heard in the conference was the idea of growing disability-owned enterprises across the country and certifying them. He stated that these major corporations want to make sure they are getting their supplies from various minority groups, which now includes disability-owned enterprises.

**Rich Sanders** discussed the following activities relating to the State as a Model Employer initiative:

- Completed revisions to the State Employees Survey on Disabilities for distribution upon approval
- Completed final draft of an Administrative Order
  - Declares the State of Alaska government as a "model employer of people with disabilities"
  - Establishes a task force of DVR, ADA coordinator's office, GCDSE, and Division of Personnel
  - Task force will conduct continuous review of the system to develop strategies and make improvements as recommended and report annually to the Governor and legislature

- Promotes the use of the provisional hire system by educating State hiring managers and VR staff on the use of the system and monitor usage and outcomes
- Conduct the State employee survey.

**Heidi Frost** discussed youth-related activities which include:

- Jointly, with Anchorage Daily News and other agencies, staffed the Youth Booth at job fairs and gave presentations
- Assisted youth with FASD on financial literacy
- Provided information to 14 youth providers
- Brought youth workforce development providers together with pilot group working on Bringing the Kids Home transition program
- Anchorage United for Youth is going to do a Career Exploration on February 2, National Job Shadow Day.

**Rich Sanders** stated that a major focus of the MIG was improvements to the behavior health system and in working with Vocational Rehabilitation and looking at work as an expectation and an integral part of recovery. He highlighted the following:

- Continued focus and training on assisting mental health centers with becoming Community Rehabilitation Providers and Employment Networks and providing customized employment services
- Three supported employment grants through FY'11 - two in Juneau, one in Kenai
- Funding for FY'12 to extended to new sites
- Funding matrix of employment services within the Behavioral Health system completed in May.

**Rich Sanders** highlighted some of the activities of the Asset Building work group:

- Group is in transition to sustainable United Way Financial Stability Group
- Two meetings held to define purpose and initial activities of the work group
  - Developed a mission statement
  - Planned for activities during the 2011 tax season
  - Plan for Asset Building Summit with REIT funding
  - Develop universal questions related to asset building for agency intake forms and applications.
- Asset building activities written into new Disability Employment Initiative grant for One-Stop Job Centers.

**Rich Sanders** highlighted the following for the Ticket to Work program:

- Center for Human Development hired Community Work Incentives coordinator (CWIC)
- Meeting held with CHD, DVR and Griffin Hammis to establish sustainable system of CWIC training, certification and service provision

- Work Incentives Seminar Event (W.I.S.E.) held in Anchorage in September with over 35 people in attendance.

### START-UP/Alaska

**Rich Sanders** highlighted the following updates from START-UP/Alaska:

- 75 participants served
- 35 businesses launched to date
- 31 business operating successfully at the present
- Grant services ended on June 30, 2010
  - Post-grant plans developed with DVR clients who had not completed business start up
  - Site facilitators continue to receive contracts from VR to do customized self employment with clients.
- Project Toolkit
  - DVD of process, staff and entrepreneurs
  - Project handbook
  - Customized self-employment process poster
- Final Grant report draft due on November 30 with the final report due by December 30
- Policy recommendations and interagency agreement
- Capacity building
  - EFA webinar series on customized self employment
  - Development of CSE certification for providers
- Website for entrepreneurs with disabilities sponsored by UAA Center for Economic Development.

### Alaska Safety Planning Empowerment Network (ASPEN)

**Millie Ryan** stated that the ASPEN is a grant that the Council receives from the Office of Violence against Women and the Department of Justice. The purpose is to bring together the disability community and victim services community to better meet the needs of women with disabilities who are the victims of sexual or physical assault or stalking. There are two pilot sites, one in Dillingham and one in Ketchikan, and it builds on a previous Council project, Alaska Speaks Up!

