

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

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

**Zoom Videoconference
May 13 – 14, 2021**

Council Members:

Corey Gilmore – Chair
Heidi Lieb-Williams – Vice
Chair
Anna Attla
Jena Crafton
Art Delaune
Lyle Downing – not present
Don Enoch – not present
Margaret Evans
Dave Fleurant
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Joshua Gill
Alex Gimarc
Elizabeth Joseph

David Kohler – day 2
Sydney Krebsbach
John Lee
Duane Mayes
Sen. Peter Micciche – not
present
Molly McManamin
Mack McAnally – not
present
Travis Noah
Nona Safra
Charlene Tautfest
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich
Jennifer Zucati-Pirtle – day
1

Guests:

May 13th

Colleen Shivers
Ken Hamrick
Karen Ward
Lesley Thompson
Christie Reinhardt

May 14th

Commissioner Adam Crum
Deputy Commissioner
Albert Wall
Assistant Commissioner
Sylvan Robb
Colleen Shivers
Ken Hamrick
Karen Ward

Lesley Thompson
Mike Abbott
Jimael Johnson
Lizette Stiehr
Patrick Pillai

Council Staff:

Kristin Vandagriff, Executive Director
Anne Applegate, Planner III
Lanny Mommsen, Research Analyst III
Jamie Kokoszka, Program Coordinator I
Jessie Doherty, Program Coordinator II

Minutes Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Thursday, May 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 9:30 a.m.

Chair Gilmore welcomed Council members to the meeting. Roll call was taken, and **Kristin Vandagriff** reviewed meeting and Zoom etiquette. **Jess Doherty** educated Council members on the features of the Zoom webinar platform.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anne Applegate recognized that today the Council is all present on land in the state of Alaska. This land is also the historical home of 11 distinct Native Alaskan cultures. These diverse First Nations peoples are carriers of over 10,000 years of knowledge of this land, and they are actively shaping its present and guiding its future.

DD SHARED VISION

Kristin Vandagriff read the DD Shared Vision as follows:

Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job, and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff, and services available throughout the state now and into the future. **Corey Gilmore** added the phrase, “I like the life I choose with the supports I direct.” He noted they have made great strides toward this, but as they go through this meeting, Council members will note they have a long way to go in terms of realizing the Vision in a lot of places. This is where the Council is most important, and it’s where they can really effect change.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Charlene Tautfest MOVED to approve the February Governor’s Council meeting minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by **Sydney Krebsbach**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Jena Crafton MOVED to approve the agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by **Charlene Tautfest**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts of interest were declared.

VOTE FOR CHAIR

Kristin Vandagriff explained that when the Council voted for **Heidi Lieb-Williams** as vice chair a year ago, that included that she would work to assume the role as chair to the Council. She stated that the Council will now be making a confirmation vote for the chair position with Heidi Lieb-Williams starting in that role July

1st.

Heidi Lieb-Williams shared that she loves the Governor's Council and it is a huge passion for her. She has been working very hard and wants to make everyone proud. She will continue to learn throughout everything and into the chair position to be able to honor Alaska and everyone on the Council in the process.

Josh Gill MOVED to confirm Heidi Lieb-Williams as the chair starting July 1st, **SECONDED** by **Sydney Krebsbach**. Council members shared their thoughts on their excitement for Heidi to be leading the Council and felt that she will do a great job. Hearing no objection or further discussion, the motion **PASSED**.

Kristin Vandagriff wished Heidi a happy birthday yesterday on behalf of the Council.

Heidi Lieb-Williams shared a drawing she created of her and **Sydney Krebsbach**, and she shared the words: We help others to grow on their journey, inspire to bloom, and soar to new heights together leaving our thumbprint to help change the world. She stated that she and **Sydney** have grown a lot with their friendship through the Governor's Council, as the Council is the sole reason they got to know each other. She wished **Sydney** the best and knows that Washington is already waiting for her to join their council when she gets there. **Heidi** stated that Washington knows **Sydney** has a lot to offer from her experience on Alaska's Governor's Council. **Heidi** further shared that the tree branches depict how she views and sees **Sydney** personally. **Heidi** knows that as **Sydney** ventures out to Washington to help them, she will use the aspects depicted on the tree and will transfer them into her future. **Chair Gilmore** has no doubt that **Sydney** will show Washington what Alaska can do, and he is very proud of her and knows she will do great things.

Heidi Lieb-Williams further commented to all those leaving the Council that she loves working with everybody, and everyone has played a specific role in her personal growth. She stated that with all the changes that take place on the Council, everyone remains a part of the Governor's Council family.

CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kristin Vandagriff began her report by reminding Council members of the Council's mission, vision, and roles and reported to the Council as follows:

DD Council Role:

- Advocacy – to change what is to what should be.
- Capacity Building – making something stronger.
- Systems Change – making a system better so people can fit.

Council Member Leadership:

- Chair – **Corey Williams**
- Vice Chair – **Heidi Lieb-Williams**
- DD Chair – **Jena Crafton**
- Education Chair – **David Kohler**
- Early Intervention Chair – **Molly McManamin**
- Employment/Transportation Chair – **Anna Attla**
- Legislative Chair – **Art Delaune**
- FASD Workgroup Chair – **Meghan Clark**
- Medicaid Ad Hoc Chair – **Art Delaune**
- Autism Ad Hoc Chair – **Heidi Lieb-Williams**

Council Staff

- **Kristin Vandagriff** – Executive Director
- **Anne Applegate** – Planner III
- **Ian Miner** - Administrative Assistant II

- **Jessie Doherty** - Program Coordinator II
 - **Lanny Mommsen** – Research Analyst III
 - **Jamie Kokoszka** – Program Coordinator I
- Staff – Farewell to Elena Markova and Anne Applegate. Both positions have been posted and are closing soon.

Executive Director Highlights:

- Met regularly with DVR Director, Trust Program Officer, as well as DSDS Director and Deputy Director.
- Oversaw Council virtual legislative visits and follow-up efforts.
- Served on DD Collaborative Legislative Team.
- Served as Alaska State Captain for Disability Policy Seminar.
- Supported Alaskans to participate in Disability Policy Seminar.
- Facilitated stakeholder meetings with U.S. Congressional Delegation.
- Participated weekly on several National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) national calls, including as a member of the Public Policy Committee.
- Oversaw initial process to accept DD Council COVID funding.
- Monitored SFY 21 budget and processed SFY21 contracts.
- SFY22 budget review and monitoring of process.
- ACL Living Well Grant (semiannual reporting submitted; carryover amendment written and in-process).
- Attended coordinated calls and joint advocacy meetings with the Trust and Advisory Boards (weekly).
- Oversaw Trust reporting update (submitted March 2021).
- Supporting Five-Year State Plan development efforts.
- Oversaw DD Council Program Performance Reporting.
- Panelist for the Alaska Leadership Institute (April 2021).

- Presented to SDS All-Staff Gathering on the work of the Council (April 2021).
- Served as the Alaska Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator.
- Staff to Legislative, Medicaid Ad Hoc, and Executive Committees.
- Facilitated Developmental Disability Registration and Review (DDRR) recommendation efforts.
- Co-facilitated with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) the first meeting of the Alaska Work Matters Task Force in March.
- Supported Council members in developing several letters:
 - HB 133 and HB 103/SB89
 - Partner letters of support (DLC, CHD, LINKS)
 - Employment Services Proposed Regulations
 - Summary of February public testimony for state agency leadership
 - I/DD and APDD Waiver Renewal Application.

COVID-19 Resources

The following are some resources the Governor's Council has developed with partners to support Alaskans with disabilities and their families amidst the current pandemic:

- Alaska COVID-19 website: www.covid19.alaska.gov
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services COVID-19 Website: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>
- You may call the Alaska COVID-19 Care Line Phone Number at **(844) 985-8275**. They may offer resources and mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More resources for well-being: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Pages/Well-Being-Alaska.aspx>

Council resources, developed with partners, to support Alaskans with disabilities and their families amidst the current pandemic:

- **Alaska Specific Plain Language COVID-19 Toolkit:**
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/covid-19/Alaska-COVID-19-Toolkit.pdf>. This was a collaborative effort with the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.
- **FAQs – COVID-19 Stimulus Payments and ABLE Accounts:**
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/news/2020-Stimulus-FAQs--Accesible.pdf>. Collaboration with Department of Revenue and the Disability Law Center.
- **Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services FAQs:**
<https://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Extended-School-Year%20FAQs-- Accessible.pdf>. Collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- **Your Child’s Rights to Special Education During COVID-19:** <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/pdf/Rights-to-special-ed-COVID19-- Fact%20sheet.pdf>. Collaborative effort with Stone Soup Group and Disability Law Center.
- **Empowerment Through Employment Guide:**
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Documents/EmpowermentThroughEmployment.pdf>
This was a collaborative effort with the Trust and many other partners.

Other activities of the Council include:

Disability Pride Celebration:

- Save the date: July 26 – 30, 2021 from noon to 1:00 each day.
- Disability Pride means accepting and honoring each

person's uniqueness and seeing disability as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.

- Disability Pride awareness events promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.

Chair Gilmore shared messages as the chair regarding the following:

- Experiences from the Alaska Leadership Institute:
 - It was an experience in learning how one leads to become a better leader.
 - He was able to give a presentation that affected a lot of people and made them think about the DD system in a different way. One statement he made was, "We are all one accident away from needing services. If you needed services tomorrow, could you live within the DD system we have?" He received a lot of feedback that no one had ever heard that perspective before.
- The new Five-Year State Plan is all about the DD Vision. Sometimes when they talk about the DD Vision, they refer to it as a something to aspire to. People forget that the DD Vision needs constant work, and they need to work on it every day. As they think about moving this forward with the Council he asked, "If there was one thing you could change in the system, what would it be?" **Chair Gilmore** and **Kristin Vandagriff** asked Council members to post their remarks in the chat, in the interest of time, and those comments will be collected by staff for moving forward.
- Open Meetings Act reminder (discussions occur in meetings, not via e-mail). The Code of Conduct for Boards and Commissions was posted in the screenshare and reviewed with Council members.
- Council members can always attend Executive Committee

meetings, which usually occur the first Friday of the month from noon to 1:45 p.m.

Kristin Vandagriff shared upcoming activities for the Council to include:

The Known Horizon for 2021:

- Monitoring local, state, and federal mandates/guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (ongoing)
- Monitoring legislative/budget developments on a local, state, and federal level
- ACL Living Well semiannual reporting (October 2021)
- Some Council member terms expire June 30, 2021
- Completion of State Five-Year Plan (Due August 2021)
- Fall Council meeting (late September 2021)
- Program Performance Reporting as DD Council and State Plan Update (December 2021)

FY22 COUNCIL BUDGET

Kristin Vandagriff referred members of the Council to the image they received from Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which depicts the Council's budget for review and approval. She explained that the funding sources generally remain the same. Some changes they had include union-related salary increases for all staff except the executive director. She also highlighted that in SFY22 they will receive increased funding from the Trust through MHTAAR: \$50,000 for the planner position for work related to the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan (Comp Plan) as well as increased funding for employment work and \$70,000 for working on and facilitating the Empowerment Through Employment Conference.

Kristin Vandagriff then reviewed the budget image that depicts funding by source. She also noted the Council received a notice of award for COVID vaccination funding provided by the federal government in the amount of \$26,695, which was not included on this spreadsheet. This funding is very prescriptive and can only be spent on specific scopes of work. The Council has until September of 2022 to spend the COVID funding, and they will work with their other DD partners to maximize their impact with respect to vaccination of the I/DD population.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich MOVED to approve the FY'22 Council budget as presented, **SECONDED** by **Jena Crafton**. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Lanny Mommsen gave a brief COVID-19 update as follows:

- Alaska.gov COVID-19 website.
- As of May 12th, ages 12 to 15 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- People can schedule online through the website, or they can call the helpline at 1-907-646-3322. Language interpretation services are available through the helpline.
- Informational resources are also available through the website as is other vaccine data.
- Compared to the rest of the country, Alaska now falls in the middle in terms of numbers of people vaccinated.

