



# Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

## 1 ROLE

### Role of the Council

- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- State Advisory Panel on Special Education
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Infants & Toddlers with Disabilities
- Governing Board of the Special Education Service Agency
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Beneficiary Board

## 2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Major Accomplishments in FY08

The Council worked collaboratively with approximately 50 entities to achieve the following major accomplishments in FY08:

- The Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Autism developed a 5-part package for the legislature and the administration; as a result, the FY09 budget includes a \$250,000 appropriation for expanded diagnostic clinics (\$125,000 legislature and \$125,000 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority) and \$250,000 for workforce development capacity building (\$125,000 legislature and \$125,000 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority)
- As a result of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Developmental Disabilities Waitlist, the Division of Senior & Disabilities Services began drawing 50 people per quarter from the waitlist effective July 1, 2007 and planning for a new tiered service delivery system is underway.
- Together with the Governor's Office, the Council co-sponsored the February 6, 2008 Disability Employment Policy Summit. Participants discussed and prioritized a series of policy recommendations in the following areas:

## 3 OUTCOMES

## 4 PRIORITIES

## Major Accomplishments in FY08 Continued ...

- 1) State of Alaska government as a model employer of people with disabilities;
- 2) assets building; and
- 3) integration of services and resources. As a result, work-groups were formed to address some high priority items. Others were incorporated into the Council new application for Comprehensive Employment Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (\$1,500,000 total for calendar years 2009 and 2010).

- The Council advocated with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the administration and the legislature for funding for coordinated

community transportation; as a result, \$800,000 in state funding was made available for FY09.

- The Council participates in the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's "You Know Me" campaign to reduce stigma against Trust beneficiaries. As a result, public perception about Alaskans with developmental disabilities has positively changed from 2002 to 2008 as evidenced by a recent Trust-funded survey in terms of comfort level (79.4% to 83.5%), ability to hold down a job (31.8% to 48.8%) and whether services can improve their quality of life (58.9% to 73.1%).

## Outcomes for Alaskans with Developmental Disabilities in FY08

As a result of the Council's work with numerous stakeholders, the following outcomes were achieved for Alaskans with developmental disabilities:

- 55 individuals have jobs of their choice
- 113 people own or rent a home
- 500 people have transportation services
- 664 people have needed health services
- 77 students transitioned from school to jobs and adult life
- 69 programs or policies were created or improved
- \$35.7 million was leveraged for a variety of generic and disability-specific services and supports needed for Alaskans with disabilities to live successfully in the community

## FY 09 PRIORITIES

- Expanded services and supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Increased funding for early intervention/infant learning program services
- Increased funding for the Special Education Service Agency
- Establishment of a crisis response consultation team for people with developmental disabilities and severe, intractable behavioral problems
- Establishment of a tiered system for Developmental Disabilities services
- Private insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Establishment of the Alaska Homeless Fund
- Increased funding for coordinated transportation systems
- Improvements to preschool programs
- Workforce development capacity building
- Improvements to residential services for people with developmental disabilities
- Increased employment, including self-employment of people with disabilities
- Increased access to services for people residing in rural and remote areas of the state
- Services that meet the needs of women with disabilities who are victims of sexual or physical assault.
- Establishing in statute a regulatory periodic review of provider rates.