The partners on the ASPEN are the Council, Center for Human Development, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Access Alaska, and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

**Millie Ryan** highlighted some of the activities of the ASPEN which include:

- Needs assessment process:
  - Focus groups and individual interviews
  - Agency interviews

- Needs assessment findings:
  - Policies
    - Addressed mandated reporting, ADA compliance and provision of individualized services
    - Generally did not address safety and service needs of survivors with disabilities
    - Guidelines that do exist are not clearly understood nor uniformly implemented
  - Collaboration
    - Limited beyond basic information and referral
    - Moderate level of awareness
    - DV/SA agencies more likely to reach out to disability providers than vice versa
  - Perceptions
    - Wide diversity of perceptions of disability and experience with people with disabilities and accommodation of individual needs among DV/SA agencies
    - Wide diversity of perceptions regarding people with disabilities and experiences of DV/SA among disability providers
  - Need for behavioral health services
  - Processes for change within partners are in place
    - Strategic plan development, budget development, consumer and staff input
    - Each agency has a unique approach
  - Desire, need and support for training, cross-training, staff orientation and disability and DV/SA specific training
  - Culture is the key to providing appropriate services
  - Positive, respectful and supportive attitudes and actions keys to making survivors and people with disabilities feel safe, welcome and comfortable.
- Strategic plan goals:
  - Assist community partners to develop relevant policies and procedures
  - Facilitate stronger and deeper collaboration among community providers
  - Develop and facilitate increased awareness of the intersection between disability and DV/SA among agency partners
  - Engage behavioral health providers at the State and community levels
  - Facilitate and assist community partners to develop and implement local strategic plans
  - Facilitate development and provision of training that promotes collaborative service delivery
  - Develop collaborative approaches to culturally resonant collaboration and services
  - Develop toolkit for use at the local level.

**RECESS**

The Council recessed at 4:30 p.m.

# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING

Anchorage, Alaska  
October 13 - 15, 2010

**October 15, 2010**

## **Council Members Present:**

Anna Attla  
Julie Broyles  
Milton Cheemuk  
Art Delaune  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
Eric Gebhart, Vice-Chair  
Taylor Gregg  
Tara Horton  
Banarsi Lal  
Kaleene Lamb  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson  
Lelia (Lucy) Odden  
Janet Ogan (for Wes Keller)  
Amy Simpson  
Donna Swihart, Chair  
Tonja Updike  
Fred Villa

## **Council Staff:**

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Duane Mayes, Operations Director  
Teresa Holt, Program Coordinator  
Rich Sanders, Program Coordinator  
Heidi Frost, Program Coordinator  
Carrie Predeger, Research Analyst III  
Jennifer Jones, Health Program Manager  
Sheryl Lea-Granger, Administrative Assistant I  
Michelle Jenkins, Office Assistant II  
Patrick Reinhart, Project Coordinator

## **Prepared by:**

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Friday, October 15, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

**Vice Chair Gebhart** called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Duane Mayes** referred the Council members to the Council newsletter in their binder and encouraged everyone to read it.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Kaleene Lamb** corrected a misspelling of her name that was missing an “e” at the end. **Amy Simpson MOVED** to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was **APPROVED**.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL BUDGET**

**Banarsi Lal MOVED** to approve the Council budget as presented. **Fred Villa** again noted the adjustment to the budget to add the date reported. The motion to approve the budget **PASSED**.

**MONITORING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW**

**Millie Ryan** stated that they have not received the official report yet.

**TRUST ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

**Millie Ryan** referred the Council members to the information from the Trust Advocacy Summit in their binder. She stated that they worked on two priorities this year, Medicaid and coordinated transportation

**Medicaid**

**Duane Mayes** stated that the title of the first one is Ensuring Access to Affordable High Quality Medicaid Services for Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries. He referred Council members to the advocacy plan as well as a list of questions Council members can use when they talk with their representatives with additional talking points and supporting data. He also commented that there are other tools available for Council members to use when doing advocacy.

**Ric Nelson** stated that the long-term goal is to make sure beneficiaries have access to high quality Medicaid services, and a summary of the short-term goal is to protect the optional services that already exist. **Teresa Holt** added that the Governor has created a task force to look at Medicaid cost containment, and one of the ways they are looking at cutting costs is to cut optional services or programs, an example of which is the Medicaid waiver. **Millie Ryan** added that they will be closely monitoring what both the legislative task force and the Health Care Commission will be doing regarding Medicaid.