Travis Noah stated that he has a youth he works with, and he wondered if there are any major side effects for youth 12 to 15.

Lanny Mommsen stated that the side effects are very similar to adults who have been vaccinated, injection site soreness and fatigue. She believes if there were any significant side effects,

this age group would not have been included in the emergency use authorization. She will look for an article that references this topic and post it on the Governor's Council Facebook page.

"LIVING WELL ON THE LAST FRONTIER" UPDATE

Kristin Vandagriff shared a PowerPoint presentation titled *Living Well on the Last Frontier*, and shared the following information:

Administration for Community Living (ACL) Grant:

- Five-year federal grant awarded to the Council:
 - \$392,000 per year.
 - Currently in year 3, which will conclude at the end of September.
 - October will usher in year 4 of that grant.
 - Due to the carryover funding, they may end up being able to extend their time period past the five years through application.
- Develop and coordinate model approaches:
 - Community monitoring
 - Community capacity building to enhance the independence, integration, safety, health, and well-being of individuals living in the community.
- Targets three different interrelated groups:
 - Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families/guardians
 - Service providers
 - Policymakers.

Overarching Goal:

The overarching goal of this project is to increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities through realization of our DD Vision.

Objectives:

1. Enhance the health and safety of individuals who experience developmental disabilities by increasing their independence, self-determination, community integration, employment, and participation.
2. Strengthen the knowledge and skills of direct support professionals to use evidenced-based and/or promising practices related to culturally and linguistically person-centered thinking and supported decision making, which may improve workforce stability, retention, and advancement.
3. Strengthen and elevate the leadership roles that self-advocacy organizations, Centers for Independent Living, and other peer support networks, working together with families and others, play in improving and assuring the quality of home and community-based services.
4. Enhance the effectiveness and coordination of efforts by the state, the DD Act network, and others to implement the HCBS settings rule and address rights violations in the HCBS service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities.

Grant Partners:

- Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (lead)
- Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust)
- Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLC)
- Peer Power, Inc.
- Key Coalition of Alaska
- State of Alaska Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS)
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)
- Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

- University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Human Development
- Alaska DD Systems Collaborative
- Hoping to add the Alaska Native Justice Center into the partnership.

Work To Date:

- Project Management Team meetings held quarterly.
- Professional Services Agreements and Reimbursable Service Agreements with renewals for year 3.
- Meetings with ACL, other state grant teams, Lewin Group (external evaluators), and Mission Analytics (technical assistance).
- Advisory presentation to the Council three times a year and at least annually to the DD Systems Collaborative.
- Small working groups continue to meet in between quarterly team meetings:
 - Evaluation
 - Environmental Modification (EMOD)/HomeMAP Assessment
 - Employment First
 - Challenging Behaviors
 - Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Integrated Settings Transition
 - Direct Service Professional/Provider (Person-Centered)
 - Plan of Care
 - Community Relationship Building (building natural supports)
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Supported Decision Making Agreements (SDMA).

Recent Activities:

- EMOD survey results. Surveys in the fall; one with care coordinators asking what works well, what doesn't. Maggie

Winston with SDS has used some of those results to incorporate that into new care coordinator trainings. Parent/caregiver survey comments will be incorporated in the future for future trainings.

- Alaska Work Matters Taskforce efforts.
- COVID Toolkit and I Have Rights guide. Worked with Maggie Winston to update these resources. Two separate webinars were held in a town hall format. Received good follow-up data from post-webinar surveys.
- DD Vision Town Halls and Self-Advocacy Empower Hour. The Council assisted Empower Hour by disseminating their flyer through GovDelivery bulletins and through public notice using Facebook. The group continues to meet once a month on the last Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Zoom.
- Supported Decision Making Symposium. Three-day symposium held in March that was well attended. People shared stories about lived experience, and they also covered funding and the legal process.
- Centralized reporting and mandatory reporter efforts.
- Disability Pride Summer Celebration. National and Alaskan self-advocates will be presenting. Disability Pride Celebration has grown statewide and is including more advocates leading than just agency staff.

Work Products Resulting from the Grant:

- Alaska Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities Guide
- COVID-19 Resource Toolkit – updated version.
- 5th Annual Peer Power Self-Advocacy Summit – save the date, September 24 – 26, 2021. Registration is open. Looking at a hybrid attendance option of in person in Anchorage and via distance.
- New resource preview – “I Have Rights – Access, Choice, Community, Dignity and Respect, Privacy, Safety, Work.” Formal launch will be forthcoming. This was a collaborative

project with SDS and Maggie Winston.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Corey Gilmore opened the floor to Council members to bring forward new business. No additional business was brought forward from the floor.

VOTE FOR COUNCIL OFFICER POSITIONS

To ensure only Council members were voting, **Lanny Mommsen** posted a survey link in the chat box to panelists only. The duties of the positions were displayed on the screenshare, and **Kristin Vandagriff** reviewed the duties with Council members.

Council Vice Chair: One-year term. The floor was open to nominations as follows:

- **Molly McManamin** nominated **Jena Crafton**, seconded by **Charlene Tautfest**. Nomination accepted.
- **Travis Noah** was nominated.
- **Anna Attla** was nominated.

Elections were held, and **Jena Crafton** was elected for a one-year term starting in July.

Legislative Committee Chair: One-year term. The floor was open to nominations as follows:

- **Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus** nominated **Art Delaune**, seconded by **Sydney Krebsbach**. Nomination accepted.
- **Jennifer Zucati-Pirtle** was nominated.
- **Charlene Tautfest** nominated **Alex Gimarc**. Nomination withdrawn.
- **Travis Noah** was nominated.

Elections were held, and **Art Delaune** was elected for a one-year term starting in July.

Molly McManamin asked if the Council has thought about doing co-chairs. **Kristin Vandagriff** noted that it would require a bylaws amendment. **Anne Applegate** stated that they have done it informally without a bylaw amendment, and people have shared duties. Where it becomes an issue is in Executive Committee membership. Because of the bottleneck in representation created because of that, **Chair Gilmore** made a conscious decision to ensure they didn't do that.

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER AND STAFF RECOGNITION

- Meghan Clark
- Josh Gill
- David Kohler
- Sydney Krebsbach
- Anne Applegate
- Elena Markova

Kristin Vandagriff wanted to be sure to recognize those individuals leaving the Council, and **Ian Miner** will be sending Council members a recognition item.

Chair Gilmore opened up the floor to any Council members or staff to comment.

Anne Applegate thanked everyone noting the great e-mails and calls from partners. She is honored to have had the opportunity to work with such great staff and Council members. It has also been a great experience having worked for and learned from **Kristin Vandagriff**. She thanked everyone for the opportunity and noted that she will still be around in a consultant capacity.

Kristin stated that they will miss **Anne**, but they are glad she will still be a part of and active in the disability community. **Kristin** highlighted some of **Anne's** work including supported decision making, the traditional skills curriculum, and the State Plan.

Jena Crafton appreciated **Anne Applegate's** help with the DD Committee. She also shared that it was great serving with **Sydney Krebsbach, Meghan Clark, Josh Gill, and David Kohler**, and they will be missed.

Josh Gill thanked everybody on the Council for all he's learned in such a short time. Although his time on the Council is ending, his advocacy won't stop and he looks forward to participating as a community member and in other statewide advocacy opportunities.

Sydney Krebsbach reflected on her history with the Governor's Council. She has learned a lot from her time on the Council, and it has raised her advocacy level. She is sad that her term is coming to an end, but she hopes to serve on a DD board or commission in Spokane. She is grateful she was able to make friends along the way and help advocate for people with autism and other disabilities. She also noted that even though she never held a seat on the Council, she was inducted into the NACDD Leadership Circle.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus noted that things always change, and this year it seems like there is more change than ever. As chair of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) board, they are really going to miss **Meghan Clark, Molly McManamin, Elena Markova, and Josh Gill**. She thanked them for their service on the SESA board and for all they have taught her over the years.

Director John Lee thanked everyone who has served. He values everything he has learned from members of the Council.

He also thanked them for their obligation and commitment and the time they spent helping the State and their peers get the services they deserve and need.

Kristin Vandagriff thanked everyone for their service and noted that it has been a pleasure to get to work with such a fantastic Council.

Margaret Evans wanted to let the outgoing members know that she will miss them, and she enjoyed working with them. **Anne Applegate** stated that it has been a pleasure to work with **Margaret** as well.

STATE FIVE-YEAR PLAN DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Anne Applegate directed Council members to the timeline of the development of the State Five-Year Plan and reviewed the State Plan development process.

Step 1: October 1 – December 31, 2020: Progress Review
Staff reviews vision and progress of the last Five-Year Plan – Complete.

Step 2: January – March 2020: Comprehensive Review and Analysis
Staff does comprehensive data research in categories from the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act – Complete.

Step 3: March 1 – May 2020: Public Input and Analysis (Phase 1)
Staff gathers public input on issues of importance, analyzes and develops summaries for Council. Complete.

Step 4: May 2020: Priorities Selected

Council meets to hear public input and staff summaries; determine priorities for Council focus. Complete.

Step 5: June – September 30, 2020: Draft Plan
Staff uses public input on priority areas, develops goal recommendations for Council.
Fall Council Meeting: Council selects goals and approves a public review draft of goals, objectives, strategies. Complete.

Step 6: October – December 5, 2020: Open Public Comment
Council announces an open 45-day public comment period. Complete.

Step 7: February 1 – 2, 2021: Public Comment Review (Phase 1)
Council reviews public comments and approves draft plan as written. Complete.

Step 8: April 2, 2021: Public Comment Review (Phase II)
Not needed.

Step 9: May 2021: Work plans, bylaws, committees, workgroups.

Step 10: August 15, 2021: Plan Submission
Staff submits the Plan to AIDD in ACL reporting system

Recommendation from Executive Committee

Anne Applegate reviewed the preamble of an e-mail sent out to Council members as follows:

The Council has chosen the goals and objectives for the next Five-Year Plan for its work as the Developmental Disabilities Council for Alaska. The Administration on Community Living (ACL) asks staff to submit their two-year work plan for activities to

work on for the first two years of the Five-Year Plan when staff submits the Five-Year Plan on August 15th. Work items in the document you're about to see in its proposed form have been built from information learned from community forums and survey input, staff research and reports to the Council, the discussion on priorities that the Council had in May of 2020, feedback from partners, and the recent committee recommendations on current existing work plans. Each staff member created a list of possible work activities within their areas of work and expertise. We had two half-day staff meetings three weeks apart to allow for additional research and follow up with partners between drafting meetings. Staff honed the focus on outputs and outcomes in order to build logic models that reached the Council's chosen goals and objectives. We considered likely funding levels and reduced staffing constraints. We also discussed work done under other Council roles and work done by partners to think about alignment with them, cohesiveness across the state, and to avoid redundancy of activities and objectives.

The staff process of developing these two-year work items was consistent with our DD Act guidance from the Administration on Community Living. The document that you're going to see has been reviewed and supported by our federal technical assistance representative for DD Act compliance. And staff in most other states have given input in our Communities of Practice webinars that they do not actually seek input or get review from their councils regarding submission to ACL of the set of work activities for the two-year work plan. But in our practice and our preference as admin, because the work will be done in the name of the Council to advance your chosen goals and objectives, it's being presented to the Council for a round-robin comment opportunity and a non-binding advisory vote.

Kristen Vandagriff referred Council members to the approved goals and objectives noting that the activities have been

embedded within each area. The Executive Committee reviewed this at their May 6th meeting. Between now and August 15th, staff need to work to build from the activities, evaluation components, outputs, outcomes, and specifically targeted performance measures, which are required for compliance with the State Plan.

Chair Gilmore added that the Executive Committee works in a vacuum, and the full Council only meets three times a year. Anyone who would like to is welcomed to join in Executive Committee meetings to provide their input. He also noted that he welcomes Council member input into the work plan as they work toward operationalizing the DD Vision. He would like Council members to consider these activities in terms of where they might fit and how they can contribute.

