

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

**Executive Committee
MINUTES**

**Videoconference Host:
Governor's Council
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1230
Anchorage, Alaska**

Meeting Date
Friday, October 1, 2021
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Heidi Lieb-Williams
Jena Crafton
Art Delaune
Corey Gilmore
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus

Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff
Lanny Mommsen
Jess Doherty
Myranda Walso
Jamie Kokoszka

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 12:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL – Quorum established

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Heidi Lieb-Williams welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Introductions, Announcements, or Good News

Heidi Lieb-Williams opened the floor for introductions, announcements, or good news.

Jena Crafton shared that it's her mom's birthday on Saturday.

Corey Gilmore shared that a staff member was exposed to COVID-19, which puts him in quarantine status.

Myranda Walso shared the good news about her children's school pictures in that as hard as her children tried to make them bad by wearing ridiculous outfits, the photos turned out good. Heidi Lieb-Williams shared a funny story about picture day where a student would not remove his mask because his mother told him to never take his mask off at school.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jena Crafton **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes from the September 24th, 2021 meeting as written, **SECONDED** by Corey Gilmore. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Agenda

Jena Crafton **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Heidi Lieb-Williams expressed her appreciation for a fantastic Governor's Council meeting. She felt like there was a lot accomplished. She is looking forward to what the future brings for the Council with all the upcoming changes.

Executive Director Report and Correspondence

Kristin Vandagriff expressed her appreciation to the Council and encouraged them to go forth and do awesome things.

BUSINESS

Fall Council Meeting Debrief

Heidi Lieb-Williams opened the floor for member feedback related to the Governor's Council meeting.

Heidi Lieb-Williams reported that based on the information from the Governor's Council meeting, she made the following decisions on committee chair appointments as follows:

- Corey Gilmore, chair of Community Inclusion, Supports, and Services Committee
- Ric Nelson, chair of Self-Advocacy and Leadership Committee
- Travis Noah, chair of Employment Committee

Heidi Lieb-Williams noted that the workgroup formations and membership will be part of phase 2. Discussions will continue on the expansion of the Transition Committee.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus and Corey Gilmore shared comments on the importance of safeguarding representation for those individuals who experience intellectual and cognitive disabilities who maybe can't speak for themselves.

Winter/February 2022 Council Meeting

Kristin Vandagriff reported that Council members voted to hold the winter Council meeting January 31st and February 1, 2022. She noted that staff will continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19 in regards to the legislative visits.

Art Delaune asked for clarification on the plans for the legislative visits. Kristin Vandagriff recommended that the Executive Committee decide on a final choice between in-person visits or virtual visits for planning purposes. Art Delaune asked staff to weigh in on what date would be appropriate for staff in order to properly plan for either modality. Jess Doherty reported that last year, staff started outreach at the beginning of January to get virtual visits scheduled. She noted that since there are no junior legislators this session, starting the planning earlier would be appropriate. The committee members chose to use the November 5th, 2021 Executive Committee meeting to have a full discussion and make final decisions on legislative visits.

The committee had a brief discussion about changing the time and date of Executive Committee meetings in the future. They proposed adjusting the time for the November 5th, 2021 meeting to 1:00 – 2:45 p.m. and asked for an agenda item to discuss future times and dates of the Executive Committee meeting.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to move the November 5th, 2021 Executive Committee from 12:00 - 1:45 to 1:00 – 2:45, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

DDRR Recommendations Survey Results and Next Steps

Lanny Mommsen suggested providing the results of the DDRR recommendations survey to the DDRR Workgroup for review. Kristin Vandagriff directed the members' attention to the document titled *Draft Council Enhancement Recommendation Regarding the Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review* for the survey context. She noted that she agrees with Lanny's suggestion to take the results of the survey to the DDRR Workgroup for consideration.

Art Delaune commented that he was impacted by Tom Crafton's public testimony at the Council meeting regarding the DDRR process, strengths versus disabilities, and how the population is measured. Kristin Vandagriff suggested that advocacy in the form of stories may be a way to impact the DDRR. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus commented that if the Council surveys people to ask for their input, it owes them the time to discuss the results and consider them. She agreed that asking the DDRR Workgroup to reconvene is appropriate.

Jena Crafton suggested people with disabilities work on the stories representing their strengths and send them to legislators too. Corey Gilmore agreed with Art Delaune and Jena Crafton and commented that to embrace the Vision, they need to figure out the best process and tools for the state to use to represent individuals.

In summary, Lanny Mommsen was directed to reach out and ask to reconvene the DDRR workgroup and provide the workgroup with documents from the Governor's Council for discussion.

State Five-Year Plan Next Steps Discussion

Kristin Vandagriff reported that Council staff is working on the next steps to get the new committees going. Myranda Walso added that the Council received conditional approval for the State Plan from the ACL. ACL communicated that the current status is that a panel of executive directors and Council staff made up of counterparts in other states will review and evaluate the plan and make suggestions to the ACL program officers. ACL will then evaluate the plan and contact the Governor's Council if any requested changes or edits are required for final approval of the plan.