## Coordinated Transportation

**Millie Ryan** stated that the three goals are:

1. Create a permanent statewide Coordinated Transportation Commission in statute
2. Establish a statewide fund for public and community transportation
3. Provide funding for operating community transportation systems - \$3 million with a match requirement.

The targets are:

- Governor/Governor's staff
- Coordinated Transportation Task Force
- House and Senate Committee members
- General public
- Media.

The tactics are:

- Education and advocacy recruitment
- Alaska Mobility Coalition media campaign
- Statewide "Ride the Bus Day"
- Statewide or community "Walk Day"
- Joint House and Senate Transportation Committee presentation
- Letter writing campaign
- Op-Ed pieces for newspapers
- Make business case
- Coordinate public speakers
- List of transportation questions for candidates
- Candidate forums
- Creation of resolution template for stakeholders
- Gather endorsement letters
- Legislative visits
- Newsletters
- Social media
- Finance Committee presentations.

The allies are:

- Denali Commission
- Tribal groups
- Alaska Municipal League
- First Alaskans
- Consumer/self-advocacy groups

- AARP
- State agencies with transportation needs
- Congressman Don Young
- Key Coalition
- Community councils
- Provider trade associations
- Coordinated Transportation Task Force
- Environmental groups
- House Representatives Wilson, Wilson, Munoz, Millet, Stolze, Gruenberg, and Joule
- Senators Menard, Stevens, Meyer, Ellis, Olson, Egan, McGuire, Hoffman.

Possible opponents are:

- Road building organizations
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Service providers that do not want to coordinate.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY (SESA)**

Nancy Nagarkar directed Council members to the description of SESA programs in the packets. She stated that SESA is a public agency authorized by Alaska Statute and is available to school districts for low incidence special education services. The following specialized services are available:

- Low Incidence Disabilities (LID) program
- Dual Sensory Impairment (DSI) services
- SESA library
- Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)
- Bring the Kids Home educational transition support project (BTKH)
- Creating Innovative, Responsive, and Consistent Learning Environments (CIRCLE)
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Center of Alaska (PBIS Center)
- Merging and Enhancing Systems for Healthy Alaskans (MESH-AK)

Nancy Nagarkar explained that they lost the grants that they have that are for the birth to 3 vision impaired/blind, and birth to 3 deaf/hard of hearing. They have had these grants for over 20 years. Office of Children's Services, Infant Learning Program decided that these grants would be better utilized to have the infant learning providers get trained to provide the services themselves. She stated that there was a big impact on SESA because they were only given one week's notice before these grants were cut, and she had four people without jobs. The effect on the union was to bump other people's jobs and it caused a lot of panic and uncertainty. She stated that for the most part, everyone was able to receive another position.

Nancy stated that the short notice also left them with a budget deficit, and it would have helped if they would have had more time to plan. She also stated that the union put in a resolution that they would like to reinstate the programs.

Linda Borghols stated that it was a very difficult recommendation that Erin Kinavey made to the commissioner. She stated that the ILPs are encouraged that as they have children indentified with these needs, then they will go out and get the services that the families and the children need. She also stated that there will be some consulting and training with Vanderbilt University along with some other universities.

**Amy Simpson** stated that at PIC, she believes they have many individuals who have capacity in their agency to provide very high quality services to infants and toddlers. She stated that although they won't have vision impaired specialists on their staff, they have quite a bit of capacity. They have several staff that have stepped up and requested to receive more training so that they can be consultants to other PIC staff and possibly to other ILPs. She stated that their goal is to make sure that all children and families get exactly what they need so they can have the very best outcomes.

**Teresa Holt** stated that this is an issue that the EIC has been involved with from the beginning and the Council has done quite a bit of work on it. She stated that the EIC is sort of leaning toward the idea that if PIC serves many of the children in this population, it makes sense for them to become the experts and then help other infant learning providers. Teresa also noted that OCS does a yearly survey of parents in the Infant Learning Program, and Teresa asked if they can make sure they are surveying every parent of a child who would be eligible under hearing or vision and then pull those out to make sure the parents are really getting what they need, because if not, then they need to do something different. She noted that EIC is going to follow up on this.