GCDSE Five-Year State Plan 2022 – 2026 Goals and Objectives APPROVED with Proposed Work Items for Two-Year Work Plans

Anne Applegate directed members of the Council to the goals and objectives that have been approved and reviewed as follows:

Goal 1 – Community Inclusion, Supports & Services. People with developmental disabilities will have increased access to a flexible system of meaningful supports and services in their homes and communities to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities living the lives they choose.

Objective 1 - Choice & Independence in Long-Term Supports and Services: People will have information, training, tools, and programs for systems change, supported decision-making, strategies and technology for independence, community-building, and more to increase the number of adults with developmental disabilities who

choose and direct their long-term supports and services.

Key Activities:

- Supported Decision-Making:
 - Contribute to, promote, facilitate one published resource, handbook, set of training slides, or tool for Supported Decision-Making and Agreements.
 - Provide one statewide event, conference, summit per year for stakeholders and professional service providers on Supported Decision-Making and Agreements.
 - In addition to the statewide event, provide or support at least three trainings to DD service professionals, including service provider staff, special education professionals, and/or State court system staff.
- Assistive Technology:
 - Collaborate with partners in at least one project to improve, develop, and/or promote assistive technology that can increase independence.
- Increasing Social Connections:
 - Support projects or programs for increasing independence through building social connections (i.e., program that: pairs families for co-support, incentivizes long-term mentorships, recruits and screens volunteer “supporters” cohort, facilitates collaborative projects, or builds information resource for faith-based membership choices).
- Public Testimony:
 - Provide at least three opportunities per year for public stakeholder input on systems change for choice and independence.
- Changing Systems and Policies (with Legislative Committee):
 - Develop Speakers Bureau. Year 1, seek partners to

develop speaker group of self-advocates, survey stakeholders, make a draft plan for development and sustainability of speaker group of people with lived experience; Year 2, shop plan around for input, write final plan, set up application process; Year 3, offering trainings to speakers, create online resource list and roster of speakers with subjects; Year 4, promote and facilitate speakers and subjects; Year 5, find permanent home for Speakers Bureau, then support and promote in new home.

- Facilitate annual state legislative visits for self-advocates and parent Council members.
- Facilitate annual federal legislative visits with Alaska's U.S. Congressional delegation for self-advocates and parent Council members.
- Support two Council member advocates to attend/participate in a national legislative or policy advocacy training (DPS, TASH, etc.).
- Support two Council member advocates to participate in local community planning or program organization to advocate on changes that impact people with developmental disabilities.
- Develop at least two position papers for educating state legislators and policymakers on the impacts on Alaskans with DD of policy and/or legislative proposals or issues.
- Participate in at least four annual disability awareness campaigns in collaboration with state and national partners (which could include: DD Awareness Month, Autism Awareness Month, FASD Awareness Month/Day, Disability Employment Awareness).

Objective 2 - Housing: People with developmental disabilities and their families will have information, training, tools, and programs

for housing accessibility, housing availability, housing rights, landlord-tenant relations, cohabitation strategies, and more to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who live where and with whom they choose.

Key Activities:

- Contribute to, develop, and/or promote one information resource tool annually (brochure, guide, training slide deck, infographic, etc., including an online version) on eligibility for and availability of environmental modification (EMOD) services.
- In collaboration with partners, explore barriers to utilization of EMOD services for reporting to out at three public meetings attended by Council members, state agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Collaborate with partners to identify barriers to entry or certification for ADA-trained contractors, and report to Council and stakeholders on barriers.
- Develop, support, or contribute to one training for individuals with DD with DD Act partners and/or other partners such as Alaska Legal Services on housing rights, landlord-tenant obligations, and dispute resolutions.
- Support or develop one research document on successful co-housing options and/or planned communities to educate people with developmental disabilities and families about options and/or development processes for co-housing and planned communities.
- Collaborate with self-advocates and other partners to develop one information resource on how perceptions of disability create barriers to living where and with whom people choose, including first-person stories about why having housing choice matters.

Objective 3 - Health and Healthcare: People will have

information, training, tools, and programs about Medicaid services, home-and community-based services, health and wellbeing, community events and activities, and more to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan who are living full and meaningful lives.

Key Activities:

- Develop and maintain an online list of Ph.D. level psychiatrists/medical doctors, neurodevelopmental screening professionals, and primary care providers so that individuals with developmental disabilities across the lifespan may have an enhanced access to diagnosis, evaluations, and treatment.
- Participate in, promote, and/or contribute to at least three statewide events, town halls, conferences, or trainings per year on full and meaningful lives, healthcare, health and well-being, HCBS, and/or Medicaid (i.e., Full Lives, Autism Conference, FASD State of the State, Disability and Aging Summit, etc.).
- Annually, sponsor the attendance of at least two Council members who experience DD or are family members at statewide events, town halls, conferences, and/or trainings on full and meaningful lives, health and well-being, HCBS, and/or Medicaid.
- Provide at least three opportunities per year for public stakeholder input on Medicaid services, home and community-based services, health and well-being, and community events and activities.
- Monitor, review, and make recommendations on at least two proposed regulations and/or statutes annually that impact Medicaid services, home and community-based services, health and well-being, and community events and activities.
- Develop one recommendation or guidance document, based on stakeholder input, on self-directed services.

- Using social media, promote events and information on meaningful lives, health and well-being, healthcare, Medicaid services, and/or HCBS (i.e., Full Lives, Autism Conference, FASD State of the State, etc.).

Objective 4 - Education & Early Development: People with developmental disabilities across the lifespan and their families will have information, training, tools, and programs to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities included with nondisabled age peers in infant daycare, preschools, K-12, and post-secondary education.

Key Activities:

- Monitor and report on progress on statewide developmental screening task force for newborns.
- Explore need for official reporting on suspension and expulsion for infants and toddlers.
- Monitor and report on statewide seclusion and restraint data in grades K-12, educating parents about statewide seclusion and restraint data in grades K-12, and advocate for publication of this data on DEED website.
- Support, develop, and/or contribute to two trainings on Positive Behavior Supports across early childhood learning environments and/or in grades pre-K-12 to reduce restraints, seclusion, and exclusionary discipline.
- Increase awareness of cyberbullying and bullying prevention strategies (K-postsecondary), and fostering respectful behavior (early childhood) across learning environments through collaboration with the state Parent, Training, and Information Center on the development of two information resources.
- Educate parents about screening and eligibility processes for getting disability-related services for infants, toddlers, and children aged 3-22.

- Provide one training, with partners, for adults with developmental disabilities about post-secondary education matters, including accommodation requests, assessment options, verification of need, assistive technology for education, and accessibility strategies.
- Complete one statewide outreach meeting or event with partners supporting career advancement through post-secondary education.
- Monitor, review, and make recommendations on at least two proposed regulations and/or statutes annually that impact inclusion of people with developmental disabilities with nondisabled age peers in infant daycare, preschools, K-12, and post-secondary education.
- Provide at least three opportunities per year for public stakeholder input on barriers to inclusion of people with developmental disabilities with nondisabled age peers in infant daycare, preschools, K-12, and post-secondary education.

Objective 5 - Emerging Needs: People with developmental disabilities and their families will have information, training, and tools to prepare for them for personal emergencies, natural disasters, and/or other emergent circumstances to increase personal safety and the security of services, supports, and self-determined choices.

Key Activities:

- Participate in at least one statewide emergency preparedness and planning coalition to improve the responsiveness of emergency systems to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.
- Collaborate with self-advocacy organizations and other partners in one event to increase awareness of impacts of epidemic or pandemic health crises, personal emergencies,

unforeseen service system disruptions, and/or natural disasters on people with developmental disabilities.

- Collaborate with self-advocacy organizations and other partners to respond to emergent situations that impact people with developmental disabilities by distributing public information on various platforms, promoting official state-issued advisories and orders, and publishing referral resources to increase the safety and well-being of people with developmental disabilities.
- Provide one training on increasing emergency preparedness for people with developmental disabilities per year.
- Provide at least one outreach and informational resource on emergency preparedness for use at community events, fairs, conference exhibit tables, stakeholder meetings, and social events (SKIP Kits, brochure, infographic postcard, poster, banner, etc.).
- Collaborate with a self-advocacy organization and other partners to obtain current data on perceptions of personal safety of Alaskans with developmental disabilities.

Goal 2 -Self-Advocacy and Leadership (required). People with developmental disabilities will have increased access to education, tools, and opportunities for self-advocacy across the lifespan to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities expressing their vision for their lives in local, state, and national forums.

Objective 1 - DD Shared Vision Implementation: People with developmental disabilities will have information on the Shared Vision and will have opportunities to actively participate in planning and implementation of the Shared Vision to increase the number of people who understand the Shared Vision and the number who live the life they choose with the supports they direct.

Key Activities:

- Annually, collaborate with a self-advocacy organization and other partners to support at least one statewide event led by self-advocates (conference, stakeholder meeting) to review DD Shared Vision goals and objectives, and to plan future activities and collaborations to implement the Vision.
- Produce at least two informational outreach resources about the Vision for use at community events, fairs, conference exhibit tables, stakeholder meetings, and social events (brochure, infographic postcard, poster, banner, etc.).
- Led by a self-advocacy organization and in collaboration with other partners, create video content explaining the Vision and its impact on people's lives.
- Collaborate with a statewide DD self-advocacy organization on at least one statewide legislative advocacy training per year (with Legislative Committee).
- Contribute to, support, or promote one publication, training, video, or conference that is a legislative/policy advocacy training resource (Legislative Committee).

Objective 2 - Support Self-Advocacy Organization: A self-advocacy organization will have direct funding support; and information, training, and tools for success to increase its membership, sustainability, and organizational outreach.

Key Activities:

- Led by the self-advocacy organization, provide at least one professional training for board members per year, including organizational management, fundraising, ethics, board recruitment, and/or Democratic Rules of Order.
- Led by the self-advocacy organization, develop two outreach resources for increasing membership and statewide

representation in the organization.

- Led by the self-advocacy organization, collaborate with DD Act partners to provide technical assistance/advice on two of the following: business structure, board responsibilities and obligations, recruitment strategies, and compliance with grant conditions from funders.
- Provide funding for two at-large members of a self-advocacy organization to participate in a national conference on self-advocacy.

Goal 3 -Employment. People with developmental disabilities will have access to supports, services, programs, and training necessary for successful transitions to adulthood, meaningful work experiences, integrated and competitive employment, as well as career development, across the lifespan.

Objective 1 - Employment First Implementation: People will have information, training, tools, and programs on telework, the State as a Model Employer, employment rights, and universally designed work environments to increase the percentage of people with disabilities with meaningful, integrated, competitive employment in typical work settings.

Key Activities:

- Collaborate with the Alaska Work Matters Task Force and partner agencies on at least two improved employment policies, procedures, or regulations annually.
- Work with partners to participate in at least two employment activities annually, such as: job fairs, transition fairs, conferences, and/or statewide stakeholder meetings or trainings.
- Create at least one outreach event per year to increase understanding of the State as a Model Employer of

individuals with disabilities, including awareness and utilization of DVR Provisional Hire, exploring a centralized accommodation fund, accessibility of online platforms exploration, and universal designed work environments and policies.

- Collaborate with partners in at least one project or program that provides information, grants, and/or tools for self-employment across the lifespan.
- Participate in at least one state agency transportation committee to improve transportation policies and increase transportation reliability and accessibility.
- Explore availability of telework as an option for people with developmental disabilities.
- Update Transition Handbook: Update website, promote employment resources on social media.
- Provide and promote three opportunities per year for statewide stakeholder input on concerns and ideas on employment and transportation.

Objective 2 - Traditional Transition: Transition-aged youth (14-22) with developmental disabilities will have increased information, education services, training, and tools that are regionally, culturally, and linguistically relevant to them to increase the number of young adults in rural communities with skills for meaningful, place-based adulthood.

Targeted Disparity: In collaboration with people with developmental disabilities, their families, and stakeholders, the unequal availability of educational resources for regionally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate transitions to adulthood in the Southwest region of rural Alaska will be decreased through capacity building by curriculum development, outreach, and training.

