

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

February 8, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Anna Attla, Chair
Laurie Cooper
Pam Curns
Tom Cyrus
Kris Green
Taylor Gregg
Banarsi Lal
Justine Sheehan
Holli Yancey, Chair

Guests:

Art Arnold
Glenn Sheehan

Community Members:

Lisa Balivet

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Anna Attla read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR GOOD NEWS

Teresa Holt announced that the DD home and community-based waiver regulations were withdrawn. There will be an information session on February 15th from 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone who is interested in joining the webinar can e-mail Teresa and she will send the call-in number and registration information.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Tom Cyrus **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Holli Yancey **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 11th, 2012 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt reported that she has no correspondence.

UPDATE FROM JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Teresa Holt reported that the top priorities for this year's Governor's Council meeting in Juneau were autism insurance reform, changing of the SESA funding formula and removing the sunset provision, and permanent funding for the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Teresa reported that she thinks the meetings were pretty successful. Eight new senators signed on to the autism insurance bill, and the SESA had a hearing yesterday on the House side and has moved from the Education Committee to the Finance Committee. Teresa also stated that funding for services for the deaf, the

Alaska Transition Outcomes Project, and Project SEARCH were all still in the Governor's budget.

REVIEW SURVEY QUESTIONS ON TELEPRACTICE AND SDS SERVICES

At the last meeting, the committee developed a list of a few basic questions. Teresa Holt drafted a survey and sent it out as an attachment for today's meeting. The committee reviewed and refined the survey draft as follows:

Demographics:

- What region(s) do you provide services in? (North Slope, Fairbanks, Interior except Fairbanks, Southwest, Anchorage, Southcentral except Anchorage, Southeast.)
- How large is the community where you provide services?
- How many individuals do you serve? List by region.
- Is your agency part of a larger provider? If so, what kind of provider?

Access to technology:

- Where is Internet access available in your community? (Medical clinic, school, tribal building, public library, private homes, university campus, in your agency, senior center, community center, other.)
- Do you have sufficient bandwidth? (Change to "Do you have problems sending and receiving e-mails with attachments or streaming live video?")
- What type of Internet connection do you use?
- Do you have access to technical support if your Internet is not working or you have problems with your computer?
- Who provides your technical support?

What types of services do you provide through technology?

(The committee suggested dividing the types of services into categories such as human resources, continuing education, etc.)

How long have you been using technology to provide services?

(The committee suggested adding a Likert scale on how comfortable they are with using technology to provide services.)

What types of technology do you use?

(Skype, YouSendIt, videoteleconference, various softwares)

(The committee suggested also asking, "Do you have access to these when you are outside the main office?")

Do the people you serve use technology, assistive or otherwise?

If so, what kinds of technology?

Barriers and concerns regarding technology use:

- What are the barriers to using technology to improve the services you provide? (Lack of knowledge, no access, cost, prefer face-to-face contact, confidentiality, etc.)
- If you are not using technology, what would be needed for you to consider using it? (Funding, training, technical support, etc.)

Teresa said that they will send the survey to all DD and senior services providers, hopefully by the end of February.

REVIEW THE WORK PLAN

Goal 1, No. 1: Advocate for funding for a plan to do a telepractice summit. After getting the survey results, the committee could apply for that funding before June, when the Council decides how to spend its money.

Goal 1, No. 2: Continue to meet regularly with the Online With Libraries project. This is an ongoing project, and more libraries are coming online every week as the project continues.

Goal 2, No. 1: Advocate for a system of MOAs between schools and DD providers. Pam Curns found the existing MOA between the Department of Education and DVR, but the Department of Education only does MOAs on a district level, not statewide. Teresa is checking to find out if there is an MOA with SDS and any other groups.

Goal 2, No. 2: Advocate for best practice presentations at DVR/TVR and ASSEC conferences. Teresa Holt reported that a presentation is scheduled at ASSEC, and they still need to plan for Full Lives and DVR. Art Arnold is scheduled to do presentations on transitions at ASSEC and Full Lives too.

Goal 2, No. 3: Advocate for training for school district staff regarding referral process for DVR/TVR starting at 16 or earlier if needed. Art Arnold commented that EED needs to train their staff to implement referrals not only with DVR and TVR but an array of providers.

Goal 2, No. 4: Ask EED/DVR to create a statewide DVR referral form for school staff to use. Art Arnold pointed out that a referral form will not be very helpful, but all involved need to be planning for post-school outcomes well before a student's last year of school. Teresa Holt noted that this goal has changed to "Review and provide recommendations on the transition portion of EED's revised special ed handbook," which is planned soon.

Art Arnold noted that DVR is working on these issues now and is preparing some materials including an Alaska Youth Transition Handbook that should bring positive change in the area of secondary transitions. He has several presentations planned over the next six months, and after he does them at DVR he will bring them to a Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee meeting, maybe in August. Holli Yancey asked about podcasting the presentation at ASSEC to preserve it as a resource for teachers, and Art said that would be fine.

Goal 3: Research state and federal telepractice regulations.

Goal 4: Research ways to use telepractice in DD system to improve services.

Teresa Holt and Holli Yancey noted that the survey being planned covers some of these goals. Committee members suggested some people and groups to contact for more information. Teresa Holt will send the work plan out to committee members when it is updated.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee teleconference is scheduled for April 11th, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.