Nancy Nagarkar reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the Council to show their funding and how the grants support them. She stated that the Low Incidence Disability program is their main focus and they do consultation training and they serve Alaskan communities. She stated that they were founded in 1986. They receive their LID funding through the Department of Education. The grants come from the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services, and the federal government.

**Millie Ryan** added that they reason SESA exists in statute is because of the LID program. Everything other than the LID money is soft money.

Nancy Nagarkar stated that their statutory funding is for \$15.75 times the number of students in the state. This number has not changed since 1986. She stated that their budget was reduced by \$52,000 this year due to lower student enrollment. She stated that school districts get their base student allocations increased, but SESA does not.

Nancy Nagarkar stated that the State audited them about five years ago, and their recommendation was that SESA pursue grants for more money because the State wasn't giving them any more money. She stated that right now, 48 percent of their revenues are supported by grants, but it's a double edged sword because now almost half of their salaries and everything else is grant funded.

Nancy stated that they are supposed to be doing primarily LID, but what has happened is the LID has become less and the grants and contracts are pretty much supporting a lot of their overhead and a lot of different people, and they have deliverables that they have to perform for each grant separate from what the LID does.

Nancy stated that SESA really should be almost 40 percent of the current base times the total amount of children enrolled in the schools for that year.

**Teresa Holt** added that for smaller school districts, SESA is their lifeline. She stated that the big roadblock that the Education Committee came up with last year in working on this issue is that the Department supported the increase for the intensive needs funding structure and expected districts to use their I-N funding for this purpose.

**Millie Ryan** added that when she's spoken with Commissioner LeDoux, he also feels that changes to the funding formula or the statute is not something that the Department wants to be the lead on and that the Council is going to have to come forward and find legislators to take this forward. She also noted that even though SESA doesn't provide services to Anchorage, the larger school districts will be impacted if children cannot get the services they require in rural Alaska.

**Vice-Chair Gebhart** commented that oftentimes, their I-N funding is spoken for and they don't have the expertise they need to serve the LID population, and that's why SESA must exist.

### **MIDWEST ACADEMY PLANNING SESSION - SESA**

#### **Short-Term Goal:**

1. Push for the \$330,000 increment
2. Extend the sunset clause if it doesn't get removed.

#### **Long-Term Goals:**

1. Remove the sunset clause (statute change)
2. Address the formula funding (statute change).

#### **If Long-Term Goals are Met, What Would Change?**

- Time it takes for students to get service
- Good student and teacher instruction
- Reduce the number of children being sent out of state or being sent to residential psychiatric programs in state
- Reduce the number of children moving from rural Alaska to the big five school districts
- Be able to provide consistent staff, staff retention, higher quality of service
- Higher graduation rates
- Higher student achievement as they go through school

- Possibility of convening a SESA crisis intervention team for children and teachers that need immediate assistance, more flexible and responsive system
- Rural special education teacher retention.

### **Organizational Considerations**

- Council, Millie Ryan, lead staff person
- SESA and SESA board
- School Board Association
- Superintendent's Association
- Native organizations
- Special Education Director's Association
- SESA's union, APEA-AFT

### **Potential Allies**

- Key Coalition
- Stone Soup Group
- Alaska Head Start Association
- ANSCA
- Teacher's associations
- SESA union, APEA-AFT
- Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind Council
- AILPA
- National or state organizations for OT, PT, speech
- Center for Human Development, PBS
- People First of Alaska
- Disability Law Center
- University of Alaska system
- School districts who use SESA
- Alaska teacher placement
- Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Alaska Federation of the Blind
- Moose Lodge, Elks Club, Shriners, Lion's Club
- Rotary Clubs
- Alaska Advisory Board for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
- First Lady

### **Potential Opponents**

- Department of Education
- State Board of Education
- Individual school districts who might see it as a possibility to lose funding
- Governor with the hold-the-line budget for this year

- General public.

### **Targets**

- Education Committee – both House and Senate
- Head of the HSS Committee
- Legislators in the rural caucus
- The Commissioner and Eddie Burke
- State Board of Education
- Special assistant to the Governor
- Legislature.

### **Tactics**

- Develop data points with charts and graphs
- Gather stories
- Retention data and surveys
- Develop talking points
- Develop strategies for educating the public and different organizations
- Develop information for school districts who utilize SESA
- SESA board to develop sample resolution that school districts could use.