Key Activities:

- Support and contribute to development of modified curriculum that is regionally, culturally, and linguistically relevant for rural transitions in three regions of the state.
- Collaborate with partners on a plan for collecting baseline data on rural transitions, developing a pilot using the curriculum, and measuring progress.
- Provide at least three trainings to educators on the use of the curriculum.
- Provide at least two trainings to parents and guardians on availability of the curriculum.
- Promote the pilot in at least two meetings with policymakers annually (state and national).
- Provide at least one opportunity for stakeholder input on education for transitions to adulthood in rural Alaska.

[Year 1 & 2: Finish the Rural Transitions curriculum, create a pilot]

[Year 3: Expand reach; new units? Data collection]

[Year 4: Course correction, expand reach, sustainability work]

[Year 5: Impact data; share with other states, BIA Education, rural education groups]

[Targeted Disparity guidance for special considerations on support for choosing population, disparity, data collection, and reporting; scalable to a region is a mandatory consideration.]

Memorandum of Understanding/Assurances Update

Kristin Vandagriff explained that another component they have to have when they submit the Five-Year Plan is a Memorandum of Understanding/Assurances document. She thanked **Anne Applegate** for all her efforts looking through the federal DD Act and working with technical assistance staff at NACDD to ensure they crafted everything that is needed for the Council. The

Executive Committee provided feedback on the document, and **Director Lee** helped them forward it up through administration. It is currently sitting with the Governor's office. **Director Lee** further explained that the MOU/Assurances document was delivered to the Governor's office in March. They have been in dialogue with the Governor's office, and they have assured SDS it is in process. SDS will continue to track its progress.

Activities Discussion

Chair Gilmore asked **Kristin Vandagriff** to go down the roll call sheet to allow each Council member five minutes of questions and/or comments.

Travis Noah commented about the technology activity in the work plan. He noted that it is particularly important to him because he is a user of a vast amount of technology. He also commented that in terms of the activities of the plan, everybody's needs are so different in terms of what works and what doesn't, and he wondered how it could be written into the waiver system well enough that gives flexibility. He shared that people have brought that concern to him.

Anna Attla understood and approves of the activities and has no questions at this time.

Ken Hamrick thinks the activities are very clear and appreciates the work in rural Alaska and Southwest Alaska making sure they are dealing with regionally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate alternatives for people as opposed to language that focuses more on the road system. He has a lot of thoughts and ideas about some of the policy/advocacy work in terms of collaborating with SDS. He believes there is a lot of work there to do to get the Vision be something that is actually implemented as opposed to something that's just on paper. He appreciates the opportunity to

be here and be part of the Council going forward.

Jena Crafton stated that she thinks the activities discussion went really well and agrees with Ken's comments about rural Alaska.

Art Delaune commented that he appreciates the way the Shared Vision is woven into all of the goals, objectives, and activities. He believes it's important they continue to make the Shared Vision visible to everyone outside of the DD community. He noted that one of the tools to get them to a Shared Vision is moving toward a social model rather than a medical model. He wonders if in some of these activities they could figure out ways to open the discussions more towards moving towards a social model that is much more supportive than a medical model for people with developmental disabilities. **Anne Applegate** shared that one of the things they are going to instruct staff to do is to review and pay attention to particular types of terms because language often defines perspective. That will be one of the final wrap ups on the work plans for the first two years is to screen through and look for the differences in those two perspectives and language use. **Art** is hoping over the next five years they can make some of these changes.

Under changing system and policies with the Legislative Committee under the first goal and objective and developing the speaker group of self-advocates, **Art Delaune** wondered what the definition of a "self-advocate" is, since it is used in multiple locations in the document. Technically everyone is a self-advocate at some point in their life, but are they specifically talking about people with disabilities learning to advocate for choices and supports in their life? **Anne Applegate** noted that she wanted to call everybody advocates and then define whether somebody is an advocate with lived experience or an advocate with professional expertise, et cetera. Unfortunately, the DD Act still uses the language "self-advocacy," so they have to put it in

the State Plan that way. The Act defines it by diagnosis which is, of course, part of the medical model. Until there are changes at the level of the ACL, they will need to continue to do it that way. **Art** further commented that as Council members, they are all self-advocates as well as systems advocates, so it's really blurred.

Art Delaune appreciates all the work that's been done with this, and he fully approves this plan.

Margaret Evans has no additional comments to make at this time.

As they were reviewing the activities, **Dave Fleurant** couldn't help but think of ways the Disability Law Center of Alaska could coordinate and collaborate with the Council in doing some of these activities, particularly with respect to advocacy. He believes the goals and objectives are consistent with what the Disability Law Center is trying to do.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus commented that she is really proud of the Council in that they do seem to be blazing trails, and they are probably trails that shouldn't need to be blazed. They had a lot of discussion at the FASD Workgroup meeting about where FASD fits into all of this. She believes the Council walks the walk, and that's another reason why this sounds very appropriate for the direction that they need to and want to be going, that they are taking something that was developed here mostly by consumers and putting it into a more accountable document, and it becomes the way they do things. It is definitely commendable, and she approves of the activities. She feels there has been a lot of effort put into this, and it's truly an accomplishment of everyone involved.

Josh Gill agreed with **Travis Noah's** comments in that he thinks the flexibility of the activities is key, especially when it comes to

activities in rural Alaska. He thinks they need to find a way to balance that, whether it's technology or whatever it is, because there are a lot of people in rural Alaska that would participate in many of these activities. He also added that his community is a word-of-mouth community in terms of advertising, so how can the Council reach people in rural Alaska so they really know what is going on? The Council is doing some really great things, but how can they make people in rural Alaska aware of them?

Chair Gilmore shared his pride in the deep and thoughtful comments from Council members. He stated that it's hard to get everything into one document. The current plan contains things they thought of at the time based on stakeholder input. He is very proud that the Council is going to be taking up the work of the DD Vision because the DD Collaborative is changing over in the next year or so. He noted that he won't be chair of the Council after June, but he will continue on the Council. He plans to focus his time and energy on special education and preparing children for transition to adulthood at an early age.

Elizabeth Joseph agreed with **Josh Gill**. She felt that rural Alaska lacks the support system they need, especially during COVID, which has made things much harder and heavier on her family with her children being out of school.

Sydney Krebsbach shared that she is proud of what the Council has been doing, especially during the pandemic with activities people should be doing and how to keep people entertained and less isolated at home. In the beginning she was feeling isolated, and yet people say people on the autism spectrum are used to being alone and isolated, which isn't true. They need to be around people and socialize, and it's been difficult being away from jobs, friends, and family.

Molly McManamin feels confident about the plan moving

forward. She is enjoying hearing everybody else's comments.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich thanked everyone for all the hard work that went into this plan. She is always amazed at the dedication and follow up on all of it. Implementing the DD Vision has always been something she truly supports and has been very involved in. One of the things she was encouraged to see was Objective 5 on the emerging needs, and the need to prepare everyone for personal emergencies. What really brought that home to her was the pandemic. It was a revelation for her personally in how she was not prepared in the event that she came down with COVID. It prompted her to realize she needed to put together and updated folder on pertinent information regarding Claire that people know how and where to access.

What **Shelly** would like to see in the future under Objective 4, education and early development, is a focus on special education in general. She feels that's one of the balls that is getting dropped. The Council is very supportive of disabilities and the DD Vision, but in the name of the Governor's Council is "Special Education." There are so many problems in the schools and the districts with issues including inclusion, inaccurate data being reported to the State, and following IEPs. She would like to see the Council have some goals and objectives around that. How can the Council help with that, especially since the Council is the SEAP? Perhaps this can be a new focus for the Education Committee once staff has been hired and the group reconvenes. She sees this as a huge hole. **Shelly** closed by thanking everyone for all the work, noting that it is an honor being on the Council with everyone.

Anne Applegate wanted to reassure **Shelly** that inclusion has a narrow connotation in that it's about making sure that kids are in close proximity to their non-disabled age peers. In order for them to be in close proximity, they have to have a good IEP, and they

have to have an appropriate set of accommodations and services and modified curriculum. In the State Plan, looking at the ways to describe all of the various characteristics of access to a quality, appropriate, individualized education, the one term that fits all of those things is actually “inclusion.” Even when it means there are pullouts that are segregation for a time period that are about developing skills for reintegrating, it’s still under the term of inclusion. What **Anne** wants **Shelly** to take heart in is that nothing in this set of activities or objectives excludes what **Shelly** just described as an activity.

Heidi Lieb-Williams shared that she is super excited about the next five years of the plan and for the changes the Council will be making. The more she understands about the home and community-based services and how things are not going well for certain people within that, she wants to make sure that in the next five years, what is happening now with services or education or whatever it is for any type of disability, at the end they can look back and show that those are done and they can say they no longer have those issues.

Jennifer Zucati-Pirtle commented that one thing she would add is that whatever activities are developed is that they collaborate with school districts to help develop buy-in for the mission and more dedication from the school districts as a whole. There are still underrepresented groups all over Alaska, and even in the Mat-Su Valley. With COVID, there is a dire need for adaptation, assistance with technology, and more community awareness.

Nona Safra thinks the State Plan is wonderful and incorporates so much of what they have discussed. Given the seat that she holds representing the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), the fact that “across the lifespan” is included throughout the document is really important. She mentioned that **Travis** brought up the technology piece, and **Nona** noted that ACoA recently met, and

technology came up as a topic there also and was discussed with eight senior centers, two veteran's groups, and two healthcare providers. What came out of that was the fact that when we deal with technology, we also have to deal with some of the statutes, because what they are asking is that we abide by online access. It sounds great until you realize that a lot of areas lack broadband connectivity. People lack e-mail addresses, credit cards, and some seniors don't have computers. When the DMV debacle happened where they wanted people to access DMV online, they didn't account for people who lived in villages and remote areas that don't have the access to do it. We need to be sure that the legislature ensures that the statutes and what is being required go hand in hand. What good is having the technology when we cannot use it in Alaska?

Director Duane Mayes echoed what **Nona** just mentioned specific to technology. It was a discussion they had at the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) recently, and **Travis Noah**, who is also an SVRC member, brought up those issues. He recently saw something come out from the Governor's office around the creation of a task force specific to the issue of broadband throughout the state of Alaska. He noted that they were thinking about petitioning the Governor's office to see if they can get someone from DVR to sit on this task force to bring the disability perspective. **Director Mayes** believes there is some money coming into the state specific to broadband, and given the fact that they live in a virtual world right now, and broadband is an important aspect specific to rural Alaska. **Kristin Vandagriff** noted that staff will check that out and send the information out to Council members. It's a great idea to see if they could have a seat representing the disability population. **Director Mayes** further stated that the broadband issue has always been front and center for the Governor's Council. Now more than ever, that plays a key role going forward.

FINAL VOTE ON ACTIVITIES

Anne Applegate stated that this is an advisory vote to affirm the work activities in the first two-year work plan.

Ken Hamrick **MOVED** to affirm the activities for the first two years of the proposed Five-Year Plan, **SECONDED** by **Jena Crafton**. A roll call vote was taken with 15 yeas and two members unavailable for the vote. The motion **PASSED**.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public testimony was heard and a full transcript was prepared.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:30 at the conclusion of public testimony.

Friday, May 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – 9:30 a.m.

Corey Gilmore welcomed Council members to the meeting. Roll call was taken.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No introductions or announcements were made.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Kristin Vandagriff reviewed minor adjustments to the day's agenda with Council members. **Sydney Krebsbach** **MOVED** to approve the amendments to the agenda, **SECONDED** by **Charlene Tautfest**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Chair Gilmore offered another opportunity for Council members to declare a conflict of interest based on the day's amended agenda. No conflicts were declared.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT – FIRST COUNCIL READING

Kristin Vandagriff stated that they incorporated feedback from the last Council meeting and committee meetings to develop a graphic depicting the current committee structure as is defined by the bylaws. She noted that each new Five-Year State Plan has to use its standing committees to do the work of the new plan. An additional graphic showed the goals from the current Five-Year State Plan.

