



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Legislative Committee Report

January 2007

The Legislative Committee's goals are to:

- Educate policymakers about Council goals and the needs of people with disabilities
- Actively promote national and state legislation
- Promote adoption of a fiscal plan
- Support the priorities of the Advocacy Summit
- Address the growing needs of people with developmental disabilities within the Medicaid program.

The Committee has focused on three main activities since the October Council meeting.

First, the Legislative Committee completed its work plan. A revised version is included with this report.

Second, the Committee reviewed the Council's recommended strategies from the October Council meeting to promote the increment requests for Early Intervention/Infant Learning and Autism identification and diagnosis. The Legislative Committee has developed a work plan format (below) to guide its efforts.

Third, the Committee is developing Position Papers on Early Intervention/Infant Learning and on the benefits of early diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. The position papers are for use in promoting our legislative advocacy agency during this year's session.

Advocacy Recommendations to promote the ILP increment from the Council meeting follow:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
RESEARCH		
• Review the ILP cost study, research other states, and make series of recommendations for ILP.	Office of Children's Services/Alaska Infant Learning Program Association/Governor's Council	Jan -
• Review research on the	Karolina, Council staff	Oct – Dec

benefits of early intervention		
• Obtain NECTAC state-by-state eligibility comparison	Karolina	Oct
• Obtain research on the economic costs of not intervening	Karolina	Oct – Dec
PRODUCTS		
• Position Paper	Judith, Tom, Meghan, Irene and Bev Ingram	Nov-Dec
• Tool kit – includes Letter to Legislators (green, blue, orange, gold versions)	EIC	Oct – Dec
• Post card/Notes to candidates	Karolina, Council members	Oct
MEETINGS		
• Meet with Governor	Kathy Fitz, Arthur, Millie, Karolina	Jan
• Possible joint meeting of Legislative and EIC to strategize		Jan
• Presentation to Legislature/Joint HES Committees	TBA (possibly Debbie Kitelinger, Millie Ryan)	Jan

Advocacy ideas for the autism increment.

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
RESEARCH		
• Review the literature on benefits of early diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.	Karolina	Jan -
PRODUCTS		
• Position Paper	Karolina to do first draft	Dec
• Letter to Legislators (green, blue, orange, gold points)	Tom, Karolina, Lucy	Jan
• 8 ½ x 11 flyer of people with autism	Dave Caldwell?	
MEETINGS		
• Meet with Governor	Kathy Fitz, Stacey, Arthur, Millie, Karolina	Jan
• Meet with new administration		
• Presentation to Legislature/Joint HES Committees	Chris Saddler, Kathy Fitz, Kathy A	Jan