### **FIVE-YEAR STATE PLAN**

**Duane Mayes** stated that the deadline for the Five-Year State Plan is August 15, 2011. He stated that the plan is required by the federal government Administration on Developmental Disabilities and is the blueprint for Council activities for the next five years. The focus is on results for Alaskans with disabilities and their families within the following life goal domains:

1. Community Participation
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Health
5. Housing
6. Self determination

**Duane Mayes** stated that the emphasis of the State plan is on capacity building and systems change with a focus on partnership and development, identification of trends and issues, strategic planning, building knowledge, consultation and technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning and coaching, and facilitated organizational development.

The State Plan consists of:

- Comprehensive review and analysis of needed services
- Comprehensive review and analysis of existing services

- Review of plans by State agencies and other planning councils
- Review of data collected by State agencies
- Efforts to provide services to unserved and underserved populations
- Review of state and federal priority areas
- State Plan priorities areas:
  - Outcome statement (results)
  - Targeted areas (goals)
  - Performance targets (objectives)
  - Strategies
  - Milestones (evaluation criteria)

**Duane Mayes** stated that for the State Plan they will review surveys, needs assessments, public input from public testimony and community forums, reports and studies, relevant state plans and quality assurance reports. They will gather information from questionnaires and surveys, meetings and conferences, public testimonies, Council committee meetings, and focus groups.

**Duane Mayes** reviewed the State Plan timelines and community forum dates and asked Council members to think about which community forums they would like to participate in.

**Duane Mayes** then discussed the recent community forums they hosted in Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, and Sitka.

Key things the Council has learned so far include:

#### Self Determination

- Consumer choice continues to be an issue, more so in rural Alaska
- Consumers and families do not feel they are given the opportunity to provide input in the development of new programs, policies and regulations that promote consumer choice, flexibility and control
- Some families and consumers do not know of existing services and therefore cannot make informed choices.

#### Health

- Limited services are in place for long-term care in rural Alaska
- People with disabilities in rural Alaska have limited access to safe, accessible and affordable homes
- The medical community in rural communities have limited awareness about autism
- Health facilities in rural Alaska are trying to do more through telehealth
- Families don't want to leave rural Alaska to access health services
- Medicaid waiver rates make it difficult to sustain programs.

## Education

- Shortage of special education teachers and OTs, PTs and speech pathologists
- School teachers not paid well and turnover is high
- Suggestion for school districts to take on the ILP delivery system
- Families not truly involved in the IEP process at the high school level
- Rural teachers cannot dedicate the needed time to educate students with disabilities.

## Community Participation

- Transportation services are not well coordinated in rural communities
- Rural facilities are not accessible to people with physical disabilities
- Many rural community members lack disability awareness
- One self advocate reported feeling very alone within her community.

## Housing

- No housing for people with disabilities
- Current non-profits have facilities that are not accessible
- Buildings are eroding and falling apart
- Many people are not familiar with resources and technical assistance for building affordable, accessible and safe housing
- Homeless population is increasing among the youth.

## Employment

- Employment opportunities are seasonal
- Over 50 percent of the people in the community are at the poverty line
- The partnership with DVR is outstanding. The DVR counselor in Sitka does a great job of outreach
- Workforce development continues to be an issue with the shortage of direct support services to individuals.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Duane Mayes** noted that Milton Cheemuk is featured in the You Know Me Campaign.

**Fred Villa** informed members of the Council of some stroke information he recently learned and that is to follow the first four letters of the word stroke in assessing someone so they receive prompt medical attention.

- **S** – smile
- **T** – talk
- **R** – raise your arms above your head

And a fourth test is to have the person stick their tongue out.

**Art Delaune** expanded on some information regarding the Youth in Transition program in Fairbanks. He stated that they have expanded to a new facility, and the program is to assist youth from the ages of 14 to 21 transitioning from high school into the working world or higher education. They offer tutoring for high school, job coaching, interview prep, job finding, and on-the-job support. Unfortunately, this grant is strictly for students who have the ability to get a diploma and can pass the HSGQE, but they are working on a program to try to capture the other students as well.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.