Anne Applegate noted the current five standing committees of the Council that are in the bylaws by name, Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Education Committee, Early Intervention Committee, and Developmental Disabilities Committee. She noted that the chair of the Legislative Committee serves as a stand-in position on the Executive Committee if the vice chair position is vacated. The Education, Early Intervention, and Developmental Disabilities Committees are the standing committees that have to follow the rules for committee membership and have to take delegation of their duties from the Executive Committee and the work plans. Under the current structure they also have Medicaid, Autism, and Employment and Transportation Ad Hoc Committees as well as the Workgroup on FASD. In addition to these eight total committees, staff are also working on the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), and work on the governance of Special Education Services Agency (SESA).

Anne further explained that all of that work is done now by two program coordinator IIs that are upper level and have expertise

across a variety of areas, and they're intended to have to be able to manage different projects and collaboration with other partners. They also have a program coordinator I who is supposed to assist in the work of those individual projects and have narrower areas of work. They also have a research analyst to do work across all of the areas helping make sure the Council is collecting good data and asking the right questions for whether or not they are achieving their goals and objectives set in the State Plan. The planner and executive director are in more of an administrative role to help all the inputs, staffing, and funding and making sure that they can implement a large plan over time. There are currently eight committees/groups, and there are three program staff plus a researcher.

Recommendation from Executive Committee

Kristin Vandagriff stated that Executive Committee met on May 6th and reviewed this chart as well as the document depicting the first reading of the proposed change to the bylaws. She noted that **Anne** has done a great job working with technical assistance staff at NACDD to really understand how to best align the bylaws with the DD Act and making sure there is clear delineation of the separateness of the roles such as the ICC and SEAP, which are separate from the DD Act plan.

Kristin Vandagriff further explained that the revisions entail renaming the three standing committees that would align with the goals that have been approved for the new State Plan. She noted that it is not just efficiency for staff and Council members, but it brings clarity to the work and the roles and clearly disburses the workload of the State Plan among committees. She noted that for budgeting purposes, it also clarifies it by isolating it to the three committees. The recommendation of the Executive Committee was to bring this chart and first reading to the full Council.

Chair Gilmore shared that the first time this concept was introduced to the Council, it was overly complicated. They took that into consideration and determined that they are just renaming the three committees and doing some cleanup on the bylaws. The goal is not to dismantle the Council, it's just to get it into better compliance and provide a clear path going forward. He also noted that this is just the first reading, and the second reading will take place in September.

Anne Applegate explained that in 2018, the Trump administration was looking at cost savings and reviewing all of the departments and agencies to see where funding was being wasted or was outside of the authorities for its spending. The result of that was the guidance to the DD councils that the ACL would be looking closely at the use of the federal DD council grant funds and to ensure that the populations that were included in the work of DD councils were for the people described in the DD Act, families and people who experienced developmental disabilities. They were also looking to see that federal DD funds were not being used for the purposes of state government assignments or directions. They were also going to look at any conflicting roles or activities that were not in the goals and objectives that had been approved by councils and also approved by the ACL as being compliant and aligned with the DD Act. Since they received this direct guidance, the Council had to reflect on their relationship with the TABI Advisory Council as it wasn't consistent and aligned with the DD Act. They have also had to go through separating some of the assigned state roles and activities and the language that connected the work of the Education Committee to SEAP realizing that one is a state role and one is a federal role that had different memberships and different responsibilities. The same is true with the ICC and the Early Intervention Committee. She noted that they will still be doing all of the work, but it will just look a little different and eventually people will get used to it.

Anne Applegate reviewed the changes to the bylaws as follows:

- Title page – the date.
- Page 1 – Article 2 – No. 1: The Council shall serve as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, under the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act). The purpose of the DD Act is “to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.” Council duties and responsibilities are to:
 - Page 3 – Article 2 – No. 2: The Council shall assure compliance of the Special Education Advisory Panel for purposes of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Duties and responsibilities include:
 - Page 4 – Article 2 – No. 3: The Council shall govern the Special Education Service Agency:
 - Page 4 – Article 2 – No. 4: The Council shall assure compliance of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities for purposes of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Duties and responsibilities include:

Art Delaune asked if the current duties of the ICC as well as the duties of Council members to be on the board of SESA are outside of the DD Act. **Anne Applegate** stated that was correct. Those duties are consistent with the Council’s state statute that designates the bigger entity of the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education as the ICC and the SEAP. **Art** stated that his question is if they will be in conflict with their federal authority and obligations if they have a white paper advocating for the continuation of SESA even though SESA isn’t

under the Council's federal obligations. **Anne** noted that under the current Five-Year Plan, that work is part of the work activities under the education and early development area of work. It will also fit into the new Five-Year State Plan the way it is written.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus noted that the Governor's Council has five seats on the SESA board, but then there are also seats for the superintendents, NEA, UAA, et cetera. She asked when the Council is assuring, it sounds like they are making that statement for everybody on the SESA board. Is that because the Council members are a majority? **Anne** stated that under the SESA statute, the Council is the governing board because the Council has a fixed majority, and they are supposed to be voting from a Council perspective. **Chair Gilmore** added that when there are opportunities to get a motion to formalize Council perspectives, those motions should be made so it's clear, particularly as it relates to SESA.

- Page 5 – Article 2 – No. 6: The Council shall perform other duties required under applicable federal and state laws.

Art Delaune asked if the term “duties” is too broad. He wondered if there should be some sort of adjective to describe duties. **Anne** stated that if it's required under federal and state law, the protection comes from it being in law.

- Page 7 – Article 4 – No. 5: After receiving input from the members of each individual committee appoint a Council member as the Chairs of the standing committees and any existing ad hoc committees or workgroups;
- Page 13 – Article 6 – No. 1: The Council's Executive Committee shall consist of seven members comprised of the three officers, the one Member-at-Large, and the Chairs of the Committees for Self-Advocacy; Employment; and Inclusion, Supports, and Services. At least four members of

the Executive Committee shall be consumers or parent representatives;

Chair Gilmore noted that on a recent technical assistance call with NACDD, it was noted that they don't really need a DD Committee, because that is the work that this Council is supposed to do. It was recommended to have a committee that is much more targeted and more directed toward the work they are going to be doing.

- Page 14 – Article 7: The Council shall establish the Committee for Self-Advocacy (CAS), Committee for Employment (CE), Committee for Inclusion, Supports, and Services (CISS), and the Legislative Committee (LC) as standing committees that function under the policy direction of the Council. Additional ad hoc committees may be created, at the discretion of the Council, to meet the goals and objectives of the Council's state plan. As a result, the committee structure may change from year to year in order to reflect the objectives and activities. Each standing committee develops and follows an annual work plan that identifies key activities and strategies which implement the goals and objectives of the 5-Year State Plan approved by the Council. Changes to annual work plan action items are forwarded for approval and/or adoption to the full Council or the Executive Committee between regularly scheduled Council meetings.
- Page 15 – Article 7 – No. 1: Committee for Self-Advocacy (CAS). Council members may select to be on the Committee or they may be appointed by the Council Chair. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Council Chair as established in Article IV, 3, A, 5. The Committee Chair will serve a two-year term that coincides with the term of the Council Chair. The Committee shall consist of no less than five and no more than eleven Council

members, the majority of whom shall self-identify as people who experience developmental disabilities.

- Pages 15/16 – Article 7 – No. 2: Committee for Employment (CE). Council members may select to be on the Committee or they may be appointed by the Council Chair. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Council Chair as established in Article IV, 3, A, 5. The Committee Chair will serve a two-year term that coincides with the term of the Council Chair. The Committee shall consist of no less than five and no more than eleven Council members.
- Page 16 – Article 7 – No. 3: Committee for Inclusion, Supports, and Services (CISS). Council members may select to be on the Committee, or they may be appointed by the Council Chair. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Council Chair as established in Article IV, 3, A, 5. The Committee Chair will serve a two-year term that coincides with the term of the Council Chair. The Committee shall consist of no less than five and no more than eleven Council members. The composition of the Committee must match that of the Council as outlined in Article III 1 B.
- Page 16 – Article 7 – No. 4: Legislative Committee (LC). Council members may select to be on the LC or they may be appointed by the Council Chair. The Legislative Chair will serve a two-year term that coincides with the term of the Council Chair. The LC shall consist of no less than five and no more than eleven Council members. The LC is delegated the day-to-day responsibilities for preparing and advocating Council positions before the legislature and federal delegation.
- Page 16 – Article 7 – No. 5: Ad Hoc Committees. An ad hoc committee is a formal group that is created by the Council or Executive Committee to address a particular topic area or purpose. Council members may select to be on Ad hoc Committees or they may be appointed by the Council Chair.

The Chair of any Ad hoc Committee shall be appointed by the Council Chair as established in Article N, 3, A, 5. The Ad hoc Committee Chair(s) will serve a two-year term that coincides with the term of the Council Chair, or until the Committee work is complete. Ad hoc Committees shall consist of no less than five and no more than eleven Council members. An Ad hoc is delegated the responsibilities for the particular purpose in which it was formed. When the Executive Committee determines that the work of the Ad hoc Committee is completed, it is automatically disbanded.

- Page 19 – Article 11 – date change.

Discussion

Chair Gilmore opened the floor for a roll call discussion on the amendments to the bylaws.

Anna Attla asked if they were going to change the Employment & Transportation Committee. **Anne Applegate** stated that the proposal moves employment from being an ad hoc committee to having it be a standing committee.

Ken Hamrick felt the review of the bylaws by **Anne Applegate** was helpful as a new member to get a better picture of the structure of the Council and the work they have been doing. He appreciates the time and effort that went into this. It seems to be logical and pulls together things in a way that are consistent with the work plan.

Art Delaune overall likes the changes and thinks they make a lot of sense as they align the bylaws with the Five-Year State Plan. He wondered about the makeup of the Executive Committee. One thing that concerns him is getting enough input from the Council as a whole into decisions that are made by the Executive Committee in between Council meetings. He wondered if it would

make sense to add another member at-large making the Executive Committee eight members rather than seven, although he realizes that could lead to issues in achieving quorum. He also reiterated that all Council members are welcomed to attend Executive Committee meetings. **Anne Applegate** felt that the point was well taken. She likes the idea of having more input from Council members during the meetings, and she would like to see larger attendance. She noted that it's always good for an executive committee to have an odd number of voting members. **Art** suggested they could make it so the Council Chair/Executive Committee Chair didn't have a vote, which would give them an odd number of members. **Anne** noted that the Council bylaws are silent on the chair voting, which is not very ordinary for bylaws. **Chair Gilmore** stated that in practice, unless they don't have quorum, he tries not to vote. **Art** noted that the discussion may be moot in terms of adding another member because committees always seem to have a problem making quorum. **Margaret Evans** commented that for other boards she is on the executive committee for, the chair doesn't vote unless there is a tie.

Art further discussed the makeup of the Self-Advocacy Committee being six individuals who experience developmental disabilities, and he wonders if it will be a problem getting enough members to fulfill the obligation of that committee. **Anne** noted that this point is also well taken. She was reminded of a Field of Dreams reference: If you build it, they will come. She stated she based the wording in the bylaws on the previous language and left the numbers the way they were.