Myranda Walso shared the staff's process related to the next steps as follows:

- Assess the new committee structure to begin to optimize and balance the workload across staff for the next couple of months.
- Create the best approach to ensure that each committee has adequate support staff, reasonable scheduling, and the ability to provide quality support.
- To ensure that there is as little disruption as possible to committee work, at least two staff need to be prepared and available to operate the Zoom.
- Consider an effort to benefit from additional cross-training and making sure that there's increased awareness between the different staff and committees of what work is being done elsewhere.
- Consider adopting a lead staff with designated backup, which would be assigned to each committee. The lead staff would be responsible for coordinating with the chair, setting up Zoom, making public notice, documenting the agenda, assisting running the meetings, and regular follow-up for minutes.
- Staff talked through the overlap of items on the work plan and other roles and responsibilities of the Council.

Myranda Walso reported that she created a tentative committee roster. Once finalized, staff will reach out to each committee chair to organize and get the first committee meetings scheduled.

Living Well Update

Kristin Vandagriff reported that nothing has changed since the last Living Well update.

COVID-19 Response and GCDSE Vaccine Funding Update

Lanny Mommsen reported that nothing has changed since the last update.

Heidi Lieb-Williams commented that she appreciated the response to her comment at the Governor's Council meeting referencing misinformation on getting COVID-19 from the vaccine. Lanny Mommsen noted that the Council's posts on its social media are information from Public Health and the CDC. Myranda Walso shared that there are mechanisms in place to report misinformation being disseminated by medical providers.

OTHER

Committee Membership

Myranda Walso stated that regarding the membership of committees, the current bylaws have clauses for each of the standing committees that stipulate that a minimum of five and a maximum of 11 individuals can be assigned to serve on the committee. During the Council meeting, Council members shared their interest in inclusion on the

newly formed committees, and several committees had more than 11 individuals interested. One thing that had been discussed is the importance of incorporating and including participation from Council members in areas of interest, and not wanting to discourage or limit that in any way, and balancing that against the need for committees to be able to maintain an effective meeting schedule and meet quorum. Myranda suggested a discussion on amending the bylaws to address the committee capacity to allow for more than 11 members but still have a reasonable quorum requirement.

Myranda Walso noted that the only committee that there is confirmation of members is the temporary Transition Committee. At the Council meeting, there were Council members whose names had been put forward by the chair for inclusion on the Transition Committee. That action would need approval from the Executive Committee.

Heidi Lieb-Williams recommended that a new Transition Committee be formed that included herself as Council chair, Jena Crafton, Art Delaune, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Corey Gilmore, Travis Noah, Nona Safra, Ric Nelson, Dean Paul, and Charlene Tautfest.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to accept the five individuals nominated by Heidi Lieb-Williams to be a part of the transition team for hiring an executive director, **SECONDED** by Corey Gilmore. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion **PASSED**.

Heidi Lieb-Williams asked staff to notify the five individuals of the action taken and move forward with the follow-up communications related to the committee chair appointments. Myranda Walso also recommended reaching out to Council members absent from the Council meeting to gauge their preference regarding committee assignments and participation.

Myranda Walso brought forward whether or not to proceed with the executive director position posting as-is or to explore the job class itself, which has minimum qualifications for being eligible for the executive director position. Art Delaune recommended that the Transition Committee invite Justin Gunderson and Nicole Wery to the next meeting to get their input. Myranda Walso stated that once there's a Transition Committee meeting date, she will reach out to Justin and Nicole and invite them to join the meeting to help with the discussion.

Art Delaune recommended announcing that Kristin Vandagriff is leaving and the Council will be searching for a new executive director. Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus agreed. Myranda Walso noted that without explicit direction from the Transition Committee or Executive Committee, the staff is not authorized to release information or make statements regarding personnel matters.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve an announcement of Kristin Vandagriff's departure be sent out immediately, as they have done in the past. They may not have a complete job

description, but at least they make the announcement that they will be searching for a new executive director, **SECONDED** by Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus.

Myranda Walso raised a point of order: Decisions of the Transition Committee cannot be taken by the Executive Committee, and outside of the decisions to announce the departure and things like that, anything else has to be ratified by the Transition Committee separate from the Executive Committee. Art clarified that what he was proposing was not a Transition Committee agenda item. As an Executive Committee member, he moved to approve sending out those e-mails and request that a notice of Kristin's departure be sent out immediately as an Executive Committee function, not a Transition Committee function. Myranda Walso believed they had already done that earlier in the agenda, and she thought this was something different. The announcement of committee chairs and Kristin Vandagriff's departure would go out as an announcement, and she apologized for any misunderstanding. Art stated that he misunderstood, and if they already voted on this, he **WITHDRAWS THE MOTION**.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2021, 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT

Art Delaune **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Jena Crafton. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.