Dave Fleurant noted that the bylaws contain a fair amount of structural change. He welcomes the discussion because the Council seems to have worn and is still wearing many hats. He will be taking a deeper dive into the bylaws to come up with some suggestions. He referenced the difficulty in getting a quorum at

committee meetings. He doesn't know if some of these changes will fix that, but what they have is a situation where they have community members who are not Council members who are voting members of committees but they are not considered as part of a quorum. He has had a problem with that, and he wonders if that actually impedes the ability of the Council's committees to move forward with things. He is unsure if there is something in statute or regulation that requires the Council to do that, but he thinks it undermines the participation of non-Council members who can vote. They show up for a meeting but they can't move forward because there aren't enough Council members. **Anne Applegate** stated that the community attendees don't have a vote under the bylaws or the Council's current practice. They are attendees who contribute information and provide expertise or lived experience to the Council members, but it's Council members in a committee who have the deciding role, so they are the only ones who vote. **Dave** referenced what might be an old version of the bylaws and read, "Public members have a vote in committee and workgroup meetings but are not voting members of the Council." **Anne** stated that they are only members if they have been appointed by the chair, and they are automatically off of the committee every June. Under the current chair, there have been no approved and appointed community committee members, and it's been that way for two years. **Chair Gilmore** noted that under the new administration, some people were removed from the Council and replaced. Some of those members approached him and requested to be appointed as community members to committees. He noted that if the Governor removes people from the Council, it's not his place to override the Governor and appoint them to Council committees. People are still encouraged to come and give input, and they can feel free to reapply to the Council at a later date.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus stated that the way she views the Executive Committee is there is the chair, three standing

committees, and the at-large seat. **Anne Applegate** clarified by stating there is the chair, vice chair, at-large member, Legislative chair, EIC chair, Education chair, and DD chair. It will be the same number when the EIC, Education, and DD titles change. **Jeanne** referenced back to the discussion of a co-chair. She wondered about a vice chair role on the Legislative Committee, which wouldn't add a position to the Executive Committee. This would allow an opportunity for mentorship and having someone move up. She remembered that the DD Committee had co-chairs for a while. **Anne** advised that with regard to those kinds of workload sharing changes to the bylaws, it makes good sense to do some work under the new plan first and see where the bottlenecks are and what kinds of efficiencies can be created among the various roles of Council members in committees.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked if the Council should have policies and procedures, or is it all covered with the bylaws? **Anne** noted that in the past, the various iterations of policies and procedures she has seen have been largely about administrative matters. The policies and procedures have been a product of staff and address the flow on the staffing side.

Jeanne further asked what the policy is on ad hoc committees as far as whether they continue or not. Is there a regular evaluation or is it up to the chair? **Anne** explained that it is not a decision of the committees but rather the Council itself and the Executive Committee have the authority to decide whether or not the purpose of an ad hoc has been served.

Josh Gill had no comments or questions at this time.

Chair Gilmore reiterated that the original committee structure graphic was confusing to people, so they simplified it into an easier graph to reference. He stated that once they get into the new

State Plan, they can determine if any ad hocs or workgroups need to be formed under any of the committees.

Alex Gimarc commented that an earlier iteration of the committees noted that they would be going to one meeting per standing committee every three months. He asked if that had been dropped. **Chair Gilmore** stated that the feedback they received was that people were opposed to that structure. He also noted that committees will determine that for themselves, and they can be flexible in terms of how often they meet.

Alex Gimarc stated that he likes a few things about this proposal, the acknowledgement that the current structure is not really meeting the plan, and this is an attempt to keep from overworking staff. He likes restructuring to better address executing the plan. The Council is essentially reorganizing from a subject-based to a functional-based organization. The problem with any reorganization like that is dealing with the daily workflow. That flow will continue. Even if what the Council is doing with their main committees is simply a name change, the responsibilities on some level will change, and there will be a period of time to learn how to deal with it. The presentation talked about revisiting this in February to see what was falling through and what wasn't. One of the differences between his first term and this term, at least from his perspective, is how many things are being done, i.e., letters approved, official positions, and decisions by the Executive Committee without that stuff flowing through the committee structure. He understands herding cats and time-sensitive issues, but if they are in the midst of a reorganization and that daily workflow continues, they will end up centralizing more of that stuff in the Executive Committee without the participation or knowledge of the rest of the members of the Council. If that's where they want to go, they should have that discussion; if it's not where they want to go, maybe they should think about it. He appreciates the move of the committee structure back to monthly meetings or

whenever necessary. **Anne Applegate** noted that is a very important concern, that there be real decision making on the part of the Council at large and that Council members are aware of decision points, because there are a lot of meetings that have a lot of information in them that don't result in a vote, but to make sure that Council members are aware of where those decision moments come, whether they are in Council meetings or a lower level of evaluation in a committee that makes recommendations, and that there are clear spots for the larger decisions based on timing. She thinks that **Alex's** point is well taken, and as staff they can do a better job of making sure that those decision points are well publicized and they can receive input across the entire range of the Council instead of bottlenecking in the Executive Committee. It's really a problem with quorum and the fact that this is an all-volunteer board. They need to ensure that the structure of meetings works for as many of those volunteer members as they can manage. Overall, it is something that staff going forward should be looking at and trying to do.

Elizabeth Joseph has no comments or questions at this time.

Sydney Krebsbach has no comments or questions at this time.

Director John Lee stated that it is important to he and the Commissioner that the Governor's Council maintain its independence, so he has no direct feedback to offer at this time and would prefer the Council be self-determined. His perspective is that they all recognized they needed to make changes, and it's a testament to **Anne Applegate** and her work, skill set, and knowledge. She created a really great document, and he didn't see anything from that that would break the structure. He believes it's supportive. He defers to the will of this body on how to adopt these proposed changes.

Director Lee commented on the discussion regarding a chair

withholding votes except to break a tie. There are a lot of reasons why there might be a tie. There may be times where someone is conflicted and can't vote; there might be a situation where someone decides to abstain; and a member might drop out of the meeting during the middle after quorum is established. He thinks it's a good idea that the chair withholds a vote except to break a tie.

Molly McManamin supports looking at an adjustment to the committee structure. She thinks that they have a really challenging time establishing quorum. Even though they are a large group, they have a lot of different committees and different groups. She noted that on other boards she sits on, they have consolidated some of that, and it has had a positive impact on that input they are getting as well as attendance at their meetings. She believes it would be beneficial, especially with the staffing changes right now, to make some adjustments and simplifying their system a little bit but still providing the same amount of oversight and support.

Travis Noah stated that he's trying to take in all these changes, because it's a lot to take in all at once. He likes the fact that more of the work is going to be on the committee members to get things done. For other boards and committees he sits on, the structure is such that the committee is the one doing the work. One of the committees he is on doesn't have staff at all, and it's the committee that does all the work. He likes the way all of this is laid out. He stated that they are going to have to try it this way and see whether it works or not; and if it doesn't, then they can discuss the issues and make adjustments. They will know once they put everything into practice.

Charlene Tautfest asked if staff e-mail all Council members to inform them of the Executive Committee meetings and include an agenda. **Kristin Vandagriff** stated that they bring it up at Council

meetings, and typically people who are interested in attending let staff know, and they are added into the calendar invitation. It would be easy enough to add all Council members into that invitation and make sure that they get all the meeting documents, and people can decide if they want to attend. **Charlene** suggested the same be done with all of the committee meetings so Council members can have all the information and decide whether or not they want to attend. **Anne Applegate** stated that is a well-taken suggestion, but they often hear feedback from Council members that they receive too many meeting invitations and govdeliveries. **Charlene** suggested allowing Council members to opt out instead of opting in. She would still like the information even if she doesn't choose to attend a meeting.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked about alternate voting, and **Anne** noted that the Council does not have that under their bylaws. There is expressly no proxy voting for Council members in the bylaws.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich noted a discrepancy between the slide's suggested renames of the committees as it compares to the suggested names in the bylaws. **Anne** noted that they are just place markers, and it doesn't really matter and doesn't directly correspond to anything.

Shelly referred to the bylaws language that says, "...shall consist of no less than five and no more than 11, and the majority of whom shall self identify as people who experience developmental disabilities." How does that verbiage take into account family members of? **Anne Applegate** stated that the DD Act says that the self-advocacy goal outcomes can only impact self-advocates, not families as well, because there are other places where the DD Act and where the Council's goals and objectives include families as part of a larger group for advocacy. If the theory is that the committee itself is working on the self-advocacy goal's objectives,

then the focus of the goal and those two objectives has to be on people who identify as having developmental disabilities specifically. It is a unique part of that self-advocacy goal. **Shelly** asked where in the bylaws does it list who is going to be on the Council other than just people with developmental disabilities. **Anne** stated that it's not in the bylaws, it's in the DD Act. **Kristen Vandagriff** referenced the federal reporting they do. When the Council submits the State Plan, they will look for compliance with the DD Act, and composition is part of that review.

Heidi Lieb-Williams shared that she is excited for the Council moving forward with the bylaws for the second reading so they can start this new plan and new committees. She stated that she interprets self-advocacy as those are people with disabilities that are advocating for themselves. When she thinks about families and parents of people with disabilities, she feels like those are parent advocates. There are also professional people that work with agencies for people with disabilities, and those are professional agency advocates. Each person who is an advocate, no matter what category they fall under, in her eyes are just as important as each other because each person's voice makes a huge difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Margaret Evans further commented that there were some good examples in other boards' bylaws.

Jena Crafton had no comments or questions at this time.

Vote

Chair Gilmore stated that they are not voting to enact the plan, they are voting to carry it forward to their next meeting for the second reading. **Anne Applegate** clarified that they have an opportunity to make changes at this time and forward the bylaws to a second first reading in the fall. She explained that the vote

today is whether or not to move it forward to a second reading in its current form.

Art Delaune asked if the second reading will be at the fall meeting; and if that is approved by the Council at the second reading, when does that go into effect? **Anne Applegate** stated that the bylaws come into effect as soon as the Council approves them at the second reading. **Art** noted that they heard a lot of feedback in the discussion that there are still a lot of questions about how this is going to even work. He further clarified that the Council will begin the work of their new State Plan, and if there are any changes that need to be made that weren't anticipated, then they will go through the process again of revising the bylaws. If this doesn't work in roughly a year, changes can be made to this, correct? **Anne** agreed with that statement given the Council continues on their three-meetings-per-year schedule.

Anne Applegate stated that another alternative would be to take this first reading and have a different decision with regard to drafting. It's always an option to vote no to moving it forward and decide that there should be additional changes made throughout the summer. It's a harder lift for staff because they will be down two people for the summer, but that doesn't prevent something from being reintroduced in the September meeting.

Charlene Tautfest **MOVED** to advance the bylaws to a second reading, **SECONDED** by **Josh Gill**. A roll call vote was taken with 17 yeases and one Council member unavailable for the vote.

Kristin Vandagriff read a comment in the chat from **Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich** that stated that although the DD Act seems to be driving so much of what the Council does, she is really hoping special education isn't ignored, and IDEA compliance. **Kristin** assured **Shelly** that the Council has recently engaged in a lot of discussion specifically about the DD Act State Plan, which is

one of five roles of the Governor's Council. The other roles will continue as they receive funding from DEED for the SEAP role and DHSS/SDS for the ICC role. She also reminded everyone that the wording in the plan covers across the lifespan, including the facet of someone's life where they are receiving special education services.

This version of the bylaws will be advanced to the September Council meeting for a second reading.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

In the interest of time, the committee updates were provided to Council members via a link to the Council website, and were not reported aloud at the meeting.

PARTNER REPORTS

Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS)

Director John Lee reported to the Council as follows:

SDS Mission Statement:

To promote health, well being, and safety for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and vulnerable adults by facilitating access to quality services and supports that foster independence, personal choice, and dignity.

SDS Operating Budget Comparison FY'19 – FY'22

Director Lee showed the Council a graphic that depicts that over the course of time, SDS's budget has remained relatively flat and stable. The good news is that there is not a decrement going forward. They have the opportunity to manage their programs with efficiencies and stretching their dollars a little bit further.

COVID-19 Response

Director Lee stated that even though the reopening guidelines have been issued and Alaska is reopening across the state, there is still a lot of work is going on right now:

Flexibilities	Support for Partners	Vaccine Distribution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix K• 1135• Regulation suspensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants• COVID relief funds• Guidance• Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production• Allocation• Distribution• Support and guidance

Director Lee noted that he was in Kenai last week meeting with individuals and providers with ACoA, and the one constant they heard from everyone was how important the flexibilities are and the great desire to try to maintain those flexibilities as the nation moves beyond the public health emergency. The good news is that they received approval from CMS to have the ability to extend the Appendix K flexibilities for up to six months beyond the end of the national public health emergency. That allows the department to have a good transition plan and to have time to try to incorporate some of those flexibilities into the waiver programs. He also noted that during the Kenai visit they heard about a lot of innovative service provision through support for partners through meal delivery as well as technology. He stated that as they move beyond the pandemic, they will need to consider ways to incorporate technology in unique ways.

Director Lee stated that Alaska was an early innovator in the nation in getting the vaccines out to the population. The senior population has done a remarkable job of getting vaccinated. There are now guidelines that allow vaccines to be opened up to everyone age 12 and up, so this is a really good opportunity for all

Alaskans to be vaccinated. He cautioned that traditionally there has been vaccine hesitancy in Alaska, but he believes they are at the point now where everyone who wants a vaccine has had the opportunity to get it. He stated that now is the opportunity to have discussions with people who are concerned or afraid of getting vaccinated to let them know the value of the vaccine and that it allows people to live the lives they used to.

Director Lee stated that based on guidance from the Governor, SDS is starting to return to the office as is the Governor's Council. They are looking at the ability to do a hybrid telework that will incorporate some time in the office and some time teleworking to allow people adequate space and allow people to continue to telework. It's a good opportunity to redesign how they work and continue to support Alaskans.

COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Congregate Non-Residential Settings – 4/23/2021:

- 100% of staff, participants, and visitors are fully vaccinated – activities may be conducted without masks or social distancing.
- Participants who are fully vaccinated by less than 100%, other staff, participants, and visitors are fully vaccinated – wear a mask at all times, but social distancing may be relaxed for fully vaccinated individuals.
- Participants who are not fully vaccinated – wear a mask and observe social distancing at all times.

Waiver Renewals

- Results of public comment and SDS response posted on SDS on the HCBS Waiver webpage.
- Submitted to CMS March 2021 with anticipated renewal July 1, 2021.
- Currently negotiating with CMS on waivers.

- Response from CMS received on May 12th indicates renewal process is proceeding on time.

Director Lee stated that he receives questions about why major changes aren't done during the waiver renewal process. He stated that major changes aren't traditionally done through the renewal process but rather through waiver amendments. Once CMS approves the renewals, then they can start working on amendments.

SDS/Mental Health Trust Partnership

- Clarifying family habilitation and group home services delivery models.
- Improving supports for people with complex behaviors and needs.
- Development of implementation plan and timeline for interRAI, revised assessments, and support planning.
- Specifications for resource allocation and case mix determination.
- Integration of assistive technology into services for seniors and those with disabilities.
- Support to grants units on multiple projects to include EMODS, ADRC support, and other emerging projects.
- Enhancement to the Infant Learning Program.

SDS – Looking Forward

- Electronic Visit Verification – Contract awarded to Therap Services on October 15, 2020; implemented January 2021.
- Appendix K flexibilities/post pandemic – Applied to CMS to extend flexibilities to six months after the end of the federal public health emergency.
- Cost Containment – SB 74 (2016) reforms continue. Established Aging and Disability Resource Centers as the front door to access long-term and support services;

continued refinements in service delivery.

- Reorganization to the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services – Short-term and long-term impacts.
- Partnerships – Continuing stakeholder engagement to identify where and how state-funded long-term services and supports can be streamlined.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)

- CMS issued implementation guidance to the State May 13th.
- Possibility for the State to develop plans for an enhanced 10% federal match for various Medicaid programs – will require additional general fund obligations
- Process is designed to be deliberative.
- ACL grants under ARPA require a State match.

Art Delaune asked if it was true there is only going to be a percentage of that funding released for this year. **Director Lee** stated if he is reading the guidance correctly, it will not come this year. In order to get the enhanced federal match, the State is obligated to come up with its share, so they need to be really careful because whatever decision is made will impact the State budget for years to come. He noted that the Administration on Community Living gave the State of Alaska a grant, which is generous, but it requires over million dollars of State match. He believes that the only way they are going to be able to get the money this year is through the opportunity to talk to the legislature about a State match during one of the legislative sessions the Governor has announced to talk about the budget this summer. He also noted that other ARPA money will be coming into the state that is beyond his sphere of control in his program, but this funding will impact SDS's population.

Heidi Lieb-Williams commented that working as the Autism

Speaks Advocacy Ambassador and going to Capitol Hill Day on March 3rd, the law was passed regarding the \$1,400 stimulus money the following Sunday. It was also passed that all 50 states would receive money from the federal government that was going to be matched by states. She stated that her understanding is that whatever money the states are putting into for disabilities, the federal government was going to match it 100 percent this year, but that every state is different because each state will put in a different amount of money. **Director Lee** felt that **Heidi** painted a really good picture of why this is so complicated. The good news is that there is possibility and potential.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Mike Abbott introduced himself and thanked the Council for the time today. He introduced Jimael Johnson, who is also present for today's meeting.

Mike Abbott thanked **Director Lee** for kindly recognizing the Trust and some of the partnership work they are doing with SDS. The Trust is proud of that relationship, and they are proud of the work they can accomplish together. The Trust has lots of partnerships of this sort with other agencies inside the department, and other state agencies as well, and they consider that one of the ways they can be most impactful for their beneficiaries.

Legislature

Mike Abbott stated that from the Trust's perspective, they are generally satisfied with most of the budgeting work that is underway. They are cautiously optimistic that the operating budget, and hopefully the capital budget as well, will reflect legislative support for the Trust priorities. One area the Trust has been particularly concerned about is a proposal from the Governor's office to directly appropriate from the Trust in ways that were not authorized by the Trustees. The Trust is grateful

that it appears that the legislature will not be following that recommendation from the administration. Instead, the budget that passed the House and is still in draft form in the Senate appears to primarily fund the Trust's recommended programs with the funding sources that the Trust recommended. The Trust is grateful for the legislature's support so far.

Board of Trustees

Mike Abbott reported that the legislature met in joint session recently to consider the Governor's appointments to a variety of boards and commissions, including the Trust. As a result of that joint session, one of the Trustee appointments was rejected. The Trust had four appointees that were subject to confirmation; three of them were confirmed unanimously, but one of the Trustees appointed last fall was denied confirmation by a close vote. To the best of his knowledge and based on the debate that took place during the joint session, it appears that the concerns with that appointee were not related to her activity as a Trustee. He stated that it was something of a surprise to him. What it means for the Trust going forward is that they currently have a vacancy. The service of that appointee ended when her confirmation failed, so they are now down to six Trustees. He stated that it shouldn't stop them from being able to do business, but they are a more effective organization when they have all of the seats filled. The Trust has discussed the vacancy with the Governor's office, and they have asked that the Trust convene the panel made up of the advisory boards to make recommendations to the Governor's office for them to use to fill the vacancy that now exists. **Chair Gilmore** and **Kristin Vandagriff** have received an e-mail from Trust staff starting that panel's work. They will begin by advertising for and recruiting for applicants for the Trustee position. If any Council members know of anyone that would like to be considered as a Trustee, they should avail themselves of this opportunity. The interviewing and evaluation process will begin in a few weeks, and there will be Governor's Council

representation in that panel as well.

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)

Lizette Stiehr introduced herself and referred Council members to her written report shared on the screen. She thanked **Director Lee** for mentioning the strong partnership that AADD is enjoying building as well as for the transparency and willingness to receive stakeholder input.

Lizette also thanked Mike Abbott, Jimael Johnson, and others at the Trust. She stated that thanks to the Trust and their grant funding to AADD, AADD was able to sponsor the University of Delaware to do a virtual Leadership Institute, a month-long training that took place in two mornings each week of four weeks. The training was very powerful, and for the first time they offered to let someone attending the training also be one of the speakers. **Chair Gilmore** gave a very profound speech about the need to unify the social and medical components that are driving the system. She stated that she has heard that **Chair Gilmore** will also be doing that speech at the DD Summit, and **Kristin Vandagriff** has offered to post it on the Council's website. She stated that she attended the closing session of the Leadership Institute, and someone privately chatted her and said, "When this Leadership Institute started, I felt like I was barely holding on by my fingernails. Today I feel like a strong branch of the tree."

Monthly Teleconferences:

- Membership Zoom calls – state and partner updates – average of 60 plus lines.
- Chief Finance Officer Group
- Compliance Group
- Care Coordinator Group
- Hot Topics calls.

Representation on:

- DD Collaborative
- Alaskans Together for Medicaid
- WINGS Statute Committee
- Aging and Disability Summit
- ANCOR
- Alaska Health Care Work Force
- GCDSE DD Committee and Employment & Transportation Committee.

Grants in FY'21 from:

- Alaska Community Foundation for DSP ads
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to do the Leadership Institute
- Technical Capacity Building 2
- ACL Grant for Community Engagement.

Written Communications (monthly or as needed):

- Newsletters
- Monthly Report
- E-mail resources
- Respond to public comments.

Input to SDS on:

- Cost of Cares
- Companion Services
- Family Habilitation.

Advocate for:

- DD Shared Vision
- Workforce issues
- Sustainable funding.

Lizette Stiehr stated that in the provider world, the single biggest issue that has risen to the top is the workforce issue, and the difficulties are compounded by unemployment insurance as well as people having children at home and not being able to work for fear of COVID. AADD is very appreciative of the fact that SDS used some of the earlier pandemic funding to help continue the development on the DSP Hire app. It is currently a website, but it is a single point where all providers can enter job openings. They have also had two advertising campaigns. About 75 people a day are checking into the website, and about 30 providers are listing jobs on it now. The plan is to make it an app for use on the phone. They are hopeful that this will continue to grow and they will see more applicants as things continue to open up in the state. AADD's Hot Topics call this month will be on DSP Hire. Anyone from the Governor's Council is welcome to join the Hot Topics calls as the Council is an AADD member. **Director Lee** asked for help drafting an SDS e-alert to help drive people to the DSP Hire app.

Director Lee informed Lizette to be expecting a dialogue about getting together a team to help figure out what Alaska is going to do to qualify for the federal match.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Director Duane Mayes stated that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) has eight different divisions. The two divisions that are the most relevant to DVR are the Division of Employment and Training and the Alaska Workers' Compensation Division.

Alaska Work Matters Task Force

Director Mayes gave a big shout out to **Kristin Vandagriff** for her efforts on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force. He stated that

it was a heavy lift in the beginning because they needed to get support from the Governor. The U.S. Department of Labor sent out letters to all the state governors to remind them that when they are working on a plan of recovery in terms of the economy specific to COVID-19, they must factor in people with disabilities. Governor Dunleavy provided support for the task force in the form of a letter that could be used for task force recruitment efforts. They also received support from DOLWD Commissioner Ledbetter and DHSS Commissioner Crum. They selected and appointed 24 members to the task force to include the employer community, the beneficiary boards, and people with disabilities. Task force members on this call include **Director Mayes** (chair), **Nona Safra**, **Director John Lee**, **Kristin Vandagriff** (co-chair), **Travis Noah**, and Jimael Johnson.

Director Mayes stated that the first task force meeting was held at the beginning of March, and the second meeting will be June 8th. There will be four total task force meetings with the ultimate goal that in March of 2022, they will come forward with a set of recommendations to the Governor, DHSS, and DOWLD of what Alaska needs to do to make sure that people with disabilities are factored into the plan of recovery. It's all about competitive and integrated employment, and the power of work and the value of work for all Alaskans.

Director Mayes stated that a survey of the task force members was just completed, and they know what their direction is. He thanked the Trust and the Governor's Council for helping create the task force.

COVID-19

Director Mayes stated that DVR offices will be open as of July 1 of this year, and people are easing back into the 11 offices around the state. They have a mitigation plan in place within the different field offices. He stated that the number of applications to DVR

has dropped off in Alaska, as they have all over the country, which is concerning. Everything they have done since the start of the pandemic has been virtual, but that doesn't work for everybody. DVR needs to open their doors to make sure that people with disabilities are served.

Federal Dollars Expenditure

Director Mayes stated that 79 percent of DVR's funding comes from the federal government, and 21 percent is a State match. Because referrals dropped off dramatically, DVR hasn't been able to spend their federal dollars. They are allowed in statute through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to roll those dollars forward for one year. Alaska is pretty certain, as are many other states in the country, that they will not be able to spend the money. They are asking for an additional flexibility to roll those dollars forward another year. They have been working with Alaska's Congressional delegation, and both Senator Murkowski and Congressman Young have agreed to insert into the next appropriations bill language to allow the flexibility to roll those dollars forward another year.

Ken Hamrick wondered if Pre-ETS will also be supplemented when carrying those funds forward. **Director Mayes** stated yes, absolutely. 15 percent of the federal match comes off the top to fund pre-employment activities for youth with disabilities.

Survey for Fall Council Meeting

Lanny Mommsen put a survey link in the chat box to be able to vote on dates for the fall Council meeting.

Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)

Commissioner Adam Crum stated that there isn't much to update in terms of the budget because they are still waiting for the

legislature to continue through their process. The final day of session will be May 19th, and Governor Dunleavy issued a statement that he is going to call the legislature back into a special session immediately until they deal with the budget issue as well as the Permanent Fund Dividend. From the department's perspective, they hope the budget is done before May 31st because after that date, the department will need to issue pink slips to employees letting them know there is no funding for state government starting July 1.

Commissioner Crum reported that Governor Dunleavy is going to do a second special session on August 2nd, and the main issue is to deal with ARPA funding, which is just over \$1B of discretionary funds coming into the state. The State recently received initial guidance from the U.S. Treasury on how that money can be spent, but it didn't include very robust details. This funding is much different than the CARES funds that were used throughout the pandemic response. The CARES funds had to be very specific towards COVID items, and Alaska had to very closely follow the guidance from the Treasury. There are also prescribed dollars coming into Alaska through ARPA into prescribed programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) TANF, childcare, et cetera. These are defined amounts of money for defined programs. The department believes the legislature will pass that along with their initial budget for the operating side. He noted that there is a couple of years time to spend these ARPA dollars, so they can use these more flexibly to help move toward some of transformational systems changes they are looking at. Sylvan Robb added that they are still in the process of reviewing the initial guidance and reaching out and asking for clarification.

Commissioner Crum stated that they are continuing their work on the department reorganization. They don't know when the Governor will re-introduce the executive order, but it is still the

plan to continue to pursue this with an effective date of July 1, 2022. They still believe this is the most prudent action in order to continue to provide and improve the way they deliver services across the department.

Commissioner Crum stated that Alaska has done a fantastic job with the pandemic response. They got the vaccine out very quickly as compared to many other states. They are starting to see the benefit of that in really decreased case counts across the state. Today Anchorage announced that they are removing their city-wide mask mandate effective May 21st. He also noted that the CDC announced yesterday that if someone is vaccinated, they basically don't need to wear a mask unless in a high-risk area. DHSS is messaging right now "Sleeves Up For Summer" encouraging people that haven't been vaccinated to get vaccinated.

Director Lee noted for Council members that the guidance Commissioner Crum described earlier is different than the CMS guidance related to the enhanced federal match.

Sydney Krebsbach asked Commissioner Crum what to do if someone is fully vaccinated around friends or family who have not yet gotten a vaccine. Do you have to wear a mask around them? Commissioner Crum stated that based on the recent CDC guidance, no. People who are fully vaccinated don't have to wear a mask.

Heidi Lieb-Williams informed Commissioner Crum about her experience as an Autism Speaks Advocacy Ambassador during Capitol Hill day last month. Her understanding is that the federal government is going to be giving extra money to states in a bill that passed for people with disabilities. She stated that she has a better understanding of home and community-based services and the alignment of the Shared DD Vision. She wanted to encourage

him and the State to put more of an emphasis on the funding to getting people home and community-based services that are needed. She also noted that other states and NACDD look to Alaska as the example. Commissioner Crum completely agrees. As they continue throughout this process during the ARPA discussion in the August special session, that will be part of the discussion is what is the State match required in order to meet the federal dollars for home and community-based services. As they look at what happens out of the initial budget that will hopefully pass in the next few weeks, there will probably be some work that needs to be done in the interim and educating members of the legislature about what it means and these other processes. This is something the department will help coordinate with **Kristin Vandagriff**. He stated that because Alaska has the Shared Vision, this is an opportunity to transition away from the medical model and build the system up. It will take time, but the department is right there with them, and they want to continue moving the needle. **Kristin** added that the Council is happy to bring stakeholder input forward when the time comes. The Council has provided a preliminary letter.

Elizabeth Joseph shared that she works in her village clinic, and they have had some positive cases with people who have been vaccinated. She asked if a person who was vaccinated tests positive with very mild symptoms, are they able to be out in the community, or how long of a quarantine do they have? Commissioner Crum stated that it is called vaccine breakthrough, and what has been seen across the country and the world is that the symptoms are exceptionally mild and that it happens at such a low rate that it's statistically insignificant. The department did an internal study and released an epidemiology bulletin in Alaska showing that the vaccines really work against that and prevent that and prevent the severe illness aspect. He will have to confirm the second part of that question and get the information back to **Kristin** to share with the Council.

Kristin Vandagriff read a question in the chat: Commissioner Crum, can you also clarify how long it takes after your second vaccination for you to be fully vaccinated? Commissioner Crum stated that the definition is two weeks after the final dose.

Margaret Evans asked if it was decided for sure to have a booster after receiving initial shots; and if so, do you have any idea how long before any booster is available? Commissioner Crum stated that there is no defined aspect yet from a public health side. There has been recent information in the media talking about potential for booster shots, but they are not talking about it for the general population, just specific high-risk groups. He stated that the first Moderna shot was given March 16, 2020, so they are 14 months into having tracked the immunity aspect, so they know it's at least that long for that individual. From a population-based study, they will know a lot more over the next couple months as they look at the phase 3 trials where the shots really occurred in the August and September 2020 timeframe.

Commissioner Crum thanked the Council for the time noting that he appreciates all the Council does.

Special Education Services Agency (SESA)

Legislative Activity Update:

Patrick Pillai stated that the process of reauthorization of SESA started with SB 19 and HB 43. Due to the delayed start of the House and the accelerated start of the Senate, SB 19 is now the primary bill and currently awaits a floor vote in the House. Both the Senate and the House committees advocated for reauthorization and a funding increase. They are just waiting for a slot for that bill to be heard in the House.

Vacancies:

Patrick Pillai stated they have successfully recruited an emotional

disabilities specialist and a multiple disabilities specialist who will start in August of 2021. They currently have a vacancy for an autism resource specialist for the Alaska Autism Resource Center. In July 2021 they will be recruiting for a program assistant, a vacancy created through the creation of an assistant technologist position which is being filled by one of SESA's current program assistants.

Board Resignations:

Patrick Pillai stated that they have quite a few board resignations including Meghan Clark, Elena Markova, Dan Kaasa, Elizabeth Lougee, and **Josh Gill**. He stated that they await the Governor's Council and other organizations to let them know who the new appointees will be. They have heard from NEA, so they welcome Michaela Kolerok as the NEA representative to the board.

Digitalization:

SESA will be converting all of their archived student paper files into digital files beginning August 2021. Their referral service is already completely automated and online.

Lease Extension:

Patrick Pillai stated that since the authorization of the agency is June 30, 2021, it coincided with the expiration date of the building lease, so SESA asked for and received a one-year extension with the expiration date now being June 30, 2022.

Josh Gill recognized the work of SESA and Patrick Pillai during the pandemic. He did a tremendous job keeping services going to students across the state as well as working on the reauthorization of the agency.

Sydney Krebsbach asked if students with disabilities in Alaska who are not in school due to COVID are still receiving services outside of school? Patrick Pillai stated that they are receiving

services in two ways. If teachers of school districts are reaching out for services, SESA is providing those services to them. If the parents are reaching out, SESA is working with the parents. Right now SESA is doing a mixture of both. Schools are currently in the process of closing down for the summer, so they will pick all of that up again in the fall.

Anne Applegate commented that Patrick Pillai has pretty much singlehandedly organized all of the information flow for the reauthorization efforts through both houses, and he has done that while maintaining all of this other great service provision in a time of pandemic. She wanted to give a shout out to his expertise, ambition, efforts, and concentrated performance.

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

Commissioner Michael Johnson sent a chat noting that he was on an airplane, and apologized to the Council for missing his allotted time. He hoped that **Don Enoch** was able to give some updates. **Kristin Vandagriff** noted that Colleen Shivers is in attendance and let the Council know **Don** was unable to make the Council meeting. Commissioner Johnson added into the chat box that the department will provide a written report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Heidi Lieb-Williams noted that her written report for the Autism Ad Hoc Committee did not contain all of the information she wanted to share with the Council. NACDD had an all 50 states peer-to-peer meeting that she participated in, and she participated in a Chairperson Leadership Council training. She was able to learn a lot about how important all of their voices are.

Heidi stated that April was Autism Awareness Month, and there was a movement around Autism Kindness that included Holly

Robinson Peete, who has an adult son with autism, and Scott Hamilton as well as The Wiggles. She was excited to have participated with them using their celebrity status in regards to trying to make a difference for people with autism across the country.

Heidi Lieb-Williams stated that she had the opportunity to have Governor Dunleavy do an autism proclamation for Alaska for 2019. Mayor Berkowitz did an autism proclamation in 2020 for the City of Anchorage. April 2nd, 2021, President Biden did a national autism proclamation, and she encouraged people to read it online. She is very honored that we have a President who cares a lot about people with disabilities.

Heidi stated that for Autism Awareness Month leading up to March and April before her surgery, she was invited to speak at an occupational therapy office, a physical therapy office, and a chiropractic office in regards to people with autism.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the limited number of survey responses from the link presented earlier in the meeting, a Zoom poll was created for members to offer dates that would work best for the next meeting.

- September 2021 – tentatively the 29th and 30th
- February 2022 - TBD
- May 2022 - TBD

CLOSING COMMENTS

Sydney Krebsbach commented that it's really hitting her that the end is near for her. The Governor's Council has become a part of her life, and she would have never raised her advocacy level if it wasn't for the Council. Although she never held a seat on the

Council, she still has a voice too and advocates for people with autism. **Chair Gilmore** shared his pride in **Sydney** noting that she always brings a lot to the table by bringing her perspective. He expects her to do great things in Washington.

Charlene Tautfest shared her appreciation to staff, particularly **Kristin Vandagriff** for her leadership, and **Anne Applegate** and **Sydney Krebsbach** will really be missed.

Travis Noah echoed the previous comments. He thanked **Anne** for all the work they have done together over the years. He also shared his pride in **Sydney** and stated that if she continues the effort she has shown on the Council, she will go places she doesn't even know yet. He shared his previous experience on the Council and how much he has grown since that time. He thanked Council members and staff for their patience over this past month as he has experienced a recent a loss in his family. He looks forward to continuing to work with **Kristin Vandagriff** and **Director Mayes** on the Alaska Work Matters Task Force, which he is honored to be a part of.

Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich thanked **Travis** and **Sydney** for their inspiration and for all she's learned from both of them. She stated that **Sydney** is off to a good future in Washington, and she empathized with **Travis's** difficulties right now. She is honored to be a part of the Council, and she misses seeing everyone in person. She will also miss **Anne Applegate**.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus reflected on **Chair Gilmore's** tenure and the uncertainty he had that he could even chair the DD Committee in his early days on the Council. She felt it was laughable now. To those Council members leaving the Council, she appreciates the long-term relationships that people develop during their time on the Council. She also appreciated **Anne Applegate** and looks forward to the next positions they work

together in, and she treasures her. **Heidi Lieb-Williams** agreed that **Anne** is a treasure and always will be.

Jena Crafton stated that they are going to miss **Anne** and **Sydney**. Maybe she and **Chair Gilmore, Heidi Lieb-Williams,** and others can take a road trip to go see **Sydney** in Washington state. She is looking forward to working with **Heidi** being the vice chair. She will also miss **Chair Gilmore** as chair.

Kristin Vandagriff shared for outgoing Council members and staff that she has so enjoyed working with everyone in this Council family through the relationships they make bonding over the really core passion areas that drive a major part of everyone's lives. It's powerful that those relationships carry through even after people leave the Council. She encourages everyone as they are exiting to stay in touch and keep doing this important work. To **Anne Applegate**, she noted that she has been a great friend and a wonderful, excellent staff, and she will miss her on many levels. She thanked her for bringing her critical expertise during the pandemic where the Council really needed it.

Jess Doherty took a screenshot of the entire Council per **Jena Crafton's** suggestion.

ADJOURN

Josh Gill MOVED to adjourn, **SECONDED** by **Sydney Krebsbach**. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.